

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Bill Comer <wpcomer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 11:19 AM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: [spam] Brown's Island Improvement Plan

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Mr. Son,

I wish to register my support for the Brown's Island Improvement Plan that is coming before the Urban Design Committee on 12/5.

The Plan provides a vision for a welcoming park throughout the year, as well as for efficient and practical use of the grounds for special events during the year.

It will also allow Venture Richmond, and its partners, to fund-raise and build support for improvements which can speed-up the implementation of, and is consistent with, the recommendations in the Richmond Riverfront Plan.

Finally, the Plan has projects of various scale which are designed to take advantage of the growing interest in the downtown Richmond riverfront.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Bill Comer

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Hazelgrove, Bruce <Bruce.Hazelgrove@NewMarket.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 3:25 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Cc: Max Hepp-Buchanan; Lisa Sims; Mark Merhige
Subject: Brown's Island Improvement Plan

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Dear Mr. Son,

As a significant stakeholder along the riverfront, I am writing to express our support for the Brown's Island Improvement Plan submitted by Venture Richmond. Brown's Island is our premier downtown riverfront park and event space, and we commend Venture Richmond for working to implement the recommendations laid out for the island in the 2012 Richmond Riverfront Plan. I was able to participate in the planning charrette led by 3north and Venture Richmond and believe that the Brown's Island Improvement Plan encapsulates the previous recommendations of the Richmond Riverfront Plan, while providing us with a more detailed vision for a welcoming and attractive park space all days of the year, as well as a practical and efficient event grounds a few days of the year.

Conceptual approval of the Brown's Island Improvement Plan will allow Venture Richmond and partners to privately fundraise and build support for projects both larger in scale and smaller in scale, all designed to capitalize on the growing interest in our downtown riverfront and make Brown's Island a more welcoming and engaging public space.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best wishes,

Bruce Hazelgrove
EVP/CAO
NewMarket Corporation

December 2, 2019

Richmond Urban Design Committee
900 East Broad Street
Room 510
Richmond, Va. 23219

Re: Brown's Island Improvement Plan

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Improvement Plan for Browns Island that is slated to be discussed at the December 5th UDC meeting. As Chairman of the Venture Richmond Architectural Review Committee I have been involved as a participant in the plan's development. The vision has been carefully developed by 3North and Venture Richmond using the Richmond Riverfront Plan recommendations for Brown's Island as a guide. The design vision has been set up with different scaled projects that can be implemented individually as funds are available. This also allows Venture to fundraise around projects which will provide a more flexible implementation. The design vision will allow a more efficient space for the larger events currently happening on the island. As well it will provide amenities and distinct spaces to support more diverse activities on the island for residents and visitors all year round. This plan will create a dynamic outdoor space for the city that further celebrates the river and the outdoor culture that Richmond has become known for. I hope the committee will support the plan as presented.

Best Regards,



Spencer Grice
Principal + Architecture
SMBW

Chairman
Venture Richmond Architectural Review Committee

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Bates, John W. III <jbates@mcguirewoods.com>
Sent: Monday, December 2, 2019 12:24 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: Brown's Island Improvement Plan

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Son:

I am writing to express my support for Venture Richmond's Brown's Island Improvement Plan, which I understand will be considered by the Urban Design Committee on Thursday. I participated in the charrette that along with 3 North produced the plan. In addition to incorporating elements of the City's Richmond Riverfront Plan, it provides a detailed vision for a welcoming and attractive space that includes efficient event space as well as pleasant park space for the public, broadening its appeal. Conceptual approval by the UDC is needed to permit Venture Richmond to begin private fundraising to accomplish the improvements, and to align its ongoing maintenance with an overall plan for the Island.

Thank you for your consideration.

John W. Bates III

Counsel

McGuireWoods LLP

Gateway Plaza

800 East Canal Street

Richmond, VA 23219-3916

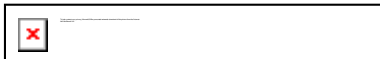
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CITY OF RICHMOND

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION
& COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

November 27, 2019

Josh Son
Secretary, Urban Design Committee
Planning and development Review
900 east Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Mr. Son:

RE: Woodville Community Garden Public Art

The City of Richmond, Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities (PRCF) is excited to provide this letter of support of the Brown's Island Plan. The recommendations in this plan are consistent with what is in the Richmond Riverfront Plan. This plan lays out a more detailed vision for a welcoming and attractive park space year round, as well as a practical and efficient grounds for special events. It contains projects both larger and smaller in scale, all designed to capitalize on the growing interest in our downtown riverfront.

In addition, this plan will allow Venture Richmond and our partners to privately fundraise and build support for improvements recommended in the plan, expediting the implementation of the Riverfront Plan. We are also excited that Venture Richmond will be reaching to the community for feedback on this plan.

We look forward to participating in the implementation of the plan along with Venture Richmond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Frelke".

Christopher Frelke
Director

cc: Max Hepp-Buchanan, Director of Riverfront & Downtown Placemaking

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Mark Merhige <markm@bantryhillventures.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 2:07 PM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Cc: Max Hepp-Buchanan
Subject: [spam] Browns Island

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Son,

I am writing to voice my support for conceptual approval of the Brown's Island Improvement Plan by the Urban Design Committee. As Board Chair of Venture Richmond, I believe this document maps a path forward for implementation of the Brown's Island recommendations contained within the **2012 Riverfront Plan**. While The Brown's Island Improvement Plan offers a much richer level of detail than the Riverfront Plan, there are still unanswered questions to be ironed out through the design and final approval process for the projects contained within the plan. When implemented, these projects will provide the public with greater access to the river, additional comfort and park-like amenities when visiting the island. In addition we feel the improvements outlined will provide a more enjoyable event experience when attending Friday Cheers, Richmond Folk Festival, or other events on the island.

Venture Richmond is an important partner with the City of Richmond on downtown and riverfront stewardship, and commissioning the Brown's Island Improvement Plan fits within our mission of enhancing the vitality of downtown through economic development, marketing, promotion, advocacy and events. We look forward to partnering with the City and other downtown stakeholders on the implementation of the Brown's Island Improvement Plan.

Thank you,

Mark

Mark R. Merhige
Bantry Hill Ventures
1315 East Cary Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
804-334-0549



December 2, 2019

Joshua Son
Secretary of the Urban Design Committee
Department of Planning and Development Review
City of Richmond
900 East Broad Street, Room 510
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Sports Backers Support for the Proposed Brown's Island Plan

Dear Mr. Son:

The Metropolitan Richmond Sports Backers wishes to express our utmost support for the planning, funding and implementation of the Brown's Island Improvement Plan.

If implemented, this project has the potential to facilitate increased access and usage along the James River as initially envisioned in the Richmond Riverfront Plan. This would help meet the demand expressed by the public for expanding public access to the shoreline, and would also be an important way for the general public that uses the Tyler Potterfield Bridge to actually access the river.

The Brown's Island Improvement Plan provides event space supporting current uses, but allows for expanded visitation on a daily basis as an improved park space. A riverfront park with the amenities envisioned would greatly enhance the play space available to those living in or near the riverfront as well as serve as a focal point for visitors enjoying the James River Park. As a result of the increased visitation of the Tyler Potterfield Bridge, this plan addresses the need to safely improve the flow of people walking and biking in this area,. In addition, it provides for the connections to the Virginia Capital Trail as well as the proposed trail from Ashland to Petersburg.

We are happy to continue to work closely with the City of Richmond to ensure that other projects in the Richmond Riverfront Plan are funded and built. We continue to advocate for people safely walking and biking around greater Richmond. We believe Richmond's Riverfront provides a unique amenity that differentiates our city from other regions around the country and is deserving of enhanced facilities and infrastructure.

Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jon Lugbill'.

Jon Lugbill
Executive Director
Sports Backers

Son, Joshua L. - PDR

From: Evan Garrison <evangarrison@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 9:36 AM
To: Son, Joshua L. - PDR
Subject: UDC Brown's Island Improvement Plan Comments

CAUTION: This message is from an external sender - Do not open attachments or click links unless you recognize the sender's address and know the content is safe.

Mr. Son,

Sorry for the short notice before the 10am UDC meeting today; if my comments cannot be noted for today's meeting, please forward them to the Planning Commission.

I support the Brown's Island improvement plan with one caveat. Rock climbing access to the "Historic Bridge Pylons" located in the south side of the Brown's Island Improvement Area should not be impeded. Currently there are eight documented rock climbing routes listed on mountainproject.com for the pillar noted in the aerial photo below. Additional consideration for programming with the rock climbing community would also be appreciated.

The passage below illustrates the historical context of rock climbing on Brown's Island, which led to the development Manchester Wall and ultimately the growing climbing community we have today...almost 40 years later! From the book *The James River in Richmond: Your Guide to Enjoying America's Best Urban Waterway*, by John Bryan:

In early spring of 1981, four local climbers – Jamie McGrath, Les Newman, Rick Atkinson, and Ron Dawson – sauntered across Brown's Island in downtown Richmond to climb an imposing railroad pillar at the edge of the James River. Scrambling down the steep levy, and bushwhacking through briars and underbrush the climbers came to the second pillar, and the east facing wall rising 60 feet above the river. The climb they had established on this pillar was tenuously protected by quarter inch bolts and homemade hangers fashioned from angle iron. Peering out across the boulder waters, the group spotted for the first time a triangular bridge abutment set into the earth on the opposite bank of the river. In the years to follow this massive bridge support, known as Manchester Wall, would become the center of climbing activity in Richmond.



Thank you for your time and consideration,

Evan Garrison