



City of Richmond

City Hall
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Meeting Minutes Planning Commission

Monday, October 19, 2020

1:30 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

This meeting will be held through electronic participation means

This meeting will be held through electronic communication means pursuant to and in compliance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, as amended. This meeting will be open to participation through electronic communication means by the public and closed to in-person participation by the public.

Most, if not all, Planning Commission members and other staff will participate in this meeting by teleconference/videoconference via Microsoft Teams. Those who may be assembling for this meeting will do so in the 5th Floor Conference Room of City Hall at 900 East Broad Street in Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Special Guidelines for Public Access and Citizen Participation:

To access or participate, or both, in the Planning Commission meeting on Monday, October 19, 2020, at 1:30 p.m., you have several options outlined in the following document:

1. [PDRPRES
2020.064](#)

Attachments: [Public Access and Participation Instructions - Planning Commission
10/19/20](#)

Citizens are encouraged to provide their comments in writing to PDRLandUseAdmin@richmondgov.com in lieu of speaking through audio or video means during the meeting.

When submitting your comments by email, be sure to include in your email (i) your full legal name, (ii) any organizations you represent, and (iii) any economic or professional relationships that would be affected by the adoption of the legislation on which you are commenting.

The person responsible for receiving written comments is Matthew J. Ebinger, Secretary to the Planning Commission.

All written comments received via email prior to 10:00 a.m. on Monday, October 19, 2020, will be provided to all members of the Planning Commission prior to the beginning of the meeting and will be included in the record of the meeting.

Call To Order

Mr. Poole called the regular meeting of the Planning Commission to order at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call

NOTE: Commissioner Lenora Reid was also in attendance.

- Present 8 - * Chair Rodney Poole, * Vice Chair Melvin Law, * Commissioner David Johannas, * Commissioner Vivek G. Murthy, * Commissioner Elizabeth Hancock Greenfield, * Commissioner Max Hepp-Buchanan, * Commissioner John Thompson, and * Commissioner Ellen Robertson

Chair's Comments

Mr. Poole welcomed all who were present.

Approval of Minutes

2. [PDRMIN 2020.022](#)

Attachments: [Draft CPC Minutes September 21, 2020 Meeting](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chair Law, seconded by Commissioner Johannas, that the September 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

- Aye -- 9 - * Chair Rodney Poole, * Vice Chair Melvin Law, * Commissioner David Johannas, * Commissioner Vivek G. Murthy, * Commissioner Elizabeth Hancock Greenfield, * Commissioner Max Hepp-Buchanan, * Commissioner John Thompson, * Lenora Reid and * Commissioner Ellen Robertson

Director's Report

Mr. Olinger provided an update on the APA-VA Annual Conference.

- Council Action Update

Mr. Ebinger provided an update on the actions taken by City Council at its October 12, 2020 meeting.

- Richmond 300 Update

Mr. Olinger and Maritza Pechin provided an update.

Consideration of Continuances and Deletions from Agenda

There were no continuances or deletions from the agenda.

Consent Agenda

Public Comment: No one spoke.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Law, seconded by Commissioner Greenfield, that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried unanimously with Chairman Poole abstaining on Item 4:

- Aye -- 9 - * Chair Rodney Poole, * Vice Chair Melvin Law, * Commissioner David Johannas, * Commissioner Vivek G. Murthy, * Commissioner Elizabeth Hancock Greenfield, * Commissioner Max Hepp-Buchanan, * Commissioner John Thompson, * Lenora Reid and * Commissioner Ellen Robertson

3. [ORD. 2020-216](#) To close, to public use and travel, Anderson Street and an east-west alley that bisects Anderson Street located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Government Road and Glenwood Avenue consisting of 18,660± square feet, upon certain terms and conditions.

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2020-216](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Map](#)

This Ordinance was recommended for approval to the City Council.

4. [ORD. 2020-218](#) To authorize the special use of the properties known as 1829 West Cary Street and 1831 West Cary Street for the purpose of outdoor dining areas, upon certain terms and conditions.

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2020-218](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Application Form & Applicant's Report](#)
[Plans & Survey](#)
[Letters and Petitions of Support](#)

This Ordinance was recommended for approval to the City Council.

5. [ORD. 2020-222](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to accept funds in the total amount of \$60,000.00 from Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia and known as St. Catherine's School and to appropriate the amount of \$60,000.00 to the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Capital Budget by increasing estimated revenues and the amount appropriated to the Department of Public Works' Pedestrian Safety Improvements with HAWKs and RRFBs (Federal) project in the Transportation category by \$60,000.00 for the purpose of funding the installation of a pedestrian hybrid beacon at the intersection of Grove Avenue and Somerset Avenue in the city of Richmond in accordance with certain proffered conditions accepted by the City pursuant to Ord. No. 2016-268, adopted Nov. 14, 2016.

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2020-222](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[Map](#)

This Ordinance was recommended for approval to the City Council.

6. [UDC 2020-15](#)

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

Title: UDC 2020-15 Final location, character, and extent review of Septage Hauling Unloading Station Improvements; 1400 Brander Street

This Location, Character and Extent Item was approved.

The consent agenda consists of items that appear relatively non-controversial in nature and for which there was no known opposition at the time this agenda was set. The Consent Agenda items will be considered by the Commission as a group, and there will be a single combined staff presentation and a single combined public hearing held for all items listed on the Consent Agenda.

Regular Agenda

7. [ORD. 2020-217](#) To close to public travel certain medians located in Monument Avenue and North Allen Avenue at or near General Robert E. Lee Circle, to retain the City's legal interests in such medians, and to designate such medians as official City Parks, upon certain terms and conditions. (As Amended)

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2020-217 - Amended 20201214 - Stricken 20210111](#)

[Staff Report](#)

[Parcel Illustration](#)

[Plat](#)

[Support Historic West Grace Street Association](#)

[Support Monument Ave Preservation Society](#)

[Support Fan District Association](#)

[Letter of Opposition](#)

[Updated Civic Association Statements](#)

[Additional Letters of Opposition](#)

[20201214 Amendment of Ord. No. 2020-217](#)

Mr. Matthew Ebinger, Ms. Deborah Morton, and Mr. Craig Bieber spoke regarding the ordinance.

Public Hearing: No one spoke.

Mr. Thompson stated he would've been comfortable with a continuance on this matter but due to the popularity of this area for peaceful protests, it is premature to vote without sufficient advertising. It will not achieve the goal of furthering public safety because just as Mr. Hepp-Buchanan pointed out, if you restrict fire arms in the City Park in the median area, if it were to become a city park it is only going to push this to sidewalks so in the end it doesn't accomplish its goal. He stated he would be in favor of a continuance to further discuss this.

Mr. Thompson made a motion to continue this Ordinance to the December 21, 2020 meeting of the Planning Commission. Mr. Hepp-Buchanan seconded the motion.

Mr. Johannas stated he would feel much more comfortable with the original motion if this was a more universal decision. He stated he is concerned about converting a small section of the park, reason being, they were trying to limit public activism, on the other hand, it's a one or two family housing area where the environment's level of activity and the hours of operation are extremely intrusive on the people that live in that area.

Mr. Hepp-Buchanan stated the reason he would support a continuance is, he is not opposed to the idea of turning Monument Avenue into a linear park. He stated, I think that

is a great idea, my concern is more about the level of community engagement that has yet to take place, in order to actually start handing property over to the Parks Department. There have been a number of efforts over the past few years around re-imagining what Monument Avenue looks like; anything from what do we replace the statues with to what do the medians look like and how do they function for the public. He stated as far as I'm aware, none of the public engagement has taken place by the City of Richmond, it has all been done by nonprofits. He stated he would like to see a real public process around Monument Avenue that includes re-visioning the whole thing and doing the right level of community engagement.

A motion was made by Commissioner Johannas, seconded by Commissioner Reid, that this Ordinance be approved. A vote was not taken due to the following motion to continue.

A motion was made by Commissioner John Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Max Hepp-Buchanan, that this Ordinance be continued to the December 21, 2020 meeting of the Planning Commission. The motion carried by the following vote: (5;4) with Commissioners Poole, Law, Johannas, and Reid voting in opposition.

Upcoming Items

Mr. Ebinger shared a list of items tentatively scheduled for the November 2, 2020 meeting of the Planning Commission.

Adjournment

Mr. Poole adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.