



Commission of Architectural Review SUBMISSION APPLICATION

City of Richmond, Room 510 – City Hall
900 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219
PHONE: (804) 646-6335 FAX: (804) 646-5789

12 COPIES OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION ARE REQUIRED FOR PROCESSING YOUR SUBMISSION

LOCATION OF WORK: 2221 Jefferson Ave. (E0000256030)

DATE: 11/20/2015

OWNER'S NAME: City of Richmond Parks & Recreation

TEL NO.: (804) 646-5733

AND ADDRESS: 1209 Admiral St.

EMAIL: Norman.merrifield@

CITY, STATE AND ZIPCODE: Richmond, VA 23220

richmondgov.com

ARCHITECT/CONTRACTOR'S NAME: BHC Junior Board- Projects (David Conmy)

TEL. NO.: (434) 825-0353

AND ADDRESS: 23 W. Broad St. #100

EMAIL: david.conmy@gmail.com

CITY, STATE AND ZIPCODE: Richmond, VA 23241

Would you like to receive your staff report via email? Yes ☒ No ☐

REQUEST FOR CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

☐

I hereby request Conceptual Review under the provisions of Chapter 114, Article IX, Division 4, Section 114-930.6(d) of the Richmond City Code for the proposal outlined below in accordance with materials accompanying this application. I understand that conceptual review is advisory only.

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

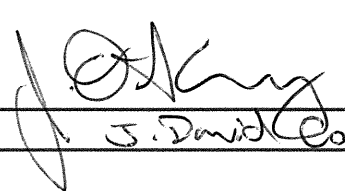
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I hereby make application for the issuance of a certificate under the provisions of Chapter 114, Article IX, Division 4 (Old and Historic Districts) of the Richmond City Code for the proposal outlined below in accordance with plans and specifications accompanying this application.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK (Required):

STATE HOW THE DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES INFORM THE DESIGN OF THE WORK

PROPOSED. (Include additional sheets of description if necessary, and **12 copies** of artwork helpful in describing the project. The 12 copies are not required if the project is being reviewed for an administrative approval. See *instruction sheet for requirements.*)

Signature of Owner or Authorized Agent: X 

Name of Owner or Authorized Agent (please print legibly): J. David Conmy

(Space below for staff use only)

RECEIVED

Received by Commission Secretary

DATE 4:45 KC NOV 20 2015

APPLICATION NO. _____

SCHEDULED FOR _____

Note: CAR reviews all applications on a case-by-case basis.

Revised 10-02-2014

Commission of Architectural Review Submission Application

Description of Proposed Work

Overview

On behalf of 3HC Junior Board of the Better Housing Coalition, the City of Richmond Parks and Recreation Department brings the following Application for Certificate of Appropriateness for the construction of Two Hill Park. The proposed project creates an urban pocket park at 2221 Jefferson Avenue, parcel E0000256030.

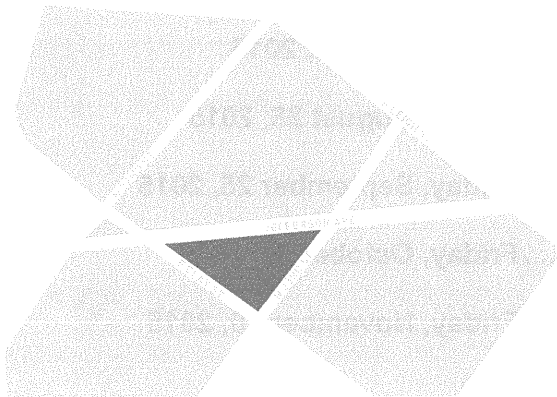
History of Jefferson Avenue

Jefferson Avenue is a major gateway for the City of Richmond. According to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), approximately 4,400 automobiles travel along the avenue each day. Prior to its creation, Jefferson Avenue was once a ravine, which likely had a substantial role in the local area's watershed environment. It was originally intended to be a grand avenue for the East End, but the Civil War and Reconstruction halted this plan from being fully implemented. More recently, the City of Richmond was recently selected as one of five cities to receive the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Greening America's Capitals technical design assistance to help green the public spaces along the Jefferson Ave corridor.

Better Housing Coalition and 3HC Junior Board

Founded in 1988, the Better Housing Coalition is a local Richmond based non-profit focused on providing long-term solutions in affordable housing. The organization's mission is to change lives and transform communities through high-quality, affordable housing. One of Better Housing Coalition's communities, Jefferson Mews, is located in the historic Church Hill neighborhood within the Jefferson Avenue corridor. T.K. Somanath, the former President and CEO of Better Housing Coalition identified an underutilized triangular plot of land near Jefferson Mews with the potential opportunity for larger community purpose.

The charge to develop the plot of land was adopted by 3HC, the Junior Board of the Better Housing Coalition. Members of 3HC Junior Board, specifically the Projects Committee, were



tasked to transform the unused triangular plot shown on the left. The Committee's goal became to beautify and transform the plot into a cherished, environmentally-friendly community pocket park. The 3HC Project Committee sought and received input from residents of the Church Hill community as well as other non-profit organizations, local businesses and civic associations. Some of these groups are as follows: Union Market, Storefront for Community Design, Union Hill Civic

Association (UHCA), Friends of Jefferson Park, and the Enrichmond Foundation.

Pocket Park Design Competition

After meeting with relevant City departments and civic associations, the 3HC Junior Board decided to hold a public design competition for the Jefferson Avenue Pocket Park. As the pocket park design competition began to take a more definitive shape, 3HC Junior Board reached out to all residents in the immediate vicinity of the pocket park site. All were invited to attend a community meeting on August 13, 2014, at Union Market, where we solicited comments and feedback on our proposal. Based on feedback, the 3HC Junior Board finalized the parameters for the design completion. The design parameters included: (1) addressing community input, (2) incorporating shared community space, (3) considering fiscal responsibility and (4) incorporating low maintenance design, history, aesthetics, and environmental sustainability.

The pocket park design entries were judged by a local jury consisting of designers, artists, and civic leaders. The panel of judges included:

- Doug Cole, City of Richmond Planning Commission
- Andrea Almond, City of Richmond Urban Design Commission
- Giles Harnsberger, City of Richmond Urban Design Commission
- Greta Harris, President and CEO, Better Housing Coalition
- David Herring, Vice President, Center for Neighborhood Revitalization, Better Housing Coalition
- Barbara Branch, Church Hill Central Civic Association
- Bill Conkle, Friends of Jefferson Park
- Mary Field, Union Hill Civic Association
- John Johnson, Church Hill Association

On October 30th, 2014, the public was invited for the final round of the Jefferson Park Design Competition. Citizens and a panel of judges reviewed the designs of five finalists and selected the winning design, Two Hill Park.

Proposed Project Description

Two Hill Park was designed by Scott Wiley, a Landscape Architect with Timmons Group. Two Hill Park celebrates the rich history of two adjacent communities, fosters respect and stewardship of the natural environment, affords environmental education and preserves valuable green space for future generations. The design incorporates Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and Old and Historic Handbook and Design Review Guidelines.

Key elements of the Two Hill Park include but are not limited to the following:

- Concentric rings of granite cobbles from historic Richmond Streets encircle a spring representing the origin of the draw between the two hills. The granite cobbles create an plaza for visitors.
- The plaza features World's Fair benches, consistent with other City of Richmond parks. These benches provide seating for visitors and customers of the nearby businesses.
- Granite cobble and brick pavers serve as accessible sidewalks surrounding the park. These surfaces are pervious, allowing maximum recharge of the water table.
- A fountain-like feature is located in the middle of the concentric rings of granite cobbles. The feature creates a natural ravine running through the middle of the park.
- The water feature will utilize rainwater which will be collected in an underground cistern.
- The underground cistern is a subsurface rainwater harvesting system that filters and stores rainwater with zero-footprint. The water is constantly recirculated to prevent stagnation and bacteria growth.
- Two hills will be created on both sides of the ravine signifying Church Hill and Union Hill located between the Jefferson Avenue Corridor.
- Street and flowering trees define the park boundaries and present a sense of scale.
- Iron tree grates provide space for each tree while allowing pedestrian traffic over the tree planting area.
- Flowering shrubs are strategically located to enhance and beautify the site. This wide mix of plantings creates a biodiverse landscape that supports pollinators, reduces the risk of wide spread plant disease, celebrates regionalism and showcases seasonal interest. The plant palette minimizes water utilization.

Conformance to Design Review Guidelines

The Old and Historic Handbook and Design Review Guidelines inform the design of the work proposed for Two Hill Park.

1. Standard for Site Improvements: Sidewalk and Curbs

Brick or granite pavers are the most appropriate choice in most Old and Historic Districts. Sidewalks and curbs should be built of common building materials found throughout the District. Generally, simple paving designs are more compatible with the diverse building styles and better unify the various elements found on streets throughout Old and Historic Districts. The use of more than two paving materials within an area is discouraged.

The proposed Two Hill Park utilizes brick pavers for sidewalks surrounding the park. Granite cobbles are used for the park's plaza. The brick pavers and granite cobbles match the common building materials throughout Church Hill. The design only uses two paving materials.

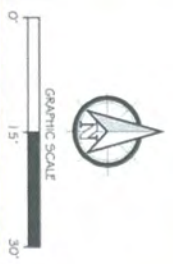
2. Standard for Site Improvements: Landscaping

Landscape design should enhance the streetscape and contribute a strong aesthetic along street frontages. Landscape plans should select plant materials based on their: a) suitability to the site and urban surroundings, b) appropriateness to the local climate, soils and light conditions, c) ability to provide a sense of scale and seasonal interest.

The landscaping for Two Hill Park is visually appealing as the gateway entrance into the Jefferson Avenue Corridor. The trees define the site boundary and contribute to the street frontage. The selection of plants and scrubs reflected on the attached site plan complements the surrounding area. The landscaping provides a sense of scale for passersby.

Conclusion

The City of Richmond Parks and Recreation Department presents the Application for Certificate of Appropriateness for the construction of Two Hill Park. 3HC Junior Board of the Better Housing Coalition initiated the project concept through public input and orchestrated a design competition for the pocket park. The winning design, Two Hill Park, was designed by Scott Wiley a Landscape Architect with the Timmons Group. Two Hill Park embraces the rich history of Church Hill and Union Hill by creating a visual gateway to Jefferson Avenue Corridor. The urban pocket park incorporates the Old and Historic Handbook and Design Review Guidelines, fosters respect and stewardship of the natural environment, affords environmental education and preserves valuable green space for future generations.



PLANT PALETTE TWO HILLS PARK



Design Statement:
Two Hills Park celebrates the rich history of two adjacent communities, fosters respect and stewardship of the natural environment, affords environmental education, and preserves valuable green space for future generations.

MATERIAL PALETTE





ILLUSTRATIVE PERSPECTIVE
(BY REBECCA COSTANZO-DAVINCI RENDERINGS)

