

Docket Item # 11
BAR CASE # 2008-0096

BAR Meeting
July 9, 2008

ISSUE: Alterations

APPLICANT: Alexandria Commission for the Arts and Alexandria Sculpture Festival

LOCATION: 1200A King Street

ZONE: KR/King Street Retail

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval as submitted.



BAR CASE #2008-0096

7/09/2008



I. ISSUE:

The applicant is requesting approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the new base of the Sacandaga Totem sculpture and associated lighting. The sculpture will be located in the plaza area formed at the intersection of South Fayette Street, King Street, and Commerce Street.

On January 22, 2008, the City Council unanimously accepted the totem sculpture, created by artist John Van Alstine, as a gift to the City by the Alexandria Sculpture Festival (ASF). Among the conditions of the gift, stipulated by the ASF to the Mayor and Council, was that it would be located at the southwest corner of King and Fayette Street. Council agreed to the location for the placement of the sculpture.

Following the acceptance of the totem/sculpture by the Council, Staff from the Parks and Recreation and Planning and Zoning Departments, met with representatives of the ASF and their landscape architecture firm, Stephenson & Good, to develop an appropriate design for the base and the lighting of the totem. The discussion included where to locate the base and any new lighting poles so as not to impede pedestrian flow along King Street through the plaza, or impact existing trees wells, man holes, and the recently installed drinking fountain.

Base:

The proposed base for the sculpture consists of brick paving, in a radial running bond, with a rectangular base plate on which the sculpture will rest. The rectangular steel base plate will be installed on a concrete foundation surrounded by a granite curb approximately 3" taller than the brick paving. The steel plate will project about 3/4" over the granite curb. The dimensions of the base will be 5'3" x 3'8". A 12" x 12" cast bronze dedication plaque will be mounted flush with the radial brick pattern pavement, in the northern arc of the brick pattern.

Lighting:

Two new linear pole lights are proposed to be installed in the plaza area, to illuminate the sculpture and provide lighting enhancement to the plaza area. The light poles will be installed towards the center of the plaza, at the ends of the proposed location of the benches. The light poles are manufactured by BEGA, in black aluminum, with a clear aluminum section housing the lighting element. The poles are each 12' in height. A site rendering showing the proposed poles was submitted by the applicant, as well as a photometric study.

II. HISTORY:

The brick plaza located at the intersection of King Street, Commerce Street, and South Fayette Street has been in this configuration for decades. The four metal benches were installed by the City in recent years and were recently relocated towards Commerce Street.

In 2006, the Board approved a drinking foundation that was installed in the plaza area, (BAR Case #2006-0122).

III. ANALYSIS:

Proposed alterations comply with Zoning Ordinance requirements.

For this application, the Board's purview is limited to the appropriateness of the proposed base, location within the plaza and lighting within the plaza area. As stated previously, the City Council has accepted the Sacandaga Totem sculpture and determined that it will be located in this plaza and that the sculpture will be lit.

In Staff's opinion, the proposed base and lighting are appropriate in this context and for this use. The applicant worked with Staff to develop a base design that was minimal, yet compatible to the existing design of the plaza. The radial design provides a paving focal point for the sculpture within the plaza, without being too distracting or competing with the existing paving. The base itself is minimal in height and design, and allows the sculpture itself to be the dominate element in the plaza.

The proposed lighting poles are appropriately "background" elements and do not detract from the more traditional street lamps currently in the plaza. The lighting levels are minimal to provide some nighttime illumination to the totem sculpture.

Therefore, Staff supports the application for the base and the lighting. These elements will contribute to this underutilized plaza area having more design cohesion.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval as submitted.

V. CITY DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

Legend: C - code requirement R - recommendation S - suggestion F- finding

Code Enforcement:

C-1 Construction permits are required for the proposed project.

Historic Alexandria:

No comments.

VI. IMAGES:

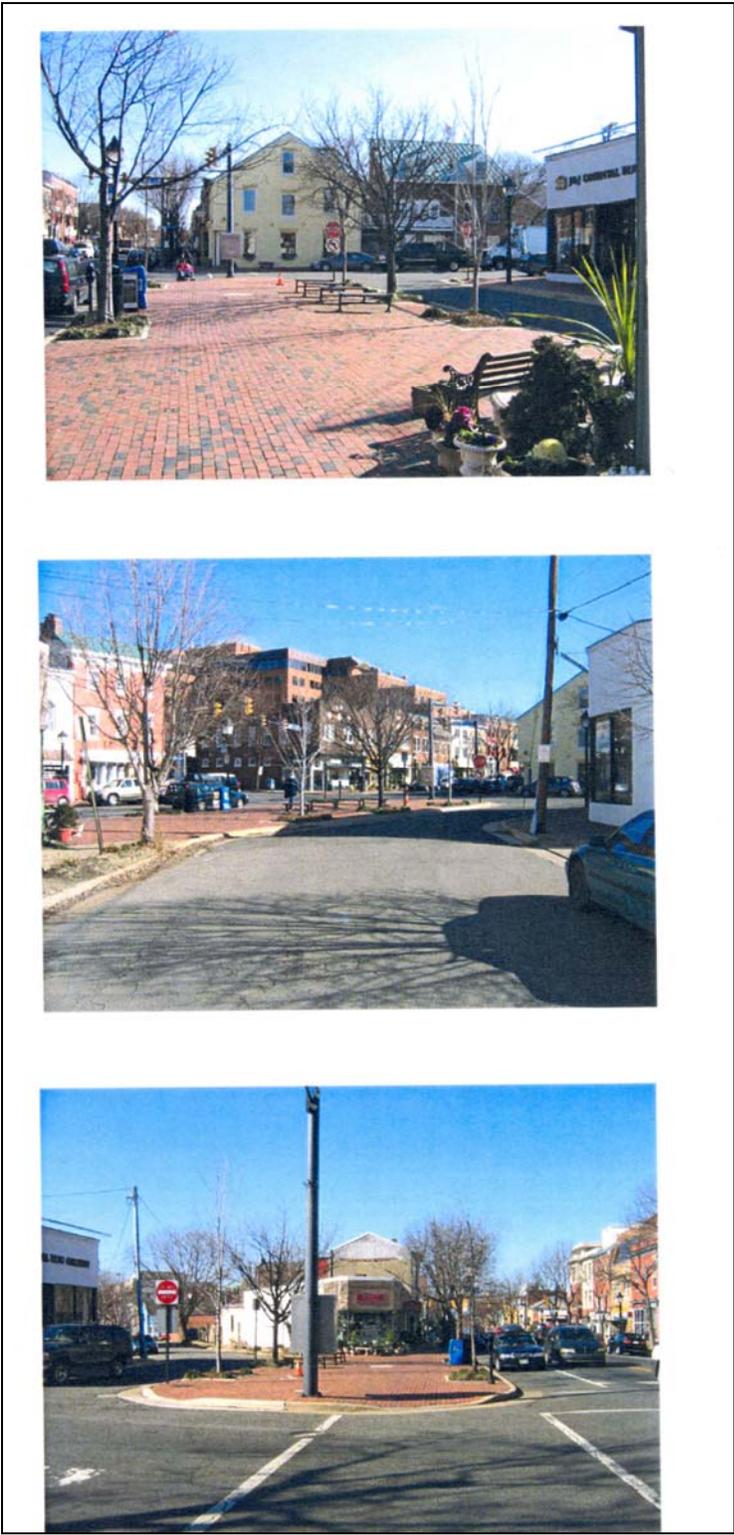


Figure 1: Existing plaza conditions



Figure 2: Sacandaga Totem Sculpture by John Van Alstine

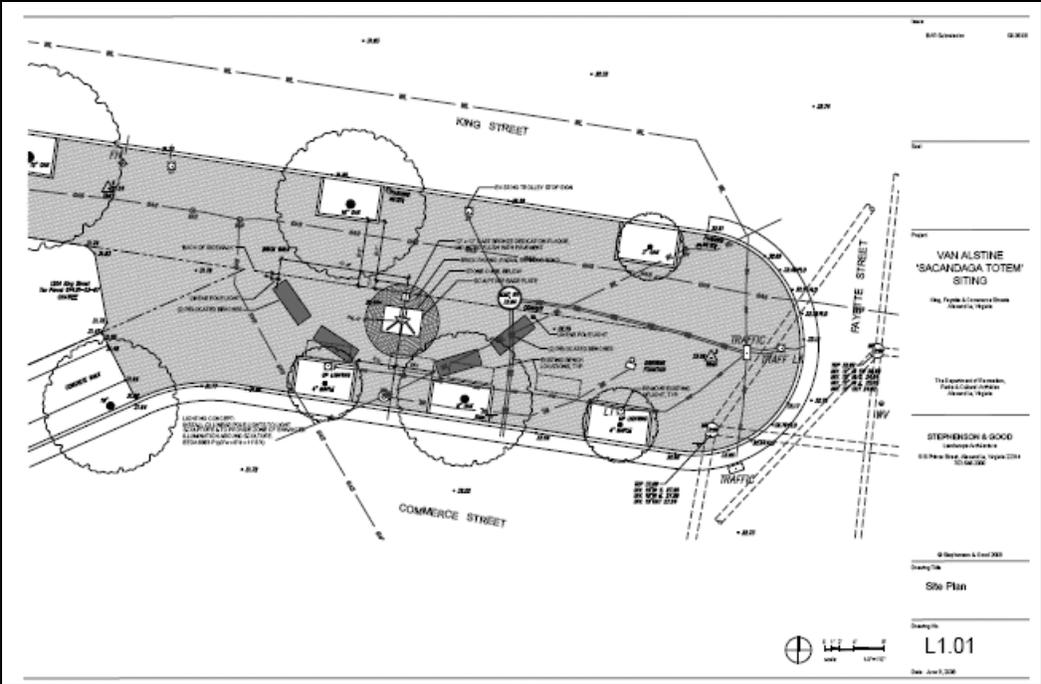


Figure 3: Proposed site plan showing base and lighting poles

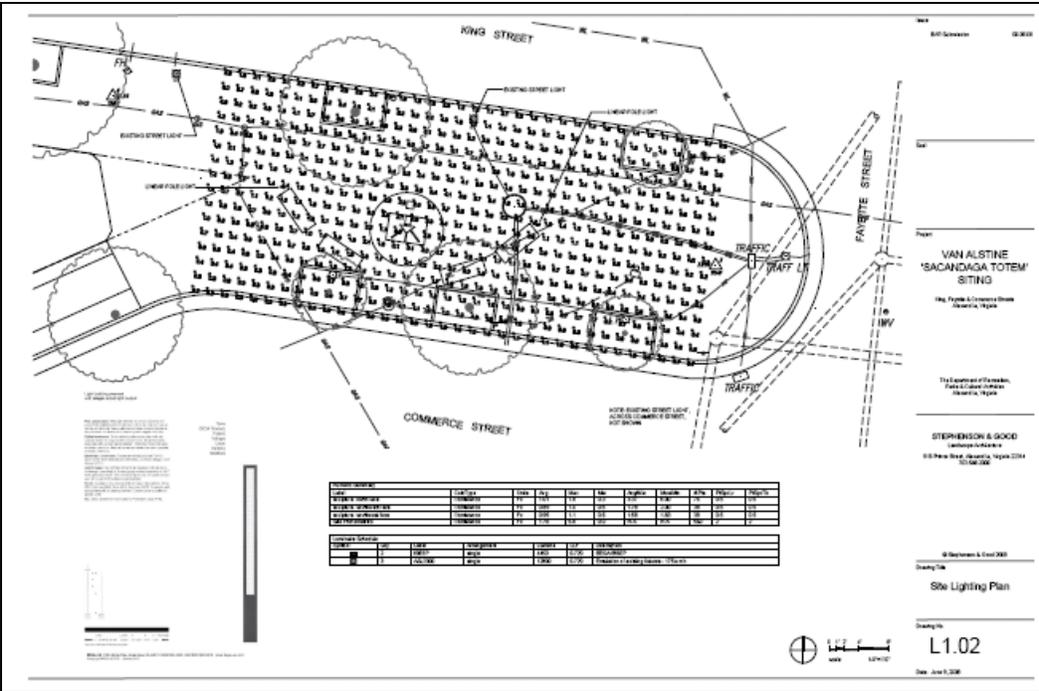


Figure 4: Existing and proposed photometrics

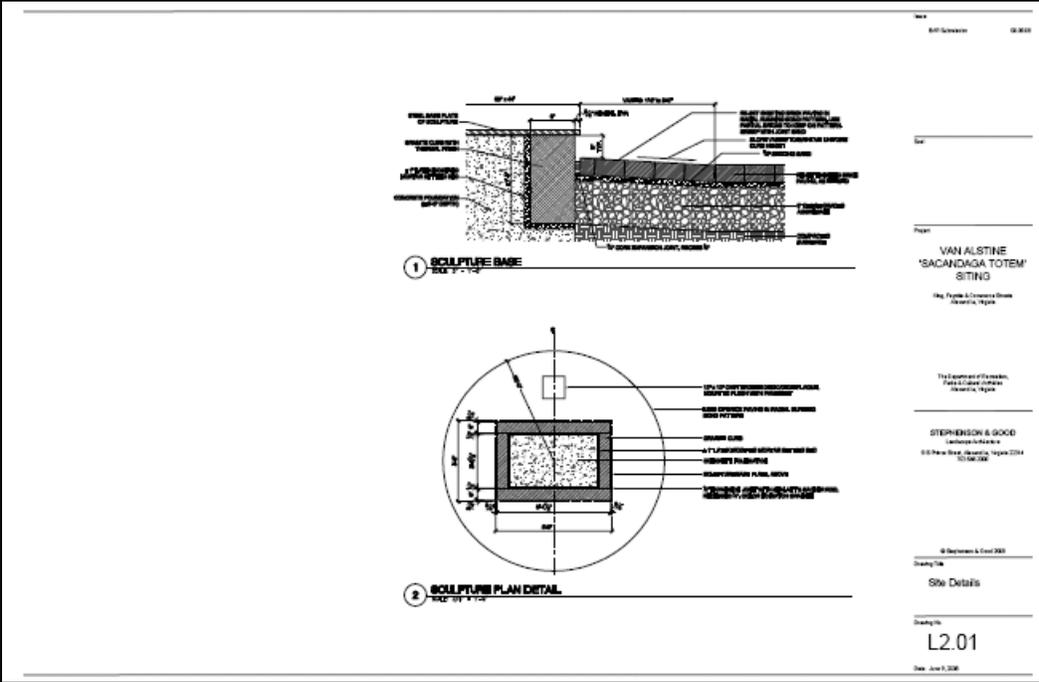


Figure 5: Proposed sculpture base



Figure 6: Renderings showing sculpture/base/lighting in plaza area in day and night