



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 13, 2015 – 7:00 PM

FDA Building – 208 Strawberry Street

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS:

PRESENT:

Matthew Stanley, Brian Baird, Danielle Dick, Tim Feehan, Katherine Jordan, Heather McQuillian, Jenna Mosman, Jennifer Mullen, Christina Murray, Tricia Bryant and D. Walton.

ABSENT:

Christy Lantz & Jack Burke

GUESTS:

Grady Hart, Steve Imholt and Mark Olinger

I. Introductions and Call To Order – Matthew Stanley

II. Guest Presentations and Reports

A. Mark A Olinger, Director, Planning and Development Review, City of Richmond

As it relates to BRT plans and presentations, expect more City involvement in upcoming discussions specifically the session slated for July 27 & 28. The BRT Plan is at the 30% drawing stage at present but you can reasonably expect the latest plans to be very different from the versions shared earlier in the year. There is concern about parking or the absence of, pedestrian as well as bike travel along and across the BRT path. A land use analysis at a cost of \$100k will begin shortly and focus on the areas around the 14 stops in the BRT path. Expect an analysis of the opportunities and potential for re-development plus extra economic activity around each of these station sites. Think of this entire BRT as the “jumping off point” for changes in transportation in the City of the future. That important component has not been part of the conversation as of yet. The path along Broad Street provides approx 110 feet of rights of way bordered by 35 feet of development along its sides. From a purely urban design standpoint there could and should be a lot more along this corridor. The study will attempt to identify the transitional parcels and provide an urban design for this space. Don't think for a moment that the City is a supporter of no parking, and no loading zones along this BRT route. Design won't solve all the issues but lack of a design plan is not in our best interest either. We want to get to that point where the BRT fits. Could our study have been done earlier, perhaps, but the fact is that it is starting now.

The study timeline starts with an agreement last Friday, internal meeting underway to consolidate background information and craft parameters to provide a framework for this particular study and the others that will follow elsewhere in the City.

With 30% of the BRT penned, the plan now moves to Urban Design in August, then the Planning Commission in September; both of these steps without the benefit of the results of our economic development study.



Expect to see more City leadership presence at future GTRC presentations, focus on biking and pedestrian safety to name just two important aspects, There is a lot of competing interests within this 110 feet of space. We are focused on at least three aspects (1) parking, access and loading (2) function and maintenance of the final plan and (3) signalization – how traffic moves through the corridor.

The next benchmark point is the 60% target which is expected by April 2016. While concerned about the construction impact on the neighboring businesses we won't know until the construction manager is on board the exact questions and the answers. The bottom line from the City's perspective is that we need to get the project operational and make adjustments that are needed, and in fact, inevitable.

III Guest Reports

Greg Felton had another meeting to conflict with ours but has stated that the FAN crime stats look favorable. No area of specific concern to mention.

IV. Other Neighborhood and Community Association Reports

No reports were forwarded for presentation at tonight's meeting.

V. Prior Meetings Minutes:

Motions to approve (a) the prior board meeting minutes of June 1st as well as (b) the special board meeting minutes of June 15th passed. The minutes from the annual meeting will be shared for board review but procedurally to be presented at next year's annual meeting.

VI. President's Report -

Attended the VCU neighborhood Meeting on behalf of the FDA. Dr. Rao spoke about the BRT. VCU Police shared a presentation on crime stats within the campus footprint, overall reported a 20-29% reduction in criminal activity on campus. Have earned a solid reputation with the Richmond Police Dept. and have shared camera footage with the RPD in approx 118 cases. As for off-campus conduct the number of evictions is up slightly, the landlords in the area have gotten the message and acting accordingly. Glading Residence Hall is slated for renovation that once completed will add another 30% to its residence capacity. Tabernacle Baptist wants to demolish two residential structures on its property. The FDA will be signing a joint letter with Richmond Redevelopment asking them to re-consider their plans.

Suggest that it's time for a new design for Fan Fare (Board concurred and supported the effort to proceed).

Unless there is an objection we will cancel our regular monthly board meeting slated for August 3rd. We will meet again in September.

August 4th is National Night Out. We hope everyone in town will plan to join us in that event. The BRT statement should be out by this Wednesday on the new website and the questions and concerns we have identified to date will be moved to this new site.



Volunteers are needed to hand deliver the next Fan Fare which should be delivered the weekend of August 1 & 2 in advance of the National Night Out.

VII. Treasurer Report: Christina Murray

The budget is ready for review, but given the late hour will not be discussed tonight.

VIII. Committee Reports -

Parking Committee: Jennifer Mullen

The Richmond 2015 transportation plan is not yet ready but expected to be announced shortly to include community meetings. The parking permitting process is all City Code driven and as such any changes to wording must come from the City, i.e. permit holder must be “domiciled” in the City – might be best served if changed to “reside at” an address in the parking zone areas.

Programs: Danielle Dick

Considering selling t-shirts at the National Night Out event. This years event will include the usual – fire truck, police unit and a band.

Zoning: Tim Feehan

Historic Preservation Committee is starting and it will focus on new regulations, new construction. Asking for volunteers to serve on this committee.

Membership: Heather McQuillian

Looking at February for an FDA Membership drive. Currently down \$5000 from past year in membership revenues. Need to communicate the “value proposition” in FDA membership to attract and retain members.

Grants: Jenna Moseman

Binford grant is finally moving forward. FanFare will have a summary of all the 2015 grants in an upcoming issue.

Parks – Katherine Jordan

Seem to be experiencing less and less support from the City as it applies to our park properties.

Holiday House Tour – Tricia Bryant

Still need a few more homes for the Tour.

Communication: Brian Baird

Bev Mackey is interested in helping us with emails.

IX Other Business – None

Adjournment - Board adjourned at 9:20 pm.