

Fan District Association Board of Directors Meeting  
**MINUTES**  
208 N. Strawberry Street  
**Monday July 1, 2013**

**PRESIDING**

Bill Montgomery, FDA President, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Brian Baird, Laura Bateman, Tricia Bryant, Bennette Burks, Bill Montgomery, Jenna Mosman, Christina Murray, Ted Theofanos, Tim Treinen

**OTHERS PRESENT**

City of Richmond Policeman Marshall and VCU Policeman Ruland.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**3rd Precinct Safety Report Officer Marshall**

- 7 property crimes. 3 robberies.
- Property crime up. Violent crime down.
- Don't leave valuables in car.
- We plan to have more police on bikes which will create a stronger presence.
- Arrest was made in the shooting that occurred.

Baird: We have an efficient way to get images of suspects out to fan neighbors quickly. We sent image to Fan listserv and 702 people opened the email. Crime reports in the Newsletter are the number one opened item.

**VCU Report Officer Ruland**

- It's been quiet. Robberies are not really robberies. People are not reporting honestly due to their own agenda or alcohol/drug use.
- I am making presentations to large groups of VCU students and their parents (350) about off-campus behavior. I share the RAMifications or serious consequences of their behavior.
- Repeat offenders meet with the VCU administration. Hoping it will be quieter.
- Kids are getting ready to move out right now so there have been a few parties and more to come.
- Move in August 17-18; first day of school August 22.
- Party patrol planning will begin again in late August.
- *Watch your animals. Number one time for animals to disappear is July 4. This fact could be added to the email newsletter...?*

**Redskins Parking Update Lynne Lancaster, City of Richmond DPW**

- Training camp
  - July 25 - August 16, 2013
  - Monday – Saturday only. No camp on Sunday.
  - Practices 2-4pm or 3-5pm. Coach can change his mind about practice time. Closes 5pm.
  - August 3 - Fan appreciation day
  - Alternate site if raining.

- No charge to be a spectator at the camp.
- People will come to watch practice because they cannot afford or get tickets to games.
- Capt Will Smith has put together a binder with every nuance of this camp. Plain clothes police, lighting, traffic patterns, etc.
- It's on the bus line so we're hoping spectators will use the buses/mass transit.
- Way-finding signs will be created to assist spectators to find the camp entrance.
- Redskins responsible for inside gate. City responsible for outside gate.
- There is no place to sit at the camp for spectators. It will be hot.

Board member response to the camp ranged from "Torture!" to "Awesome!" They also expressed concern that the Fan neighborhood could be overwhelmed with parking issues on West Grace, Monument Avenue, and other areas. Lynne said that they are creating deals for parking with Sauers, VCU (they will provide shuttles and parking), VUU (shuttle), State of Virginia, First Baptist Church, City Stadium (4 days: shuttle on Fan Appreciation day and first three days of camp), Bow-Tie Theater, Children's Museum, Science Museum, 20-30 spots on Broad Street, warehouse area off Boulevard, Interbake (provide 200 spaces for small fee), vacant lot next to Bow-Tie Theater, Redskins have 240 spaces on site but they use all of them, Scotts Addition,

They are trying to get the Richmond Trolley to ride attendees around, drop them in Carytown and various places to bring spectators to local businesses. The trolley is very expensive. Bon Secour may support this effort. Everything should be nailed down by July 2.

- Parking
  - Parking costs \$5.
  - Parking plus shuttle ride costs \$7.
  - Volunteers park free.
  - Facility holds 25,000
  - Standard Parking said they park 1,000 cars daily, 5,000 cars on Fan Appreciation Day and we can expect 30,000-50,000 people overall.
  - Dept of Tax Enforcement will be out there to make sure non-registered people are not trying to make money on the camp (selling parking spaces, Redskin gear, etc.)
  - Bike valet (closer to Myers Street) near amphitheater. There will be a fee for that.  
*In short, valet bicycle parking will be available on West Leigh Street during Redskins training camp. Bicyclists will be asked to enter eastbound on Leigh Street from either Boulevard or Myers Street. DMV Drive will also be passable by vehicles and bicyclists. Bicyclists coming to training camp can check their bikes, much like an automobile valet, and receive a ticket. Bikes will be stowed along Leigh Street near the entrance of the Training Center. There is no charge for the service, but donations to a local nonprofit will be accepted at the valet.*
- Other
  - Six (6) Squirrels' games take place on the same day as camp but only one conflicts: Aug 4th at 2pm. The other 5 are at night and would not conflict as the Redskins camp ends at 5pm.
  - Over 1,000 people have responded to the call for volunteers.
  - Players must all stay together and are staying in an unnamed hotel. Morning practices. Back to hotel for lunch. Afternoon practices.
  - Hotels may offer packages to stay there and attend camp.
  - Sanitation: port-o-johns and trash receptacles, recycling bins will be provided.

Lynne is invited back to the August 5 meeting for feedback. She requests that we do NOT wait to share concerns or issues that arise. We should contact her immediately if there are any problems.

## **OTHER ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS**

### **MINUTES FROM JUNE 3, 2013 BOARD MEETING**

Tim moved for approval. Ted – second.

Minutes approved.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Matthew is in Italy. Email report:

June - \$2000 membership dues have come in, almost to \$5000.

2014 property taxes as of July 1: reduced assessment: \$150,000 to 117,000 reduced FDA office assessment.

Established CD account

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **ABC/Zoning (Burks)**

2609 Hanover Ave.

Garage Addition in alley

The Fan District Association (FDA) Board has voted not to oppose the garage addition based on the information the owners' architect has provided. The proposed garage appears to be in keeping with similar structures in the Fan

212 N. Lombardy St.

Rezoning from B-1 to R-3

The Fan District Association (FDA) Board has voted not to oppose the rezoning based on the information the owner has provided. The owner states that he intends to renovate the building to provide two apartment.

Hair salon – owner sold. New owner wants to convert back to residential. They can apply for parking permits.

Laura moved and voted to accept these requests.

#### **Building (Montgomery)**

Nothing to report.

#### **Code Enforcement (Bryant)**

1302 Floyd and 1006 Franklin – police and city finally found the owner.

Finally got some positive information, cooperation. Negotiating with him to sell properties.

2103 Grove – “orange thingy” has been there forever. Owner lives in NJ. He's owned it since the 1980s. Now that we have contacts, we can move forward. Can we identify developers to purchase the property, renovate and sell it.

*Historic Monument and Fan District Foundation:* Goal of foundation is to improve the Fan. These are the things they have done: identified Fan streets with brown street signs, rehabbed houses, other improvements. Grants are for physical improvements. Foundation meetings take place at the Warsaw.

### **Communications/Website** (Baird)

Fanfare deadline is on July 8. Gail relies heavily on the board for content.

Hot spot is working ok. If you want to use the internet, speak to Brian and he can give you instructions. \$79 for a Hot Spot.

Greatest attention by residents in Fan e-newsletter is the link on crime and the photos that are posted of images of the Fan. 702 people opened the email about crime.

If you want the daily crime report, Bill receives it.

Notices include Redskins info, holiday house tour, concerts and other news.

Our 4<sup>th</sup> paid ad will be in newsletter. The 3<sup>rd</sup> ad was from Maya Smart.

New committee chairs listed on the website.

Each committee has its own page on the website. If you have changes, let Brian know.

FDA board google groups – make sure to send messages from your same email address or message will not be delivered.

### **Education** (Theofanos)

Fox elementary school field is being redone. Please help to keep trespassers off it. It's supposed to look flooded right now. Laura Brady is in charge. Will send Brian message about helping to keep people off the field. Laura asked about Binford Middle School PTA – do they have one? Ted said that they do and, at this time, there are very few members.

### **Grants** (Mosman)

Meeting on July 16 will be first meeting. Laura Bateman has been amazing – thank you so much. So far, we have allocated \$20k to various grants, awarded in May. \$12k remaining. Since the last FDA board vote, six new grant requests came in. These plus the one deferred grant request will be discussed at the July 16th grants committee meeting. The committee's recommendations will be presented at the August FDA board meeting for final decision. You have the list of new and returning grants committee members. "If there should be someone on this committee that I don't know about, let me know". Also, we have money left over if you know of anyone interested in applying for a grant.

Fan member appreciation night at Firehouse Theater is an idea that was proposed.

Transition for how we are paying for grants. Let's be more strategic, cohesive and make decisions once a year. We will give away 50% of our net proceeds from holiday house tour (\$19,000). So we may not give away remaining \$12,000. New grant requests should come in by end of this calendar year so we can make decisions on who will receive an award. Need to get the word out to organizations to let them know the due date. Annual meeting could be the meeting that we make these decisions.

\$8000 was for Meadow Park improvements – plantings, bricks, remediation to drainage, hedge trimming around statue, hose bib.

### **Holiday House Tour** (Bryant)

- December 7 & 8
- 1-5pm

We need to get some houses. We've asked 25-30 people. They all say "We'll be happy to do it next year but not this year." Only one house has said yes: 1827 Grove Avenue.

We'd like to get every board member to procure at least one house. Let's get 13 houses so we're guaranteed at least 10. Volunteers are easy to get. Hardest thing is to get committed houses.

Tricia will get the list out to the board whom they have already asked.

It's ok to ask someone who has been on the tour in the past, but only if they have made changes on the house.

Photography of house is done in September. Tour includes first floor only, rooms can be roped off. There will be a Docent in every room. We have ample booties to protect the floors. Heather and Tricia will sit down with every home owner. Owner prepares house as they would to sell: spiff up the front, first floor and the back. Does not need to be over the top or heavily decorated. It doesn't need to be decorated at all if the owner is not inclined to decorate. People come to see the house, not the decorations.

### **Membership (Bateman)**

600 people received renewal letters and 211 members paid \$5,000 over the last two weeks. Letter was effective so we should continue to invoice people for membership dues. Will send another letter soon. Member Rewards: we can solicit Fan businesses to reward members.

Average number of membership households: 1,000 members or former members. 4,000 people live in the Fan. Send follow-up letter that is positive but acknowledges consequences/what they will miss if they don't renew.

### **Parking (Treinen)**

Article for Fanfare about pilot program and how it will pan out. Considering one way on Park Avenue.

### **Programs (Murray), Safety & Crime (Whitfield)**

- July 14<sup>th</sup> – Meadow Park Concert
- Free ice cream
- Food truck available: *Slideways* – food truck. \$3/slider; 2 for \$5. Real variety: black bean burgers, PB&J burger; beef burgers. Truck/trailer will park on the Stuart Avenue side.
- Band ideas: Third Wave, Casey Cash
- Concert dates: Early May, July, September

Membership benefits: Flying Squirrels night, Firehouse Theater night, etc.

Firehouse Theater; Cocktails at 730, play starts at 8pm. Sponsor possibilities: Pearls cupcakes owner offers to supply cupcakes for that event. A September date gives us time to market it well. Firehouse gives group rate/discount. FDA supplements more to give greater discounted rate or provides cocktails. Committee will come up with ideas and propose to the Board.

### **Trees & Parks (Kelly)**

Susan Smith works with city on Meadow Park.

A few clean ups occurred last weekend at the parks.

### **VCU (Theofanos)**

Monroe park community advisory meeting took place recently. Phil and Jim attended. Most of development is under way on W. Grace, renovation on academic buildings, down town medical buildings. Dorm is funded separately from faculty, offices, arts. \$55 million deficit leading to cut-backs in staffing. Police chief is excellent. Kathy Howard, Director of Community Engagement, used our format to offer info to other community organizations (Carver, Oregon Hill, etc). They meet quarterly with neighborhood groups. They are receptive to our input. VCU is going to build dorms at the old Ukrops site. Across street is Broad street lot. Popular faculty and staff lot. Ask if residents of Ukrops site can park in broad street lot after 7pm so that Fan residents don't lose street spaces. They would have to move their cars out of this lot though by 7am.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Party Patrol MOU (Kelly)**

- MOU draft went to city June 25. New document by end of July, early August.
- Email vote by board before August 3 meeting.
- VCU and Richmond police officer focusing on our needs, reporting and follow up.
- We promote calling 911 about issues.

Chief said he has a plan in place to hit it hard the first few weeks of fall semester that parties won't be tolerated. Students will be able to register a party. If complaints come in, the police can text the host to say "we have complaints, quiet down". If no change, they show up and shut it down.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Floyd Avenue: Potential Bike Boulevard from Thompson Street to Monroe Park**

Parker says it is only conceptual at this point. Private organization donated \$40,000 to do a study. City donated \$10,000. Results of study will be shared with civic associations. Premature right now. Something for us to be aware of. Pro and con emails are coming in already. Fire emergency issues are a concern as well as parking.

### **Possible closure from 9:00am - 4:00pm from Harrison east to Cherry in the middle of VCU Campus during school semesters**

2014: close Floyd for pedestrian traffic only

City will need to approve it as well. We will send an email blast with survey to members. We will ask them to include their name and address on the survey so we know what residents in certain areas think about this idea. Feedback will be shared with Brian Ohlinger at VCU who requested that we ask our membership about it.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

Next board meeting is **Monday, August 5.**