

## NDRA/North Downtown Neighborhood Meeting

Thursday, March 27, 2008, 7pm, Central Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> fl. room

In attendance: Board members: Colette Hall, Ruth Stornetta, Ernie Reed, Debra Weiss, Bob LeHeup, Steve Bolton, Mark Kavit, Liz Jones, Diane Wilson and Burnie Davis  
Residents & Guests: Bruce and Jocelyn Saunders, Ariana Williams, Richard Berman.

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm. by Colette Hall

Minutes of February 28, 2008 approved as presented and will be forwarded to Debra Weiss for the NDRA Website.

Treasurer's report – \$12.66 was spent for office supplies; \$0.94 was received in interest. The new balance is \$1,228.78. Bob announced that he would not be serving as Treasurer after this term and Colette suggested some new and cheaper ways of informing ND residents of upcoming events (like the picnic and annual elections).

### NEW BUSINESS:

A. Colette announced that Ariana Williams had agreed to fill the vacancy left by Alan Thompson's resignation until the next general election. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Ms Williams to the NDRA Directorate. Approved unanimously.

B. Discussion of the latest developments on the 250 Interchange. Rick Berman reported on the Steering Committee meeting of March 19, at which the option C1 was recommended to the City Commission and most of the other options to the interchange were dismissed by the Consultant as impractical or unworkable. Colette expressed her concern that the Consultants were still considering the option of closing the west ramps between 250 and Park Street. After much discussion, there was a motion and second that the NDRA Directors reject the idea of closing the West Ramps to Park St. because doing so would greatly increase the amount of cut-through traffic in our residential streets. Motion passed unanimously (with one abstention from Ernie Reed).

The next stage of the 250 Interchange planning process will be a public hearing before the City Council on April 21<sup>st</sup>. There was considerable discussion of how to inform ND residents of this important hearing and to get maximum turnout to speak about the interchange options. A flyer will be generated by some members of the NDRA Directors for use in getting out this information.

C Colette reported that the Planning Commission has recommended 4<sup>th</sup> St. as the permanent vehicular Mall crossing and is discussing the City's desire to make the 4<sup>th</sup> St Railroad underpass two-way (instead of its present north-bound-only status). Colette's concern is that two-way traffic could increase cut-through traffic from North Downtown to southern neighborhoods. No action was taken at this time, but if this proposal comes before City Council, Colette will ask that the underpass be kept north-bound only..

D. Discussion of the Eastern Connector was postponed until a later meeting.

E. Some announcements were made about events of possible interest to ND – the “Wordplay” fundraiser for Literacy Volunteers on April 23 and a Roanoke Science Museum fundraiser on April 12.

F. Mark Kavit said that he would look into the cost of making yardsigns for ND events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Minutes submitted by Burnie Davis, Secretary.

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