

MINUTES
FAN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JANUARY 7, 2013, 7:00
208 STRAWBERRY STREET

Presiding: Roger Whitfield, President, called the meeting to order at 7:05.

Board Members Present: Roger Whitfield, Bennette Burks, Bill Montgomery, Calder Loth, Laura Bateman, Matthew Stanley, George Hostetler, Charlie Diradour, Tim Treinen, Colin Kelly, JoAnne Nolte, Ted Theofanos

Others Present: Erlan Marshall, Richmond Police Department; Tammy Kelly, Holiday House Tour; Bob Adams, Robinson Street Association; Julius W. Richardson, Julius M. Richardson, Willie Jennings, and Demetria Jennings all from the Community Business Group; Lynne Lancaster, City of Richmond; David J. Wall, City of Richmond; Tom Lisk, FDA Parking Committee; Tom Stallings, West Avenue Improvement Association; Steve Bergin, Parking Program Administrator City of Richmond.

PRESENTATIONS

Lt. Erlan Marshall (Richmond Police Department) reported that in 2012 there were more burglaries but less assaults than in the prior year. He urged residents to keep doors locked.

Tammy Kelly (Holiday House Tour) distributed her final written report to the Board and is leaving a detailed report in a loose-leaf book in the FDA office. She summarized by saying that \$48,959 was taken in; \$11,180 was spent in expenses, leaving a profit of \$37,228. A total of 282 volunteers participated and 1608 tickets were sold. She strongly recommended that a new chairman should be selected now for the 2013 Holiday House Tour.

Julius Richardson (Clean Sweep) promised a quarterly report on the project launched October 15. He suggested giving employees a 3x5" card which specifies the work for which the Community Business Group is responsible and a phone number or website to handle further questions, so that when questioned, the employee could give it to a neighbor.

The Board pointed out a need for leaf cleaning around the curbs and sidewalks of the Lombardy and Meadow Street Parks, specifically the Lombardy, Meadow and Park sides that have No Parking signs on them, yet lie within the Permit Parking zones. It was agreed by the Board that the Chair of the Environmental Committee would work with the Clean Sweep Administrator, Ms. Lancaster to monitor progress.

Bob Adams (Robinson Street Association) defined his group as a fledgling group of about 40 business and private property owners, without bylaws or dues, but interested in making improvements to Robinson Street. Their first concern was the amount of bus traffic on Robinson, with the accompanying 19 bus stops. GRTC has been contacted and, if approved by City Council, has agreed to eliminate four of them.

In addition, RSA would like to tackle lighting, trees, sidewalk repair, pedestrian crosswalks, alley entrances, truck loading space, signage, overhead wires and the addition of murals or art on the street. Bob Adams questioned if the FDA would consider giving grants to the efforts; he was told that FDA supports physical improvements requested by Fan groups, but typically FDA grants are matching grants.

Tom Lisk (Parking Committee) reported on the West-Birch-Boyd proposal. On December 18 notices went out to about 100 buildings that would be impacted. Subsequently on January 6, a meeting attended by about 30 people was held at St. James at which the varying opinions of the residents were heard. Because of this, Tom Lisk as Parking Chairman recommended a delay of about 2 weeks in which petitions with signatures for the change could be distributed and that the Parking Committee could review the proposal.

After much discussion, the Board decided that its December vote supporting the proposal should stand and asked Tom to proceed with requesting the City to proceed with the proposal. The new parking regulations were viewed as an experimental project with a limited time frame and recommended a follow-up parking study comparing the same elements that had been compiled earlier in 2012 be performed to determine its impact. Although not all neighbors are happy with the proposal, there appears to be general community support.

The FDA Board asked Tom Lisk to craft a letter from the FDA, signed by Roger Whitfield, to the Director of Public Works requesting a change.

Minutes from December 3 meeting were approved.

Treasurer Matthew Stanley distributed and reviewed the treasurer's report (attached). Matthew is retaining a new accountant to prepare the taxes. Colin Kelly stated that the annual Fiscal Audit should be completed before the Annual Meeting in May and a subcommittee should be formed to prepare for it. Matthew Stanley, Colin Kelly, and Tim Treinen will be on that subcommittee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning Committee: Bennett Burks has been looking into the City's enforcement of zoning regulations. In addition, at Charles Samuels' request, he is meeting with all the new members of City Council.

Roger Whitfield added that he is exploring new insurance options for the FDA building, which he noted was valued too highly. In addition he is getting quotes on work that is needed on the building: removing ivy, fixing gutters, and painting.

Code enforcement: Calder Loth stated that committee members had been looking into troublesome apartment buildings; their reports are not in.

Communications: Laura Bateman announced that the deadline for the February-March Fanfare is January 12.

An issue has arisen regarding free advertizing to community organizations. Although some free ads were allowed in the past, they have been both costly to the FDA and unevenly distributed.

Her proposal is to establish a policy that would consistently grant each organization one free ¼ page ad/year, in addition to a line in the Events Calendar and a mention on the email Blast. Other suggestions came from the Board about offering the ads at cost (roughly figured at .15 to .20 per page per issue) and being explicit about the groups that could take advantage of the special advertising. The Board recommended a subcommittee consisting of Gail Zwirner, Matthew Stanley, Marie McGranahan-Turner, Mike and Anna Bell, and Laura Bateman.

Grants: **Laura Bateman** proposed that all FDA grants be solicited and submitted within the first quarter of the year and the winners announced at the General meeting in May. Also, the total amount of the grants could be dependent on the profits of the Holiday House Tour.

The Grants Committee's former members should be included in the Jan. 21 meeting, where new directions for the grants procedure will be discussed, along with a new grants policy and subsequent revision of the by-laws.

Membership: **Matthew Stanley** is developing a framework to look at implementation of a membership discount card.

- Campaign for membership renewal is coming up. Plans are to contact all members by email this year (to those who have given the FDA their email addresses), thus encouraging use of the FDA website and of online payment. This is an effort to capitalize on credit card processing fees already being paid by the FDA.
- An April membership recruitment drive is planned. A tri-fold marketing brochure is being developed.
- In process is a comprehensive list of committees, with each committee's purpose and a list of the members.

A motion was passed that that allowed the membership chairman to move forward with the development of a detailed framework for a directory and discount card.

Trees and Parks: **Colin Kelly** expressed interest in Geoff Wilson's (Retreat Hospital's Director of Emergency and Occupational Health) offer of volunteers to further a relationship between the hospital and the Fan District. Colin suggested that Retreat Hospital adopt a specific park and participate in its maintenance. Ted Theofanos added that working with The Village in assisting older Fan residents is another possibility. Both ideas will be suggested to Geoff Wilson.

VCU: **JoAnne Nolte** is working on a platform about ways the FDA is currently involved with VCU. She feels this is important to establish before making a report on how to move forward, but she has been unable to make all the contacts she needs.

The goal of having a VCU member on the Board could not be realized until summer: the by-laws must be first amended and then voted on at the General Meeting in May.

By-Law Committee's task is to clean up the existing by-laws—not to make any additions. **Ted Theofanos**, a member of the committee headed by **Tom Lisk**, expressed hope that the revisions could be made by February or March; then additions could be considered. The Board does not vote on the changes, but the general membership will in May.

OLD BUSINESS

Party Patrol: Charlie Diradour noted there had been 160 calls in the last year, mostly directed to 911. He agreed to bring in a statistical breakdown of the calls.

Considering the small amount of calls (4-5 per weekend), a discussion ensued about what is demanded of the police we hire, if the FDA could make requests of how they use their time (patrol neighborhood restaurants for noise?) and if the regular Richmond Police Department should be handling the noise calls instead of the Party Patrol police.

Charlie described the RPD's use of Twitter as an immediate identifier of problems in the area.

MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) re Party Patrol

The discussion centered on what the MOU should include (equal payments by FDA, VCU and City? limit on the FDA's contribution?) Charlie Diradour was charged with reworking the document and all were urged to send comments to him.

The Virginia Center for Architecture has continued to negotiate with the neighbors. The meeting before City Council will be January 14.

Ted Theofanos has agreed to take on the task of parliamentarian.

NEW BUSINESS

Laura Bateman spoke of an FDA-sponsored social gathering, a "get to know you" event at which people would be invited from businesses, police, zoning, VCU, Parks and Recreation, etc. It is tentatively scheduled for March at the Warsaw.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Repp

Attachments: Treasurer's Report