

*******DRAFT MINUTES*******

Board of Architectural Review

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

7:00pm, Virtual Public Hearing

Zoom Webinar

Members Present: Christine Roberts, Chair
James Spencer, Vice Chair
Christine Sennott
Purvi Irwin
John Sprinkle
Lynn Neihardt

Members Absent: Robert Adams

Staff Present: Stephanie Sample, Historic Preservation Planner
Tony LaColla, Division Chief

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Architectural Review hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Adams was unexcused. All other members were present at the meeting by video conference.

Ms. Roberts stated that due to the COVID-19 Pandemic emergency, the May 6, 2020 Public Hearing of the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3), the Continuity of Government ordinance adopted by the City Council on April 18, 2020 or City of Alexandria Page 1 Board of Architectural Review Action Docket May 6, 2020 Sections 4-0.00(g) in HB29 and HB30 to undertake essential business. All of the members of the Board and staff are participating from remote locations through Zoom Webinar. The meeting can be accessed by the public through: broadcasted live on the government channel 70, streaming on the City's website and can be accessed via Zoom hyperlink on the docket.

Public comment will be received at the meeting. The public may make public comments through the conference call. Comments submitted prior to the meeting to Lia Niebauer will be read into record during the meeting.

For reasonable disability accommodation, contact Jackie.Cato@alexandriava.gov or (703) 746-3810, Virginia Relay 711.

II. MINUTES

2. Consideration of the minutes from the **March 18, 2020** public hearing.

BOARD ACTION: Approved, as Submitted

By unanimous consent, the Board of Architectural Review voted to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2020.

3. Consideration of the minutes from the **April 22, 2020** public hearing.

BOARD ACTION: Approved, as Submitted

By unanimous consent, the Board of Architectural Review voted to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2020.

III. ITEMS DEFERRED FROM PREVIOUS HEARING

4. BAR #2020-00063 PG

Request to install small cell facility on a utility pole on public property adjacent to 421 North Fayette Street

Applicant: Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless

BOARD ACTION: Approved, as Submitted, 5-1

On a motion by Ms. Neihardt and seconded by Mr. Spencer, the Board of Architectural Review voted to approve BAR #2020-00063, as submitted. The motion carried on a vote of 5-1.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

None.

REASON

The Board generally agreed that even though they have to review small cell facilities applications, there is not much room for discussions and improvements since there are Federal laws that prevent local governments' input, however, they want to understand better the process and requirements prior to approve an administrative approval policy for the historic districts.

SPEAKERS

Joshua Schakola, the applicant, addressed the Board's concerns from the previous hearing explaining that the pole near 421 North Fayette is the only pole suitable for the small cell collocation as per reasons stated in a document provided to staff. Mr. Schakola was also available to answer questions.

Tim Ryan, resident at 417 North Fayette, pointed out that the staff report and documents included in the docket didn't mention the Dominion's reasons for choosing that specific pole, he brought up that there are a gas line and a water discharge system next to the subject pole and there was no reference to them in the documents. He stated his opposition to the small cell facility installation on this location.

Mark Mahar, resident at 421 North Fayette, stated that he had sent staff a letter numbering his concerns and required, if possible, to have the replacement pole installed in the exact location of the existing to avoid car loading issues.

DISCUSSION

Generally, the Board had concerns about ADA compliance. Mr. Schakola did not have

information about Dominion's guidelines for ADA requirements, but Mr. LaColla explained that the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) is in charge of reviewing the applications for ADA compliance and the suitability of the equipment proposed in the right-of-way. The Board also had questions about the distance between the antennas which was clarified to be about 240 to 500 feet radius.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

5. BAR #2020-00121 OHAD

Request to install small cell facility on a utility pole on public property adjacent to 222 North Lee Street

Applicant: Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless

BOARD ACTION: Denied, 6-0

On a motion by Mr. Sprinkle and seconded by Ms. Irwin, the Board of Architectural Review voted to deny BAR #2020-00121. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Denied

REASON

Due to a shot clock regulation, the Board could not defer the application for further study and voted to deny it for the reason established on Article X Sec.10-105(A)(2)(c) and (g) of the City Zoning Ordinance.

SPEAKERS

Joshua Schakola, the applicant, introduced the project with a power-point presentation and was available to answer questions.

DISCUSSION

In general, the Board found that the proposed pole location is not appropriate for the small cell facility collocation as the location is a prominent corner, similar to other prominent hill corners in the historic district. The Board felt that locations with similar contexts are not suitable for either 4G or 5G antenna installation. The Board noted the necessity of a more comprehensive plan showing the chosen locations throughout the city so they could understand better the criteria and make a more effective decision.

6. BAR #2020-00122 PG

Request to install small cell facility on a utility pole on public property adjacent to 1224 Princess Street

Applicant: Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless

BOARD ACTION: Approved, as Submitted, 6-0

On a motion by Ms. Neihardt and seconded by Ms. Irwin, the Board of Architectural Review voted to approve BAR #2020-00122, as submitted. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

None

REASON

The Board agreed that the pole location chosen for the small cell facility was appropriate in this case, close to taller buildings and busier streets.

SPEAKERS

Joshua Schakola, the applicant, explained why the subject pole was chosen and was available to answer questions.

DISCUSSION

The Board requested that staff add the shot clock date on staff reports so that the Board can better manage their time to act on the case. They feel that deferral is a better option than denial in some cases. In general, the Board agreed that this location is suitable for the small cell colocation.

7. BAR #2020-00123 PG

Request to install small cell facility on a utility pole on public property adjacent to 229 North Henry Street

Applicant: Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless

BOARD ACTION: Approved, as Submitted, 6-0

On a motion by Ms. Irwin and seconded by Ms. Sennott, the Board of Architectural Review voted to approve BAR #2020-00123, as submitted. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

None.

REASON

The Board agreed that the pole location chosen for the small cell facility was acceptable.

SPEAKERS

Joshua Schakola, the applicant, introduced the project and was available to answer questions.

DISCUSSION

The Board agreed that this location is suitable for the small cell colocation and asked that the applicant work with Dominion Energy to locate the exterior boxes away from the sidewalk and toward the street.

8. BAR #2020-00201 OHAD

Request to install small cell facility on a utility pole on public property adjacent to 323 South Fairfax Street

Applicant: Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless

BOARD ACTION: Approved, as Submitted, 6-0

On a motion by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Ms. Neihardt, the Board of Architectural Review voted to approve BAR #2020-00201, as submitted. The motion carried on a vote of 6-0.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

None.

REASON

The Board agreed that the pole location chosen for the small cell facility was acceptable.

SPEAKERS

Joshua Schakola, the applicant, introduced the project and was available to answer questions.

DISCUSSION

The Board agreed that this location is suitable for the small cell.

The case was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant following the hearing.

9. BAR #2020-00203 OHAD

Request to install small cell facility on a utility pole on public property adjacent to
628 North Washington Street

Applicant: Cellco Partnership dba Verizon Wireless

V. ADJOURNMENT

The Board of Architectural Review hearing was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVALS

The following projects were administratively approved since the last BAR meeting:

BAR #2020-00056 PG

Request for door replacement at 1000 Cameron Street

Applicant: Vince Burhger

BAR #2020-00156 OHAD

Request for window replacement at 610 Bashford Lane #1313

Applicant: Susan Hill

BAR #2020-00164 PG

Request for alterations at 405 North Henry Street

Applicant: Chris Penndorf

BAR #2020-00174 OHAD

Request for siding replacement at 301 North Washington Street

Applicant: William Bennett

BAR #2020-00178 OHAD

Request for window replacement at 300 Queen Street

Applicant: Scott Corzine

BAR #2020-00179 OHAD

Request for alterations at 300 Queen Street
Applicant: Scott Corzine

BAR #2020-00183 OHAD
Request for door replacement at 330 North Columbus Street
Applicant: Christine Pryately

BAR #2020-00188 OHAD
Request for window replacement at 811 Cameron Street
Applicant: Thomas West

BAR #2020-00198 OHAD
Request for roof replacement at 4 Alexander Street
Applicant: Margaret Fitzsimmons

BAR #2020-00204 PG
Request for roof replacement at 1007 Cameron Street
Applicant: Steven Burke