



C I T Y O F R I C H M O N D

DEPARTMENT OF
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW
COMMISSION OF ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW

28 August 2017

Mr. Josh Son
Secretary Urban Design Committee
City of Richmond, Department of Planning and Development Review
900 E. Broad Street, Room 510
Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Allen Avenue Common Park Project, 400 block of N. Allen Ave, UDC File No.2017-28

Dear Mr. Son,

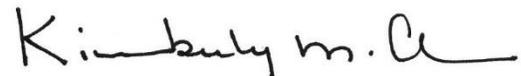
The proposed park is laid out in an axial relationship with Monument Avenue and includes the use of multiple medallion designs that incorporate a variety of stone colors and materials, seating walls and benches, and new native plantings to add color and seasonal interest below the existing large oak trees. The Commission of Architectural Review would like to offer the following comments on the conceptual location, character, and extent review for the above captioned project as it is located in the Monument Avenue City Old and Historic District:

- Maintain the axial design by selectively creating or de-emphasizing the cross-axes in the design.
- Avoid creating a closed tunnel-like character along Allen. Combine the use of the cross-axes and low canopy plantings to create special areas of interest
- Simplify the overly elaborate medallion designs to reflect the more naturalistic treatment of other nearby medians.
- Simplify the use of materials to better reflect the palette of materials found in the area, including brick, concrete, stone dust, and limited blue stone. Avoid the use of multiple colors and varieties of stone.
- Use durable materials, both hardscape and plantings, that can tolerate the existing heavy shading, and can survive indifferent maintenance and remain usable and attractive.
- Recommend the installation of an irrigation system, as volunteer watering may or may not be a viable long term solution.

Allen Avenue Commons Park
UDC File No.2017-28
8/29/2017

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions please contact myself or Marianne Pitts, Secretary to the Commission of Architectural Review.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly m. Chen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kimberly Chen
Planner III