

MINUTES for NDRA MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Thursday, September 28 7:00pm | Central Library, Jefferson Room

Present: Heather Hill (President), Jon Bright (VP), Dave Groff (Secretary), Bernie Martin (Treasurer), Jim Neale, Mark Kavit, Jane Myers, Rebecca Quinn, Diana Filipi, Maureen Deane, Stephanie Bolton

Absent: Jessica Baker

Guests: Patty Myatt, Evelyn Boatwright, Jackie Lichtman, David White, Chris Speasmayer (STARRS), Kara Gloeckner (STARRS)

Treasurer's Report - current reconcile account balance is \$1,370.84 (7:19).

Approval of Outstanding Minutes: *August minutes were approved unanimously (7:17).*

Guests Presentation: First Baptist Church: (7:04-7:16)

- *A new fence was installed this week at the end of 2nd St NE, equipped with a gate with numeric lock options so that neighbors can still have access to this area.*
- *A mailer will be sent to the neighborhood shortly, with further details.*

Old Business:

A. Follow up/Neighborhood Feedback on July 8th and August 12th Events: (7:38-7:47)

- *We received 3 responses from residents, via email, regarding NDRA survey.*
- *A letter will be drafted from NDRA to the City, highlighting these responses.*

B. Updated MACAA Property Redevelopment Plans (7:47-8:00)

- *A "Summary of Changes" handout was distributed to the group. It included many of the following, which were added after hearing feedback from the community.*
 - *Improvements to Park Street: no left turn exit, and a new flashing beacon.*
 - *Building height has been reduced by 1 story: was 5 stories at 75' total height, now is 4 at 55'.*
 - *Building has been reduced from 151 units to 141 units.*
 - *There will be public access provided to the historic gardens.*
 - *Parking has been reduced from 134 spaces to 110 (will include some permeable areas).*
 - *Owner has requested to add a City bus stop on campus.*
 - *Owner has proffered 4 affordable housing units and will contribute \$75,000 to City's affordable housing fund.*
- *NDRA will not take a position, but we encourage residents to attend the October 10 Planning Commission meeting to express their concerns.*

C. Annual Event Recap and Follow-Ups (8:00-8:08)

- *Turnout was low, presumably for a number of reasons (warm weather, other events happening in the city).*
- *4 new members signed up.*
- *Heather will send thank you notes to all vendors.*
- *Additions and changes for 2018:*
 - *Consider moving the event to October.*
 - *Purchase a big sign/banner to "thank" all of the vendors.*
 - *Request 10 No Parking signs (6 this year)*

D. Public Library Landscape Design Project (8:08-8:11)

- *Kathy Galvin was able to get this piece of property included in the planning phase for Emancipation and Freedom Parks improvements projects.*

New Business:

E. STARRS Application for Special Use Permit at 517 Park Street (7:19-7:38)

- *STARRS is asking the city to increase it's size from 8 residents to 16.*
 - *It was built in 1984 with enough capacity for 16 residents.*
 - *They initially plan to have only 12 residents, then increase to 16 if the need arises.*
 - *Property is currently zoned R3, which allows 8 residents, by right.*
 - *2 staff members are currently on site during the day, 1 at night. 4 would be present if SUP approved.*
- *There have been 41 police visits to property since January, most of which are from internal calls, not neighbors.*
- *Parking is a big issue for this property. Their goal is to move offices to an adjacent building and move those cars to other nearby lots.*
- *10 years ago this SUP was denied by the City.*

F. Injunction to Prevent Private Militias from Convening in VA without Adequate State Control (8:11-8:20)

- *DBAC is a lead plaintiff in the lawsuit.*
- *Collette expressed concerns regarding whether NDRA bylaws allow us to join the suit.*
- *We will wait to see the formal filings before deciding whether to join - discussions to follow via email.*

G. Long Range Projects and Preparing for Neighborhood Grant Opportunities (8:20-8:30)

- *The City has never given us grant money directly, but has allocated funds to projects, on our behalf.*
- *We can present ideas to the city that they can then pursue (HUD grants, for example).*
- *We can also submit proposals directly to the city for smaller neighborhood projects.*

H. Officer Elections (8:30-8:33)

- *Board Election results were revealed and a motion was unanimously passed to keep officers as is.*
- *We will discuss possible changes at a future meeting, and vote as needed.*

I. Other Business (8:33-8:43)

- *Help is needed to plant bulbs and other greenery at the traffic circle on Park Plaza.*
- *Maureen noted that a group was heard screaming and being disruptive on Evergreen Ave on the afternoon of 9/28/17. No other members were able to offer any news or leads on the event.*

Next NDRA/North Downtown meeting Thursday, November 30, 7pm, Central Library, Jefferson Room