

Docket Item # 7  
BAR CASE #2006-0122

BAR Meeting  
June 21, 2006

**ISSUE:** Drinking fountain

**APPLICANT:** City of Alexandria, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs

**LOCATION:** 1200 A King Street

**ZONE:** KR/King Retail

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

(Insert sketch here)

**I. ISSUE:**

The City of Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities is requesting approval to install a drinking fountain in the brick plaza area between King Street, Commerce Street, and Fayette Street

The Department received a donation from a citizen of the City through its Living Landscape Fund program for the purpose of a drinking fountain for people and their pets. The donor had suggested locating the drinking fountain in the brick plaza area between King Street, Commerce Street, and Fayette Street since the plaza has existing benches and serves as a resting point and meeting area for pedestrians walking in the area.

The Department of Recreation met with other City staff from Planning and Zoning and Transportation and Environmental Services to discuss the suitability of the proposed location and the design of the fountain. The existing plaza is approximately 30' wide and 80' long and currently contains four black benches. Five street trees line the median and provide shade for the plaza. The plaza area is open enough to accommodate the fountain and will not conflict with existing pedestrian circulation patterns. During the discussion between the City departments, it was agreed upon that the best location for the fountain in the plaza would be on the south western side near the first tree well from Fayette Street. This location reduces the length of water connection required for the fountain and the drainage sump for the fountain will be fed into the tree well.

Recreation and P& Z staff met several times to select an appropriate fountain design that was compatible to the existing plaza and King Street streetscape. The desire was to select a style and design that can blend with any future site amenity improvements along the King Street corridor.

The proposed fountain design is a slender square shape column with an octagonal base and oblong shaped bowls. The fountain is approximately 42" in height and approximately 25" in width. Murdock, Inc. of Cincinnati, Ohio is the manufacturer and the model is identified as Model M-23-2-PF. It features dual bowls with a pet fountain attached at the base. The unit incorporates a wheel chair arm to accommodate disabled users. The fountain is constructed from cast grey iron and the bowls are made from solid cast brass; these materials are designed to withstand outdoor use. The entire fountain will be finished in a black powder coating. Each bowl is operated by a push button.

The maintenance of the fountain will be shared by the Department of Recreation and the Department of Transportation. This fountain is ADA compliant.

**II. HISTORY:**

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

**III. ANALYSIS:**

Drinking fountain complies with zoning ordinance requirements.

Recreation and P & Z staff met several times to discuss the proposed fountain, its design, and its location.

P & Z staff had initial concerns about choosing a location that was appropriate as well as a design that would compliment the existing King Street streetscape and blend well with the street lamps and benches. Currently, there is not a plan to guide the selection of street furniture along King Street. After looking at several options, P & Z staff found the fountain currently proposed to be the most compatible for this area of King Street and one that would blend into the environment.

The location for the installation of the fountain near the first tree well on the south western side of the plaza is ideal in that the existing benches are located on this side of the plaza and this allows for the street furniture to be aligned along the same side. This location also keeps the existing pedestrian circulation patterns unimpeded.

Staff recommends approval of the proposed drinking fountain at this plaza location on King Street.

**IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the application as submitted.

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 comment.