



To: Planning Commission
From: Commission of Architectural Review
Date: January 8, 2015
RE: **Final Location, Character and Extent review of a fountain to be located in Jefferson Park**

I. APPLICANT

Heywood Harrison, Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities

II. LOCATION

Jefferson Park – 1921 Princess Anne Avenue

Property Owner(s):

City of Richmond

III. PURPOSE

The application is for final location, character and extent review of a fountain, landscaping and benches to be installed in Jefferson Park.

IV. SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION

The Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines encourages landscape and streetscape that support well-designed public spaces. The Commission of Architectural Review (CAR) finds that the fountain will serve as a public amenity and is well-located to support greater enjoyment of the park. The CAR also finds that the landscaping plan is suitable and appropriate for the site while providing a sense of scale, as recommended by the Standards for Site Improvements on page 66 of the Guidelines. Lastly, it is the opinion of the CAR that the materials used—including the cast iron fountain, brick basin, limestone, and benches—are complementary to those throughout the district and existing park amenities.

The CAR has determined that the application is consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation in Section 114-930.7(b) of the City Code, as well as with the Richmond Old and Historic Districts Handbook and Design Review Guidelines, specifically the pages cited above, adopted by the Commission for review of Certificates of Appropriateness under the same section of the code. **Therefore, the Commission of Architectural Review recommends that the Planning Commission grant final approval as submitted.**

Staff Contact:

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V. FINDINGS OF FACT

a. Site Description and Surrounding Context

The site is located in the Union Hill Old and Historic District and is bounded by Princess Anne Avenue to the north, Marshall Street and Jefferson Avenue to the south, N. Cedar Street to the west, and N. 21st and E. Clay Streets to the east. The surrounding properties are mostly single-family attached and detached

residences in the Union Hill, Church Hill North, and Shockoe Valley City Old and Historic Districts.

b. Scope of Review

The project is subject to location, character, and extent review as improvements to a park in accordance with Section 17.07 of the Richmond City Charter.

c. CAR Review History

The CAR reviewed and the Planning Commission approved a slope stabilization project for Jefferson Park in March 2010.

d. Project Description

The applicant requests approval to install a decorative fountain with attendant benches and landscaping in Jefferson Park to provide an additional amenity in this popular park. The proposed fountain would be a traditional cast iron design similar to fountains found in Libby Hill and Monroe parks.

The cast iron fountain would be placed within a walled basin which would be constructed of brick and topped with a limestone cap. The fountain would be located within the park to provide maximum views of the city skyline and would include areas for benches and minimum low growing landscaping.

e. Master Plan

The City of Richmond's Master Plan designates the subject property for public and open space with uses to include public parks, recreation areas, open spaces, schools, public service facilities, and other environmentally sensitive areas where urban development should not occur (p. 135).

VII. ATTACHMENTS

- a. Vicinity Map**
- b. Application**
- c. Plans**