

## NDRA/North Downtown Neighborhood Meeting

Thursday, April 30, 2009, 7pm, Central Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> fl. room

In attendance:

Board members: Colette Hall, Ruth Stornetta, Mark Kavit, Ted Jones, Ernie Reed, Bill Sampson, Debra Weiss, Pat Napoleon, Alex Ix, and Burnie Davis.

Residents & Guests: none

The meeting called to order at 7:02 pm. by Colette Hall

The minutes of March 26, 2009 were approved as presented (with two small corrections)

Treasurer's report – expenses of \$16.80 for stamps for membership mailing; income of \$20 in dues and \$0.11 in interest The new balance is \$1,289.74.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Membership dues report: Burnie reported that he and Colette and Pat had sent out about 75 letters to new addresses on the mailing list, inviting them to join NDRA as members. Two residents have sent in dues so far.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Colette reported on the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Consulting Parties meeting regarding the permitting for the McIntire Extended Road bridge over Meadowcreek. While the public comment period is still open (until May 8), she assumes that they will grant the permit, but with more extensive mitigation requirements for the road/MCP that had previously been planned.  
  
Ted Jones reported on a conversation with Councilman Julian Taliaferro regarding possible downsizing of the Route 250 interchange, but he continues to support the Meadowcreek Parkway project as a whole.
- B. Colette presented an update of the status with the Planning Commission regarding possible driveway cuts onto McIntire Road across from the County Office Building. No Board action is needed at this point in the process.
- C. Colette reported on the responses to her letter to residents urging their support for the Coalition to Save McIntire Park. Of the four responses she received, three supported the project (though all of those lived on/off Park Street)..Two others asked for more information.
- D. Colette reported that she had, just this evening, attended the City Manager's meeting with Neighborhood Association Presidents, but she needed some more time to develop a report to the Directors (next month).

- E. Colette reported that the Alliance of Neighborhoods would hold their next forum on June 16<sup>th</sup>, at a time/place TBA. The topic will be “Traffic School 101” and will deal with both City and County traffic issues.
- F. Colette reported that Comyn Hall, on Park Street, had been bought at auction by BB&T bank, for \$1.1 million for possible development. Several parties are reportedly interested in doing this development.

Colette also reported that 716 Park St (the former site of a registered sexual offenders residence) has been bought by SNL for overnight accommodations of SNL guests.

- G. Colette presented an update on the Parking Exempt Zone Ordinance under consideration by the City for the downtown area. It turns out that the map being proposed for this Zone was very flawed and needs to be corrected. Due to multiple issues regarding parking, the Comprehensive Plan, and traffic concerns, the PC will request that the Council extend the discussion period for 150 days longer than originally planned.
- H. Colette gave an update on the McIntire Extended/Meadowcreek Parkway court case. The next hearing will be on May 19<sup>th</sup>, at a place/time TBA. Both sides are now engaged in “discovery” and the Coalition is trying to figure out how to raise funds to cover the legal fees being incurred by this lawsuit (currently estimated at \$3000).
- I Colette told about the Belmont Neighborhood Association’s controversy over possible rezoning from residential to commercial with the need to reduce noise, congestion, and garbage issues. The NDRA Board declined to get involved with this issue at this time, based on insufficient information on all the details and negligible impact on NDRA nor has the BNA asked for our support.
- J. Directors’ Issues: Mark presented an issue regarding the sale of some City land to a property owner at 400 West High Street. After lengthy discussion, the Board declined to take a position on this matter at this time.

Burnie informed the Board that he will not be present at the next meeting, so Ruth graciously agreed to act as Secretary for the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Minutes submitted by Burnie Davis, Secretary.

**REMINDER:** The next NDRA meeting will be at 7 p.m. on **Thursday, May 28th** at the Central Library.