

**LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE REPORT
YHA ANNUAL MEETING**

2008 FINAL REPORT

MONUMENT REPAIR STATUS

MONUMENT LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS

YORKSHIRE DRIVE LANDSCAPE STUDY

Cynthia Bryant

1/25/09

MONUMENT REPAIR STATUS

MASONRY

Damaged brick sections removed and placed behind side entrance shrubbery by Virginia Grounds.

Verbal quote received from Minnick Bros to rebuild masonry using existing brick.

Can mix mortar to closely match, repair should not be very noticeable and will weather.

Waiting for second quote from Jack Kneist.

SPRINKLER SYSTEM

Knight-Scapes tested system and it operated normally.

Important: We need to place boards over sprinkler valve cover near monument to prevent damage by masons.

LIGHTING

One fixture was damaged which would need replacement.

Prior to accident, landscape committee planned to recommend raising fixtures or consider replacement.

Knight-Scapes has submitted two proposals to replace current 120V system with 24V system: four new monument fixtures (\$1,752) and six new up-lighting fixtures for three crepe myrtles (\$1,554).

If Board decision is to proceed, proposals need careful review before presenting at annual meeting.

Lighting proposal also being solicited from Ken Mathews.

LANDSCAPING

After masonry work completed, Ken Mathews will provide estimate for repairing retaining wall and replanting plants transplanted behind side entrance shrubbery for sake keeping by Virginia Grounds; should be modest cost.

COST AND SCHEDULE

Mark Baker, father of teenager who hit the monument, has agreed to pay all costs up front. If decision made to replace lighting system, he should be charged only with cost of replacing damaged fixture or not at all.

Plan is to proceed with repair work following the YHA Annual Meeting, masonry work first followed by Ken Mathews. If approved, the new lighting system would be installed last.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Remove rubble	\$125 (Va. Grounds actual)
Rebuild Monument	650 (Minnick quote)
Repair sprinkler system	0
Replace light fixture	TBD
Restore landscaping	<u>TBD</u>
<i>Reimbursed Costs</i>	\$775
New monument lighting	\$1,753 (K-S proposal)
Crepe myrtle up-lighting	<u>1,554</u> (K-S proposal)
<i>YHA Costs</i>	\$3,307

ADVANTAGES OF NEW LIGHTING SYSTEM

Four new fixtures would face monument and wash it with light better than current system (see Governor's Land entrance). Lighting effect can be adjusted by moving fixtures and/or adjusting lamp wattage.

Six up-light fixtures would light three crepe myrtles (see Governor's Land entrance).

Fixtures are on spikes driven into the ground without the need for masonry foundation and easily moved.

Low voltage 24V system does not require permit to install.

Power supply would be on monument above sprinkler control box and plug into adjacent receptacle.

Fixtures connect to power supply by low voltage wires running just below the surface and routed to avoid plants.

Power supply operates off photo cell; existing electrical control panel could be set to come on at 4:00pm, off at 2:00am. Photo cell would turn lights on at dusk, regardless of season, lights off each night at 2:00am.

Operating costs: $350\text{W (10 lamps)} \times 2,500 \text{ hours/year (assumes 2am turn-off)} \times 25\text{¢/kWh} = \$220/\text{year}$. Last year's electrical costs were \$180. Actual costs will vary with Dominion's fluctuating fuel surcharge.

Replacement lamps are inexpensive and based on our usage, estimated life is 3½ years.

New lighting system cost would come out of authorized operating budget.

Conclusion: Landscape Committee recommends replacing current 25-year old system with safer low-voltage system which will improve monument lighting and enhance entrance appearance, with no increase in operating costs.

YORKSHIRE DRIVE LANDSCAPE STUDY

Study began with December 4 on-site meeting with Heather Close of Ken Mathews Nursery, who supervised re-landscaping of front entrance.

HANDOUT FOR HEATHER CLOSE MEETING

BACKGROUND: Grass strip along Yorkshire Drive, maintained by Yorkshire Homeowner's Association, is unattractive and relatively high maintenance—cut grass and leaf cleanup. Periodic mulching aeration, fertilizing, or over seeding has never been done. Estimated 15,000 sq. feet of grass.

Most of the strip is weeds, not grass

Rainwater runs off due to sloping ground

No sprinkler system

Bakes in summer sun

Chain link fence visible

MEETING OBJECTIVES: Discuss landscaping improvements to grass strip with goals of defining re-landscaping options and estimated costs to present before homeowners at January 25 meeting. If approved by homeowners, would request fixed price proposal in February to implement approved re-landscape plan in spring.

POTENTIAL OPTIONS (NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE):	<i>Improve Appearance</i>	<i>Reduce Maintenance</i>
Plant drought tolerant summer grass	X	X
Plant drought tolerant, deer proof, ground cover	X	X
Plant ornamental trees, shrubbery, and bulbs	X	
Remove some existing trees	X	
Plant screening shrubbery against fence	X	
Mulch under trees	X	

STUDY STATUS

Follow-up meeting with Heather Close scheduled for next week to discuss her proposed landscaping of Yorkshire Drive grass strip based on our December meeting.

Based on recent phone call, her initial thoughts are:

Black pines, tall nandinas, and large hollies in areas where fence visible and no existing trees.

Juniper and viburnum for color and berries.

Mahonias and daffodils under current white pine.

More beds than grass to reduce eminence.

Questions to be raised at meeting:

Plan for large grassy area next to Cousins? Do we need any grass except near Cousins?

Any ground covers?

Any removals?

Annual maintenance requirements?

Implementation schedule?

Cost?