

**MINUTES for NDRA MONTHLY BOARD MEETING**  
**Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 2016 7:00pm | Central Library, Madison Room**

**Present:** Jon Bright (President), Heather Hill (VP-Correspondence Sec), Mark Kavit, Jane Myers, Jim Neale, John Cruickshank, Dave Groff

**Absent:** Bernie Martin (Treasurer), Jessica Baker (Recording Sec), Maureen Deane, Diana Filipi

**Guests:** Elizabeth Breeden, Jim Respass – Vinegar Hill Monument Committee

**Approval of March Minutes** – pending

**Treasurer's Report** – \$2,000.94 (provided via email)

**Guest Business:**

**Vinegar Hill Monument Committee** – Elizabeth Breeden presented background information: Four years ago, Dialog on Race Steering Committee held meeting with 350 people prioritized action items. At the top was a monument to Vinegar Hill. The group followed best practices and narrowed down to three African American artists with experience in monumental art. Melvin Edwards, who has an extensive body of work, was chosen as the artist. He has designed an abstract, stainless steel sculpture (sized 12' x8' x8' and sits on a 2' pedestal) to represent the strong, resilient people who lived in Vinegar Hill. Jefferson School was the location selected for the sculpture with a corresponding plaque and three additional pieces of historical signage. The Monument Committee is seeking statements from neighborhood associations to show there is broad community support.

A discussion followed regarding the language of the support statement, with Ms. Breeden providing some suggestions which NDRA would modify as appropriate. Jim inquired about the Monument Committee organizing fundraising efforts for this, recommending that such efforts “would give the project a visible and demonstrative, sign of support”. The neighborhood associations could then leverage this to gain an even broader community support and buy-in.

Ms. Breeden indicated there was some push back from the Vinegar Hill neighborhood as they would want to put these monies towards programs versus a monument. Discussion among Board reflected desire for the Vinegar Hill community to be on board as without their support, it may be viewed as an effort by others outside of their immediate community as doing something to make them feel better, but not actually meeting the desires of the community it is representing.

John Cruickshank motioned we draft a letter supporting the placement monument at the Jefferson School and NDRA would further support it through website and email distribution list. Jim Neale second the motion, Board voted unanimously in favor.

**Old Business:**

**A. Any Follow Up Re. Charlottesville Monuments (:10)**

Ms. Breeden had just come from a Council work session on this topic and provided some insights to the makeup of the proposed Blue Ribbon Commission on Race which will include a PLACE Design Task Force representative, Human Rights Commission representative, (3) Historic Resources Committee members, and additional (6) via an application process based on expertise and community representation. “Race memorials and Public Spaces” is name of commission.

Heather raised the letter from Mr. Middlefort and got alignment from Board for her to share it with Council, not as position of the Board, but passing along the perspective of an individual resident with related expertise.

Following up on the previous month's meeting, there was further support for the perspective that this decision is too divisive for us to take a formal position, however we will consider nominating a representative to the commission which will be open for 4 weeks following the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting.

**B. Obtaining & Uploading Historical Minutes to Website (:05)** – *Item deferred, Jessica absent*

**C. Allied Concrete Environmental Impact - Update on Follow Ups (:10)** – John Cruickshank reached out to DEQ and first response implied that it must be a new plant, which John corrected. The most recent inspection was completed in June 2012 with no enforcement actions for the past 3 years. The last inspection confirmed the plant has 8 silos which contain stone, cement, fly ash, with no visible emissions present at that time. A problem was identified with the 'street sweeper' that remains on site and is active 2-3 hours per day. It generates a large cloud of dust when emptied, so at the time of inspection the operator was cautioned to dump sweeper more slowly to minimize airborne dust.

In parallel, Heather raised comprehensive pollution concerns from the neighborhood (noise, water, air) at Quarterly Neighborhood Leaders Meeting with Assistant City Manager Mike Murphy who will follow up with public utilities re. DEQ testing as well as mentioned Kristel Riddervold, on sustainability team for the City. John C. plans to follow up with Kristel as well as again with DEQ while also evaluating options for independent sampling.

**D. Other** – None.

**New Business:**

**E. Scheduling Neighborhood Walkability Initiative (:10)** - Discussed starting with breaking the neighborhood down into manageable pieces then reach out to neighborhood to get feedback on walk leaders and interested participants. Heather to take first pass at breaking up the map and will follow up with Jon Bright and Rebecca Quinn to further flush out plan/get alignment before communicating broadly to neighborhood.

**F. Rails to Trails Opportunity - McIntire Recycling Center to West Main (:05)** – Heather introduced that she and a neighbor are doing some leg work, including engaging with City staff and other stakeholders to evaluate the possibility of converting the abandoned rail spur that runs from the Amtrak station to just short of Allied Concrete to a pedestrian and bike trail which would effectively connect North Downtown/McIntire Park and beyond with Preston Avenue and on to West Main. No action needed by NDRA at this time, Heather to keep the group updated on progress.

**G. Neighborhood Leaders Quarterly Meeting Recap (:10)** – Discussed highlights from the April meeting which included for North Downtown Allied Concrete and Rails to Trails Opportunity (see previous). Complete minutes, following approval by attendees, will posted by City Staff at the following location. <http://www.charlottesville.org/departments-and-services/departments-h-z/neighborhood-development-services/neighborhoods/neighborhood-association-news-and-web-sites/quarterly-neighborhood-leaders-meeting-recap>

**H. Other Items** – None.

**Next NDRA/North Downtown meeting Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> 7pm, Madison Room Central Library**  
**Other announcements**