


FROM	NAME & TITLE	DOUGLAS B. MCCOACH, III, DIRECTOR <i>DBM</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 E. FAYETTE STREET, 8 th FLOOR		
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #08-0008/BALTIMORE CITY LANDMARK LIST-RIVERSIDE PARK		

DATE:
February 22, 2008

TO The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
City Hall, Room 400
100 N. Holliday Street

At its regular meeting of February 21, 2008 the Planning Commission considered City Council Bill #08-0008, which is for the purpose of designating Riverside Park, 301 East Randall Street, as a historical landmark.

In its consideration of this Bill, the Planning Commission reviewed the attached agenda, summary, and previous staff report which recommended approval of City Council Bill #08-0008 and adopted the following resolution, eight members being present (eight in favor).

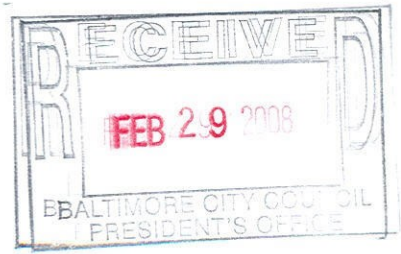
RESOLVED, That the Planning Commission concurs with the recommendation of its departmental staff, and recommends that City Council Bill #08-0008 be passed by the City Council.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Gary W. Cole, Deputy Director at 410-396-8337.

DBM/GWC/ttl

Attachments

- cc:
- Mr. Andrew Frank, Deputy Mayor
 - Ms. Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office
 - Mr. Demuane Milliard, Mayor's Office
 - The Honorable Rochelle "Rikki" Spector, Council Rep. for Planning Commission
 - Mr. David Tanner, BMZA
 - Mr. Donald Small, DHCD
 - Ms. Nikol Nabors-Jackson, DHCD
 - Ms. Jennifer Coates, Councilmanic Services
 - Ms. Linda Barclay, Law Department
 - Mr. Tyler Gearhart, CHAP, Chairman
 - Ms. Kathleen Kotarba, CHAP



F

PLANNING COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

August 9, 2007

REQUEST: Historic Landmark Designation/Riverside Park-Randall and Johnson Streets

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

STAFF: Eric Holcomb

PETITIONER: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP)

OWNER: Mayor and City Council – Department of Recreation and Parks

SITE/GENERAL AREA

Site Conditions: Approximately 17 acres, Riverside Park abuts railroad tracks and I-95 highway on the south and streets lined with late 19th-century rowhouses on the east, north and west. The park comprises an active recreation area and a passive area. The southern half of the park features baseball diamonds, basketball courts, football and soccer fields, a play ground and a large swimming pool. The passive area still retains its historic entrance ways, an historic pavilion, and a cannon memorial. The park is tied together by a pathway system that resembles the original Victorian design.

General Area: Riverside Park is located in the Riverside neighborhood, a predominantly 19th-century, two-story rowhouse community. Interstate-95 and railroad tracks abut the south side of the park.

CONFORMITY TO PLANS

The landmark designation reinforces the historic character of Riverside Park and highlights the park as a site in the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812. The park will be zoned for parks and open space. Landmark designation conforms to the CMP PLAY/Goal 1, Obj. 1/strategy 5 *Prepare for the bicentennial anniversary of the War of 1812*; and CMP PLAY/Goal 1, Obj. 4: *Strengthen Stewardship of Historical and Cultural Resources*. In addition, the landmark designation supports the Baltimore Heritage Area plan. In 2008, the Baltimore Heritage Area will hire a War of 1812 Bicentennial coordinator to oversee the celebration.

ANALYSIS

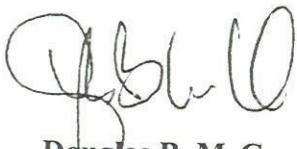
Riverside Park is an important site of the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812, and an excellent example of Victorian park design.

Riverside Park meets CHAP's standards for landmark designation one, three, and five:

- Standard #1: Riverside Park area played an important role in the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812. To commemorate this area's role, the City purchased three acres in 1862 and named the area Battery Square. In 1873, the city added approximately 14 acres to Battery Square and renamed it Riverside Park. Since this time, the park has provided passive and recreational opportunities to South Baltimoreans;
- Standard #3: This site is associated with the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812, where Fort Lookout, now the site of Riverside Park, helped prevent the landing of the British on the south side of the peninsula, near today's Port Covington.
- Standard #5: Many of the park components such as the pavilion, cannon memorial, entrances from Randall Street, and path system illustrate many Victorian landscape design features.

This is the second step in a three-step designation process. First, the designation proposal was approved by CHAP on July 10, 2007. Second, the Planning Commission will review the designation, and third, upon approval of the Planning Commission, CHAP will forward the designation to City Council for approval through the City ordinance process.

The Department of Recreation and Parks, Friends of Riverside Park, Riverside Park Community Association; and Riverside Action Group were notified of this hearing.



Douglas B. McCoach, III
Director