



Town of Vienna

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Vienna, VA. 22180
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Meeting Minutes

Board of Architectural Review Work Session

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

8:00 AM

Charles Robinson Jr. Town Hall, 127 Center
St. South

Work Session

[BARWS24-08](#) 144 Maple Ave E - Town Green - Exterior Modifications
[0](#)

The Board of Architectural Review met for a work session in Town Hall, 127 Center St S. Vienna, Virginia, on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

Members Present: Ms. Hanley, Mr. Cheselka, Mr. Layer, and Mr. O'Keefe.

Members Absent: Ms. van Doorn.

Staff present: Planner Sharmaine Abaied & Clerk to the Board Yaska Camacho Castillo.

The applicants present: Director of Economic Development Natalie Gilmuse, Director of Parks and Recreation Leslie Herman, Deputy Director for Parks and Recreation Nicole Falsetto, Arborist Jeremy Edwards, Architects Rachel Sommer and Connie Fan from LSG Landscape Architecture and David Watkins from Merrifield Garden Center.

The Economic Development Department along with the Parks and Recreation Department is proposing a temporary pop-up garden (Vienna in Bloom) to enhance the Town Green Plaza to attract more visitors and contribute to economic development initiatives including tourism within the community. Vienna in Bloom aims to engage residents, visitors, and trail users throughout the summer of 2024.

The applicants are hoping to be able to move quickly with the pop-up garden project to time it with the Economic Development and Business Appreciation Week. This is an annual event where the economic developers highlight the vital role of economic development in the community. Their strategic goal during the event which takes place the week of May 6, 2024, through May 10, 2024, is to educate on how they can help as economic developers identify areas, public and private, that may be underutilized and can become more vibrant with a clear design and interesting uses that leverage the location, arts and demographic makeup.

Ms. Fan provided the project overview which included the following:

- Site Plan: Step off area near the WOD trail, Edge treatment along Maple Ave.
- Circulation of traffic: Margalize the Plaza space by creating pausing points along the pedestrian pathway.
- Garden Nook: Resuse what is available from Merrifield Garden at a minimal cost to the town.
- Elements: colorful bollards, Fabric-Draped Pergola with String Lights, Special Seating Area with Umbrellas and Tables, a Vertical Garden Wall that will have real flowers maintained by Merrifield, and a Garden wall Sign- lit metal painted text embedded into the green wall.
- Materials: cobbles stone for the step-off zone, boardwalks for the string light zone, and synthetic turf for the garden nook area.
- Elevations
- Free-standing poles concept – Removable post with rings for colorful drapes and string lights to introduce playfulness of color as people pass through.
- Liability- Merrifield will list the town of Vienna as additionally insured
- Jeremy Edwards will ensure the trees are taken care of during the pop-up garden process.

The BAR members had the following questions, comments, and recommendations:

- Is anything from your proposal going to be permanent?
- The board is not opposed to leaving the footers in the ground as long as they're in an appropriate place.
- The benches seem very close to the street. There is no real buffer.
- How do temporary bollards work?
- Concern with benches being close to the road.
- Planter set in concrete in front of the bench, pushing the bench back a little bit.
- When submitting your application please include the details on how the fabric will be fastened to the poles.
- How will the fabric hold up over 90 days to weather?
- It is important for the Board to understand the foundation and how you're attaching the fabrics to the poles.
- Who is taking the liability for that detail?
- Concern with the bollard's colors. A more nuanced approach to colors would be well received.
- Anything that suggests that there is an endpoint and a barrier between 123 and the benches would be well received.
- The boardwalk- I want to see an enclosure that directs people in and out of the enclosure rather than being able to have them come in at any of the sides due to the possibility of tripping from the boardwalk. Anything that can suggest that there is an edge/step.
- This project is a good test to see how much people like colors.
- Make sure you get with staff to have your lighting within normal range.
- The board would like commercial use with an adequate capacity rating for the Bistro table and chairs.

Yaska Camacho Castillo
Board Clerk

Meeting Adjournment

THE TOWN OF VIENNA IS COMMITTED TO FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT STANDARDS. TRANSLATION SERVICES, ASSISTANCE OR ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS FROM PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE TO BE REQUESTED NOT LESS THAN 3 WORKING DAYS BEFORE THE DAY OF THE EVENT. PLEASE CALL (703) 255-6304, OR 711 VIRGINIA RELAY SERVICE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED.