



# City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
2nd Floor of City Hall  
Richmond, VA 23219  
www.richmondgov.com

## Meeting Minutes - Draft Urban Design Committee

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Thursday, October 5, 2017

10:00 AM

5th Floor Conference Room of City Hall

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### Roll Call

- Present --** 8 - \* Chair Andrea Almond, \* Vice Chair Andrea Levine, \* Andrew P. Gould, \* Giles Harnsberger, \* Committee Member Dawn Hicks, \* Committee Member David Johannas, \* Jill Nolt and \* Robert Smith
- Absent --** 2 - \* Chris Arias and \* Bryan Green

### Approval of Minutes

**A motion was made by Committee Member Nolt, seconded by Vice Chair Levine, that these Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

- Aye --** 6 - Chair Andrea Almond, Vice Chair Andrea Levine, Andrew P. Gould, Committee Member David Johannas, Jill Nolt and Robert Smith
- Abstain --** 2 - Giles Harnsberger and Committee Member Dawn Hicks

#### [UDC MIN 2017-09](#)

Minutes of the September 7, 2017 Meeting of the UDC to be Approved

**Attachments:** [UDC MIN 2017-09 DRAFT](#)

**A motion was made by Committee Member Nolt, seconded by Vice Chair Levine, that these Minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:**

- Aye --** 6 - Chair Andrea Almond, Vice Chair Andrea Levine, Andrew P. Gould, Committee Member David Johannas, Jill Nolt and Robert Smith
- Abstain --** 2 - Giles Harnsberger and Committee Member Dawn Hicks

### Secretary's Report

Mr. Son stated that on September 26, 2017. An amendment to the Riverfront Plan was approved at City Council, which detailed the area around the Lehigh Silos and the area between the sugar pad and the Stone Bistro. He also stated the first BRT station (Cleveland Stop) was painted according to the paint standard but it proved to be a dark green. He met on site with Steve McNally of GRTC to determine a color that better matched the design intent – to match the steel and cedar roof of the historic train stations in the city.

### Consideration of Continuances and Deletions from Agenda

#### CONSENT AGENDA

- [UDC 2017-36](#) Final Location, Character, and Extent review of Sister City Waypoint Signage Installation, Kanawha Plaza, 701 E. Canal St.

**Attachments:** [UDC Report to CPC](#)  
[Staff Report to UDC](#)  
[Location & Plans](#)

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Levine, that the Consent Agenda items be recommended for approval. The motion carried unanimously.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

3. [UDC 2017-26\(2\)](#) Final Section 17.05 Review of additions to the set of City-standard streetlights

**Attachments:** [UDC Report to CPC](#)  
[Staff Report to UDC](#)  
[Location & Plans](#)

Mr. Son presented the Staff Report.

Mr. Olinger presented the application. Mr. Olinger discussed how the lights are designed for both the street and pedestrian and how it's part of branding a community in an authentic nature with a nod to the historic precedence set by streetlights in the period of significance. Mr. Olinger discussed how the design may be applied in four ways across the urban streetscape: as newly constructed poles, as an attachment to existing wood poles, on wide streets, and on narrow streets. Mr. Olinger further updated the committee that the pedestrian light would be a 24" diameter whereas the street light would be 33" in diameter, it would remain matte silver with a stippled globe. Mr. Olinger discussed \$200,000 in funding that would need to be used for this project soon or it may be redistributed. Mr. Olinger discussed the details of installing LED within the proposed fixture. Mr. Olinger mentioned Hull Street, from Commerce to the Flood Wall, would be the first phase, he would also like to install fixtures East to West.

Mr. Smith discussed light trespassing through the globe and light pollution

Mr. Olinger discussed getting the color correct through the use of diffusers and how they would purchase 10% additional stock for DPU use and maintenance.

Ms. Nolt questioned how the fixtures will be implemented over time. Mr. Olinger stated this would be primarily an Industrial Manchester fixture, and possibly in Scott's Addition, where there are gritty-industrial areas that are transitioning.

Ms. Levine discussed her concerns of what potentially could happen with light pollution. Mr. Musarra, of Kimley-Horn, discussed the placement of the lighting panel and the ability to adjust the angle in the housing would help prevent as much light pollution as possible.

Ms. Nolt questioned the ability to budget and plan for the removal of old fixtures with the installation of the new fixtures. Mr. Olinger mentioned it would be a joint effort with DPU.

Ms. Harnsberger discussed the possibility of testing the fixtures onsite. Mr. Olinger mentioned that it was likely they could find a location to test the fixture and do a mock-up.

Mr. Smith brought up the idea of adjustments for the levels of lighting and questioned the ability to utilize smart controls to expand the functionality.

**A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Nolt, that this Location, Character, and Extent Item be recommended for conceptual approval with the following conditions:**

- That PDR work with DPU for removal of existing fixtures
- That testing of the proposed new fixture be done on site
- That an investigation be done to determine the feasibility of implementing smart controls on the entire system

**Aye --** 8 - Chair Andrea Almond, Vice Chair Andrea Levine, Andrew P. Gould, Giles Harnsberger, Committee Member Dawn Hicks, Committee Member David Johannas, Jill Nolt and Robert Smith

4. [UDC 2017-35](#) Final Review of modifications to the Checkers House Plaza (part of the Monroe Park renovations), 719 W. Franklin St.

**Attachments:** [UDC Report to CPC](#)  
[Staff Report to UDC](#)  
[Location & Plans](#)  
[Public Comment in Opposition](#)

Mr. Son presented the application and the proposed modifications to the final plan.

Keith Van Inwegen, University Landscape Architect with VCU, discussed the five (5) proposed security cameras to be located in the Checkers House which is being leased out as a VCU police substation. Mr. Van Inwegen discussed how the location of the security cameras on the fascia will be in direct conflict with the tree canopies, thus the need to modify the plan. Mr. Van Inwegen further discussed how VCU will be responsible for maintenance in the park, and mentioned how the stone dust plaza would be make maintenance more difficult.

Alice Massie, president of the Monroe Park Conservancy, discussed the proposed large-scale planters and the need to fundraise for them at a later time.

Ms. Nolt asked if the application included the planters. Ms. Massie replied that the planters are not part of the application.

Don Summers, Chief Capital Projects Manager, discussed storm water management and the total number of trees to be planted (132) and the total number of trees to be removed (50+).

Todd Woodson spoke in opposition of the application. Mr. Woodson presented his reasonings for opposition and presented 143 signatures in opposition. Mr. Woodson spoke on the historically significant 362 trees that once were in the park; the significance of an urban tree canopy; and the importance of trees to the public.

Charles Pool, representative of the Oregon Hill Home Improvement Council, spoke in opposition of the application.

Ms. Nolt questioned whether the two trees adjacent to the stairs were still to be planted in the ground to which the applicant confirmed yes.

Mr. Johannas discussed walking the site and considered the renovation process to be extremely well-handled. Mr. Johannas expressed his support of the effort.

Ms. Nolt requested that it be considered that the applicant search for alternative areas for the eight (8) trees.

Ms. Harnsberger expressed concern that the surveillance cameras might be placed elsewhere as the pedestrian level trees offered a positive effect on the space.

Ms. Levine discussed timing and longevity of the VCU police in the space and how that may impact the space should the cameras no longer be mounted after their intended use.

Mr. Summer stated that the VCU police have a 30 year lease.

Ms. Massie stated that the bigger picture is the safety and security of the park and that VCU has been very gracious in offering to provide these security measures.

Mr. Gould asked if there was a way to add the eight (8) trees into the plan without compromising the design. Katie Harrigan, Senior Project Manager at 3North, stated they were essentially doubling the amount of trees previously in the park.

**A motion was made by Mr. Gould, seconded by Mr. Johannas, that this Location, Character, and Extent Item be recommended for conceptual approval with the following conditions:**

**-That if included in the plan, the design of the planters and the planting schedule of the planters will come back to the Urban Design Committee for review prior to implementation**

**-That the applicant consider the relocation of the previously proposed eight trees**

**Aye --** 7 - Vice Chair Andrea Levine, Andrew P. Gould, Giles Harnsberger, Committee Member Dawn Hicks, Committee Member David Johannas, Jill Nolt and Robert Smith

**Recused --** 1 - Chair Andrea Almond

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Call to Order**