

Minutes for NDRA/ND MEETING

Thursday, May 28, 2009, 7 pm, central library, 3rd floor

Meeting called to order at 7:04

Board: Pat Napoleon, Debra Weiss, Colette Hall, Mark Kavitt, Bill Sampson, Ted Jones, Ruth Stornetta, and Alex Ix

Neighbors: Edith Good, Jane Myers

April 30, 2009 minutes approved.

Treasurer's report:

\$1379.26 total in current account

Old Business:

Court result May 19:

North Downtown is one of the plaintiffs in this case. Plaintiffs asked the judge to grant an injunction regarding the use on nine acres of City property where the City granted permanent easements and sale to VDOT, north of Melbourne Rd. and east of the CHS. This would be the southern terminus of the MCP between Rio Rd. and Melbourne Rd. Injunction denied.

Second hearing - on Virginia Constitutionality regarding procedure of sale of property by the City of Charlottesville to VDOT, that may require a "supermajority" vote. The hearing went from 9:30 am -3:20pm with no break. Judge's summary said "file was not closed" and defendants and plaintiffs still had time to send "helpful authority" to the judge that they wanted him to be aware of. Judge Swett is taking it "under advisement" and shook hands with all attorneys and some of the witnesses. Colette noted how fair the judge seemed. There is no current judgment and construction continues on Rio to Melbourne MCP section.

Colette asked if NDRA wants to be involved in a federal case of the 250 interchange. Mark is concerned that NDRA may be sacrificing political capital. Pat wants to stand our ground now on stopping the parkway/interchange. Alex Ix is concerned about cost. So far, we have spent \$100 on this case. Colette says an expert attorney will look over the facts to determine the merits of bringing federal suit. C noted that the plaintiffs' current bill is \$4000. Ruth asked that this decision be deferred until after the local ruling is made and the attorney has advised us regarding a federal case.

New Business:

A. Annual picnic planning: September 13 or 20, 1-4 pm and details planned.

- B. Nomination Committee for Board elections
5 positions open, Alex Ix (most probably will run), Burnie is thinking about it, Mark (will stand for re-election), Ernie Reed (don't know if he will run), Ruth (will not re-up). Colette reminds everyone to talk to neighbors about running for the board and notes that renters may be on the board.
- C. Report on City Manager's quarterly meeting for neighborhoods
Commonwealth Transportation Board has approved bike/ped bridge over the railroad tracks to connect East and West side of the Park.
City Manager walk two years ago was only Colette and Mark. Andy Wood joined for a part of it, and a fourth joined for a few more blocks. Colette doesn't want to do the walk again because so few residents showed up. Ruth will get us a date with the city manager, get back to the board and lead the walk.
- D. VDHR/USACE/ FHWA and McIntire Park, NEW developments:
All consulting parties, etc must get together to craft the Memorandum of Agreement. The proposed mitigation by FWHA (and the City) is to place historic markers, plant some memorial trees, take a piece of the Rock Hill Gardens' stonewall (that will be totally demolished) with a marker for boundary of Rock Hill Gardens and former Academy.
VA Dept Historic resources must agree with FHWA on mitigation. The federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation noted the frustration of the consulting parties on the scope of the project (which was artificially constrained by the Federal vs. State "projects") and that both these projects will impact a similar area. ACHP suggests working with all agencies to mitigate the whole project's effect. Need to get all parties to discuss adverse effects on historic properties and need to be concerned about the whole project rather than each of the separate 3 pieces. The FHWA sees no need to comply with this advice from the Advisory Council and sees no need to participate in any further meetings.
Colette will respond for NDRA to the FHWA and the City to indicate our disappointment with this decision. Colette points out that the city wants the federal money to build the interchange. Part of the problem is the 775-foot ramp from the interchange that extends into the park to connect with the parkway. Otherwise, the MCP would be a road to nowhere. Much discussion ensued on the negatives of the interchange/parkway.
Colette reported that APVA/Preservation Virginia put McIntire Park on the 2009 list of Virginia's most endangered historic sites.
- E. Cancel July NDRA/ND meeting. Moved by Ruth, 2nd by Debra, passed unanimously.
- F. Brent Nelson update on South St. developments
Tabled.
- G. Matters by Directors
Colette reminds us about *Sundays in the Park* the last Sunday of each month at McIntire Park, 1 pm until dusk. Golf course is closed to golf and open to public.

Minutes submitted by
Ruth Stornetta, VP NDRA Board

Next NDRA meeting, Thursday, June 25, 7pm, central library