

NDRA/North Downtown Neighborhood Meeting

Thursday, January 29, 2009, 7pm, Central Library, 3rd fl. room

In attendance: Board members: Colette Hall, Ruth Stornetta, Mark Kavit, Ted Jones,
Debra Weiss, Pat Napoleon, Alex Ix, and Burnie Davis.
Residents & Guests: none

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm. by Colette Hall

Minutes of December 4, 2008 approved as presented.

Pat Napoleon has requested that she be replaced as Secretary; Burnie Davis was elected by acclaim to replace her until a new volunteer is found.

Treasurer's report – expenses of \$10 to Alliance of Neighborhoods, \$100 to the Sierra Club for the Coalition to Preserve McIntire Park, and \$8.26 fee to Paypal; \$360 was received in membership dues, \$20 in gifts, and \$0.20 in interest. The new balance is \$1,118.05.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Discussion of the NDRA Newsletter. Debra noted that some neighbors do not use computers and need the newsletter to keep abreast of local happenings, and Mark commented that lack of a newsletter would lead to NDRA losing contact with many residents. No one disagreed with these concerns, but no one volunteered to do the work of writing, publishing, and distributing a newsletter for NDRA. Postcards will still be sent to invite residents to the annual picnic and elections.
- B. Membership dues report: Burnie reported that the reminders to residents who did not renew their membership in October has netted 35 renewals, and that further efforts to contact those without email will be done soon. Two Directors have not yet paid their 2009 dues.
- C. Debra reported that Diane Wilson had told her that she was resigning for the Board of Directors, due to her heavy and conflicting work schedule.
- D. Colette reported that the Alliance of Neighborhoods is continuing to grow. Its first annual meeting will be on March 17. Efforts are underway to get more City and "ring" County neighborhoods to join and to elect an Executive Board in March.
- E. Colette reported on the efforts of the Coalition to Preserve McIntire Park to block the construction of the McIntire Extended road through the east side of the Park. They have talked to an attorney about federal legal issues, talked to the UVa Environmental Law Clinic about state legal issues, and met with the Section 106 committee regarding impact of the road on historical sites and a road built through parkland. More information to be distributed as it becomes available. Members of the Board discussed whether it was better to try to stop the planning and

construction of the road or to work with the planners to get the best solution possible to the impact on the Park and adjoining neighborhoods.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Colette shared Bob LeHeup's report on the December 3 2008 meeting of Police Districts 3 and 4.
- B. Colette reported that CPD Officer Harvey Finkel has offered to conduct a Crime Prevention Awareness Class (roughly 2 hours some evening) for North Downtown residents who wanted to know more about safeguarding person and property. Several Directors said they would be interested in such a program, so Colette will ask Officer Finkel to pursue planning this class.
- C. Discussion of truck traffic through North Downtown and the possible use of the new Juvenile Court parking deck for local (including church) use during off-hours.
- D. Colette reported on the City Manager's meeting with Neighborhood Association Presidents on Jan. 15. Important upcoming issues are the new Zoning Map going to the Planning Commission on Feb. 10 and the Fiscal Budget process that starts this spring. There will be public input at Budget work sessions, thanks to Colette's suggestion to Mayor Norris.
- E. Directors' Issues: Ruth floated the idea of changing the Free Trolley route to go from Downtown to the Corner, through the University on Main St to Emmet, then up to Barracks Road Mall and return (eliminating the present loop through campus). Many agreed that this would be a useful improvement and urged Ruth to take it to City Council. Mark reported on his visit to the Historic section of Warrenton and the "historic gem" at the restored old Jail and its museum. Colette suggested that he take his idea of doing something similar in Charlottesville to the Preservation Piedmont for their action.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Burnie Davis, Secretary.

REMINDER: The next NDRA meeting will be at 7 p.m. on **Thursday, Feb. 26th** at the Central Library.