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: Jesica 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