



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

February 6, 2017 – 7:00 PM/FDA Building – 208 Strawberry Street

### In Attendance:

Brian Baird, President (nonvoting)  
Everett Reveley  
Bill Beville  
Jack Burke  
Katherine Jordan  
D. Walton

Danielle Dick  
Mary Davis-Barton  
Christy Lantz  
Heather McQuillin  
Robyn Tyer  
Bonnie Predd, Secretary (nonvoting)

### Absent:

Matthew Stanley  
Jennifer Mullen

Tim Feehan

### Guests:

Greg Felton, VCU External Relations Officer  
Lieutenant Bill Woo, RPD Third Precinct  
Jonathan Marcus, West Grace Street Assoc. President; RVA Coalition for Smart Transit Chair  
Brandon Samuel, Pastor Commonwealth Chapel  
Josh Bennett, Fan Neighbor

### Call to Order & Approval of minutes

Brian Baird called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. January 2016 draft Board minutes were approved as written.

### Guest Presentations/Reports

#### Lieutenant Bill Woo, RPD Third Precinct

There has been an 8% reduction in overall crime and a 22% reduction in property crimes in the recent past. However January 2017 saw an uptick of porch package theft with 43 incidents reported with juveniles apprehended who travel into the neighborhood, are <18 years old and often repeat offenders. The Board voiced concern that repeat offenders are caught and released to repeat the same crimes over and over. Lt. Woo indicated he would share court dates of the perps if neighbors wished to appear. Various street sites are under review by RPD and DPW to trim trees where they are blocking street lights to further help defer criminal activity such as the porch package thieves. Brian asked Danielle Dick and D Walton, Safety Co-Chairs, to meet with Lt. Woo to brainstorm ideas to help improved the crime rate in the Fan. Concern was raised about residents parking at an angle at Lee Circle illegally. Lt. Woo will review.



Greg Felton, VCU External Relations Officer

January had few reports of Fan related crimes other than a B&E and attempted sexual assault on Park Avenue. He reported that even with the opening of new VCU Police Headquarters between campuses last October, the old location on 938 W. Grace St. will remain as a satellite location for now to assist students with any police-related issues.

### **Other Neighborhood and Community Association Reports**

Jonathan Marcus, West Grace Street Assoc. President; RVA Coalition for Smart Transit Chair  
Jonathan has met with Metro Planning Department planners as well as Councilwoman Kim Gray District 2 to tour the Fan areas affected by the plan. Jonathan continued to request that the Planning Department review details of concern: a) new construction building height recommendations are out of sync with neighborhood and historic precedent; b) elimination of Broad Street loading zones that drives commercial traffic to neighborhood alleys; c) spillover Fan District traffic and parking issues created by loss of parking on Broad Street; d) concise definition of recommendations for “high density” areas noted in the plan. Councilwoman Gray seems to have indicated understanding and support of the Fan concerns and the effect the Plan as written would have on the historic nature of the area.

### **President’s Report**

- a. State of the FDA letter. Brian has completed and will arrange for printing. Board and volunteers will be recruited to hand deliver the letter directly to member residences.
- b. Board Nominations for May 2017. Brian handed the discussion off to incoming President Kathryn Jordan. In addressing Board nominations, she indicated Matthew Stanley is interested in returning to either work on Strategic Plan or communications. The Board discussed options to fill the upcoming (5) vacancies. Concern involved quick identification of candidates for HHT (most work should be completed prior to summer months) and Membership (due to relative complexity of management of recruitment, retention, finances and website host issues). Candidate bios due in April.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

Everett presented updated Statement of Activity and Statement of Financial Position as of February 4, 2017. Both documents are posted in FDA DropBox. 2016 tax filing is complete.

### **Committee Reports**

Zoning/Code Enforcement (Jack Burke/Bill Beville).

- a. Brandon Samuel, Pastor Commonwealth Chapel introduced himself to the Board and indicated work is underway to address neighbors’ complaints on possible noise violation by his Commonwealth Chapel at corner of Park Ave and North Meadow. In addition, Jack and Bill met with RVA First District Councilman, who is a member of the church. As a next step the church will use flyers to set up a neighborhood meeting to gather more information on nature of issue and brainstorm solutions. Mr Samuel stated



to the Board that resolving/addressing concerns is a high priority for the congregation as they wish to add a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday morning service in the near future.

- b. An SUP was submitted by Roxy Café, 104 W Main St. Existing CO allows the current and future tenants to serve food and drink on *half* of the enclosed courtyard until 2:00 AM. Current owners, Stamper and Stangarone need use of the entire courtyard for their business model. The Committee's thoughts were that the property already has unrestricted use for half of the patio and that the added square footage would not have any additional impact on the neighbors.

Holiday House Tour. In preparation for 2017 Tour, attention must be given to alternative sales outlets as Martin's, who was responsible for ~\$9,000 in ticket sales in 2016, is no longer participating due to store renovations. The Board also discussed possibility of using Grant monies to clean up around the HHT homes, as City of Richmond DPW only does one cleanup in the Fall.

#### Programs.

- a. Based on HHT revenue, it was moved and approved to revise the budget for Community Grants to \$20,000 for FY2017. Katherine Jordan noted that she had not yet received any grant applications.
- b. In preparing for FDA Annual Meeting and Membership Appreciation Party, Chair Christy Lantz indicated she is pursuing the VCU Depot location. Board voted and approved an increase of budget from \$4000 to \$8,000 for the Annual Meeting to cover costs. Christy will continue to explore options, costs and program format and report back to the Board for review and approval.
- c. As agreed previously by the Board, FDA will host two Summer in the Park Concerts – in May before the end of school and in September right after school begins. We will also continue to host National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 1.

#### Parks.

- a. Katherine and Brian met with Alice Massie, President of the Monroe Park Conservancy to review the redesign for a small event space in Monroe Park area directly across from Altria Theater on Laurel Avenue. The revision will add a pavilion to increase space and revenues from shows. It was further explained that more trees were removed within the park than originally planned/approved as more were found to be diseased or dead.
- b. Clean the Parks Day will be scheduled for a Saturday in April. Date TBD.
- c. Conversations are underway with City to address the large areas of dead grass within Meadow Park and to better enforce rules/regulations regarding leashed dogs.

Historic Overlay. Brian reported that Tim Feehan and committee continue work on draft Guidelines. Goal is to present to FDA Board in March.

#### **Other Business**



Grants. As of the meeting, no grant applications had been received.

Other.

- a) Christy Lantz brought to the Board's attention the possibility of FDA support and endorsement of an upcoming SUP from the Branch Museum of Architecture and Design to increase their ability to hold 3<sup>rd</sup> party events. The expansion of the SUP is badly needed to help defray operating costs. Apparently in the past City Planning has rejected their SUPs based on a single resident's concern about parking issues. The issue will be referred to FDA Parking Committee Chair, Jennifer Mullen for review and possible conversation with the city.
- b) Fan resident Josh Bennett addressed the Board on the issue of a backlog of nearly 1700 Fan resident calls for maintenance of public areas (potholes, sidewalks, alleys) made to city's 311 Customer Care system that have resulted in no response or action by the City. Josh took it upon himself to meet with the District 2 Councilwoman, Kim Gray and Liaison Craig Bieber on the issue and do on-site tours/visits with them of some of the issues of concern. Ms. Gray indicated that if the Fan wanted to prioritize the list of issues, she would "go to bat" for the neighborhood. She further indicated that if the Fan developed such a neighborhood model, possibly it could be adopted city-wide. The Board will continue discussions but generally felt hesitant to take on the task of prioritizing resident concerns as the FDA represents all residents equally. Discussion will continue to possible actions to facilitate these maintenance issues.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

Next FDA Board Meeting" Monday, March 6, 2017.