

Minutes for NDRA/ND Meeting

Thursday, August 27, 2009, 7 p.m., Central Library, 3rd floor

In attendance: **Board:** Colette Hall, Mark Kavit, Bill Sampson, Ruth Stornetta, Alex Ix, Debra Weiss, Ted Jones, and Pat Napoleon **Residents:** Jane Myers, Juanita Milby, Lynn Valentine, Bill Sibley, Eleanor Biasioli, Jackie Lichtman, and Cheri Lewis **Guests:** Janet Matthews (TJACH Board), Ed Bain (Chair of the TJACH Board), and Tommy Everett (TJACH Board and Chair of Day Haven)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Colette Hall

The minutes from June 25, 2009 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's report - Expenses since June were for the PO Box, NDRA Incorporation fee, and stamps. The new balance is \$1,340.63.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Court result from May 19: Judge Swett denied the injunction to stop construction of the Meadowcreek Parkway, north of Melbourne Rd., as requested by the Coalition to Preserve McIntire Park. The Judge found that the Parkway would not "damage" or "injure" Colette Hall, as plaintiff- representing NDRA, and therefore NDRA/ND was not granted legal "standing." The question now is will CPMP (NDRA is a member) appeal this case to the VA. Supreme Court and would that be worthwhile. CPMP has insufficient funds for such an appeal and would need a pro bono attorney to do so.

B. Picnic plans for September 13 were solidified. With attendance anticipated at less than 50 people, no *Special Events Permit* is required. All NDRA members are encouraged to bring food or beverage to share. Colette gave all board members picnic flyers to distribute. And she sent out invitations to all members who have no e-mail address.

City Council and city sheriff candidates were invited. Though, no speeches are allowed, they are welcome to converse with attendees about their political platforms

C. Nominees for Board Directors: Despite a failed effort to recruit a more diverse set of candidates for the NDRA board, NDRA still has a slate of 5 to be elected at the Sept. 13 picnic.

D. Director of the Year Recognition: There was only one nomination from one Board member for *Director of the Year*, so it will not be awarded this year.

E. Single Room Occupancy Ordinance: City has now allocated \$500,000 to help finance construction of an SRO building, which is awaiting financial assistance from other counties in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Update and discussion of the *Day Haven* at First and Market Project by Cheri Lewis, liaison for Day Haven to NDRA/ND and ND businesses, presented along with above Day Haven guests. Day Haven is undergoing renovations and plans to open on Thanksgiving Day, 2009. The Haven's long-term goal will be to move the homeless into the job market and their own residences

Day Haven facilities will include meals, job training, and social service providers, and will work with PACEM intake services. Janet Matthews will handle our question or concerns.

The Sanctuary (above Day Haven) will be open for community cultural events.

B. Meadowcreek Parkway, McIntire Rd Ext, 250 Interchange update (new news): ACHP will have to intervene because of the impasse between the FHWA and VA Dept of Historic Resources. The Feds are the ones who are financing the interchange, so they must approve the design that will meet Federal laws. The Sept 8 City Council meeting will have a public hearing over granting a 40 foot wide permanent easement to RWSA to replace and maintain an existing sewer line through east McIntire Park. The last chance to speak about the 250 Interchange will be at a Fall City Council meeting Public Hearing, the date undetermined. While CPMP has pressed for another meeting with FHWA, its requests have been denied.

VDOT was refused a permit by the USACE until VDOT established a southern terminus of the MCP; right now, the Parkway ends in a field, and connects with 250 by a 775-foot ramp. VDOT has gone back to their 1995 plan to end the Parkway at 250 by an at grade intersection. However, City Council has several times written and stated to VDOT and The County that it must be a grade separated interchange, in order to allow the MCP through east McIntire Park.

C. Birdwood Neighborhood Meeting with City regarding 250 Interchange: Although Birdwood neighborhood residents have been opposed to the proposed 250 Interchange, they are satisfied that RK&K's new design provides a safer exit from Hillcrest Road. The design will necessitate the removal of Bailey Park to

provide space for widening the road, bike lane and lengthening the exit ramp. The design will also facilitate entrance into Birdwood Rd as ingress only.

D. The Association for Retarded Citizens (ARC) on Park St. may consider requesting a zoning change from H-R3 to commercial of their 2 Park St. properties in order to sell them to commercial enterprises. Both structures are in the Historic District and, therefore, may not be demolished without BAR approval. Colette, along with at least 5 ND resident, would oppose this rezoning, if it is requested. (The *raison d'être* NDRA was founded in 1973, was to prohibit the spread of commercial rezoning in the neighborhood.) The NDRA Board agreed to oppose rezoning these properties as commercial.

E. *Picnic in the Park* scheduled for September 19 at McIntire Park is cancelled.

F. Ruth Stornetta will lead the *Walk with the City Manager* on Sept. 10. All who wish to participate in this Walk should inform Ruth of the places they wish to visit so she can map out the route ahead of time. Also, the time has been changed to 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jane Myers.

**REMINDER: The next meeting of NDRA will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday,
September 24, Central Library**