

MINUTES
FAN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FEBRUARY 4, 2013, 7:00
208 STRAWBERRY STREET

Presiding: Roger Whitfield, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00.

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: Lucas Geigee, Richmond Police Department; Tom Stallings, West Avenue Improvement Association; Mark Brandon, Uptown Association; John Venuti, Chief of the VCU Police Department.

PRESENTATIONS

Lucas Geigee from the Richmond Police Department reported that robberies and thefts from cars continue in the Fan. He stated that the noise from Pie restaurant is not a police issue but might be addressed by CAPS (Community Assisted Public Safety).

Mark Brandon described the newly invigorated **Uptown Association** (uptownassociation.org) -- formerly Your Neighbors Uptown Association-- whose boundaries extend from Main to the Expressway, from Mulberry to Harrison. He said the members are both businesses and homeowners; the board meets ten times each year. Issues have been primarily traffic, safety, zoning, ABC, and crime.

Chief John Venuti described how the **VCU Police** respond to the Party Patrol issues. When called, the VCU police visit the offending site (east of Lombardy) and warn participants of possible consequences. Names are taken, and if incidents occur again, consequences include arrests, notifying the landlords that they are responsible, and involving the VCU Dean of Students.

The VCU Police Department does not coordinate with the FDA Party Patrol-- except to pay for a third of it, and VCU has considered pulling out. **Charlie Diradour (Safety Committee)** suggested improving the system by holding a meeting with Carver, Randolph, VCU, RPD, and the FDA, using the framework of Memorandum of Understanding. The Board charged Charlie Diradour with proceeding and reporting back.

Chief Venuti is hopeful that "Party Smart" software (prtysmrt.com) will ameliorate the problem.

Tom Stallings from the **West Avenue Association** reported that the change in parking restrictions on West, Boyd and Birch is expected to be in effect in 2-3 weeks. Other streets in the lower Fan are interested in a similar change. After discussion, the matter was referred to the Parking Committee for recommendations.

Minutes from the January 7 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved. Matthew Stanley recommended keeping 1 ¾ to 2 years in cash reserves for operating expenses.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning Committee: Bennette Burke. The committee is reconsidering its vote on 1110 Grove Avenue. They are also working on a SUP for Critter Wash on 8 and 10 N Robinson Street.

Building Report: Roger Whitfield reported that repair of 208 Strawberry Street will be more extensive than expected, and roof inspection is still to come. Insurance premiums are being reduced by bringing the insured value of the building more in line with the assessed value. (Written report submitted.)

Roger proposed that the FDA building be used

- only for business directly connected to FDA
- only when a board member is present
- only when approved by the president.

Having internet access in the building was rejected; Roger Whitfield agreed to have a locksmith look at the lock.

Code Enforcement: Calder Loth's committee members examined alleys in the Fan and found conditions much improved. Calder Loth will look into recycling bins left out on public property and will determine if abandoned property on Franklin Street is in an Old and Historic District.

Communications: Laura Bateman reported

- Committee chairmen agreed that Email Blast could be used to encourage more members to join FDA committees.
- Current Fanfare costs of \$5843 are within budget.
- Stretch goals were suggested for the advertizing representative. A suggested advertizing policy will be presented at the next meeting.
- Advertizing on the Email Blast is suggested at \$100/Blast. Only one ad per Blast.
- Charlie Diradour offered to compile the crime report statistics to be posted on Email Blast's first posting of each month.

Motion passed: Non-profit organizations within the Fan will be offered a ¼ page advertisement in the Fanfare for \$50. This may be used one time within a fiscal year. If they want to substitute a larger-size ad, there would be a \$200 discount (for one issue only). The customary 10% commission would be paid to the advertising rep for this. (Written report submitted.)

Grants: Laura Bateman will hold a Grants Committee meeting to firm up a document to guide potential grantees. Laura submitted in writing her recommendations as well as the grant applications already received. The goal is to award grants at the general meeting in May. The committee was charged with making recommendations for amending the Articles of Incorporation. (Written report submitted)

Membership: Matthew Stanley reported that mailing would go out to all who had not responded to the email request for membership renewal. A membership drive is scheduled for April. (Written report submitted.)

Education: Ted Theofanos participated in a strategic mission meeting for Fox School. He also attended a public meeting concerning the Richmond Public Schools' budget; School Board members committed to work on it intensively for the next year. (Written report submitted.)

Trees and Parks: Colin Kelly had emailed a PowerPoint summary of the Meadow Street Park project. He reported that the American elm would be planted at Paradise Park. Also, there is interest in developing a park on the median strip on Allen Avenue south of the Lee monument. Paint-the-Town-Green is scheduled for April 20.

Programs: Bill Montgomery. The FDA Annual Meeting will be held May 14 at Virginia Historical Society. Three concerts in the park are planned. There was a suggestion to hold concerts in cooler weather, perhaps spring, summer and fall and to schedule different performers from last year.

VCU: JoAnne Nolte distributed her report. She noted that VCU's Neighborhood Committee does not support having a student member on the FDA board and would prefer to work through the FDA liaison. JoAnne will explore this further. She suggests hosting a VCU appreciation event in June, focusing on positive relations between VCU and FDA. (Written report submitted.)

Outreach: Laura Bateman reviewed the social event for FDA stakeholders: April 18, Warsaw Community Room, 5:30-7:00. Motion passed: accept the recommendation regarding the social event presented in the written report, with the provision that the Programs budget be increased by \$750 (from the Public Relations account), allowing an overall budget for the event of \$1000. Board members were asked to give Laura input on any additions to the invitees list. (Written report submitted.)

By-Laws: Ted Theofanos passed out a written update that contained suggested changes to the by-laws. He urged Board members to email other suggested changes to the By-Laws Committee as soon as possible by using the "track changes" function in MS Word. Ted's goal is to have the amended by-laws voted on at the March Board meeting.

Charlie Diradour suggested changing the FDA Board meeting date so that City Council representatives could attend. The issue merits further study and would necessitate a change in the by-laws, so it will be considered at the next Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Clean Sweep's first quarterly report with statistics was sent to the FDA via email by Lynne Lancaster. Colin Kelly requested that the Board ascertain how much money is collected by the parking fines in the restricted area, and how much Clean Sweep uses. The matter was referred to the Parking Committee.

Retreat Hospital's Geoff Wilson was emailed the Board's suggestions of volunteer opportunities, but to date he has not responded.

Holiday House Tour's 2013 Chairman was discussed. A few suggestions were made (Matthew Stanley approached Tricia Bryant, who might consider it if there were a strong co-chairperson), but no one has volunteered to take on the job. An Email Blast will be sent out to solicit interested parties and information would be forwarded to Roger Whitfield.

NEW BUSINESS

Tabernacle Church rejected the offer of the FDA to help them rework their architectural plans. A group involving Calder Loth, Tim Trienen, David White, Roger Whitfield and Historic Richmond will explore how to proceed.

The "Betsy Cofield" trash cans will be placed at Grove and Boulevard, Floyd and Meadow, and Harrison and West Avenues.

FDA Board nominees are needed to replace JoAnne Nolte, Charlie Diradour, Calder Loth, and George Hostetler, whose terms are expiring. A motion was passed that a committee composed of the president-elect and the outgoing Board members will submit a list of potential and willing candidates to the Board. Notice of potential candidates must be made to the membership between 10 and 50 days before the election.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55.

The next FDA Board meeting is scheduled for March 4.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Repp, Secretary