

UPDATE 8 09 Riverfront Changes to Downtown Master Plan

Voting 9-0 Council members voted key amendments to the Downtown Master Plan.

These secure waterfront access and trail right-of way rights at the time of any public or private development on a canal or riverfront property. The plan gives eastern riverfront of the James River an “urban center area” designation that says the property can be used for mixed-use development, with buildings limited to four to six stories.

Echo Harbor, a planned development with upwards of 6-12 stories opposed by many in Church Hill is now being required to provide new and revised technical plans and studies on emergency vehicle access and how the buildings would not worsen flooding in the area, and how a 60-inch sewer line that crosses the site on Dock Street would be relocated. They must also show how the entire project will affect water demand.

Richmond’s Director of Community Development indicates serious technical matters are appropriate for determining if the site is safe for this type of special-use development. Mayor Dwight C. Jones hasn’t expressed an opinion on Echo Harbor.