

**MINUTES**  
**FAN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**APRIL 1, 2013**  
**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, George Hostetler, Tim Treinen, JoAnne Nolte, Ted Theofanos, Laura Bateman, Matthew Stanley, Colin Kelly.

**Others Present:** E.E. Marshall, Richmond Police Department; Mark Ruland, VCU Police Department; Tom Stallings, West Avenue Improvement Association; Tom Lisk, FDA Parking Committee; Bill Tate and Lacy Williams, Monument Avenue Preservation Society; Brian Ohlinger, VCU, with Phil Roper, Plus Management and Walter Parks, architect; Bob Adams, Robinson Street Association.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Lt. Marshall from the Richmond Police Department,** reported on Fan crime in the last month—70% decrease (measured against the same time last year) in theft from motor vehicles, 8 burglaries, one robbery.

**Officer Ruland of VCU police** noted that there had been no recent issues at VCUPD. He stated that his role in coming to the FDA Board meetings was not only as a police officer, but as a representative of VCU in general, and he would be taking back any concerns of the Board that involve VCU.

**Brian Ohlinger from VCU** brought posters with streetscape renderings of two buildings to be built at Grace and Schafer Streets: one a 7-floor university building developed by the VCU Real Estate Foundation, and the other, a 10-floor apartment building developed by Plus Management. A 90-space parking facility for the apartment building would extend under both buildings.

Brian Ohlinger reviewed the 2012 Development Plans for the Ukrops block (map attached). First built will be two housing projects (250 + 150 beds respectively) to open in the summer of 2015. A performance venue, a 240-space parking deck, and two small academic buildings are in the Master Plan for eventual development in this block. Board members expressed concern about VCU's development west of Harrison Street. Brian Ohlinger recommended contacting David Henson if the Board has concerns about western development of the campus. Information about the 2012 update of the VCU Master Plan can be found at

<http://wp.vcu.edu/vcu2020/files/2013/02/BOVFeb13MPFinal2.pdf>

**Bill Tate and Lacy Williams from Monument Avenue Preservation Society** urged the Board to reconsider their former vote which defeated supporting CAR in the 2916 Monument Avenue issue. His arguments were included in a two-page fact sheet (attached). After the guests left, the Board voted to reconsider the issue and then passed a motion (10Y-1N) "to support CAR's efforts to maintain proper preservation standards for the City's Old and Historic District structures."

**Bob Adams from the Robinson Street Association** brought the Board up to date on several issues:

- GRTC has agreed to vacate 5 bus stops as of July 1. GRTC is looking at rerouting one bus, but City Council must approve this, so it is a longer-term issue.

- The Robinson St. Association would like to place the Mr. Smedley statue (now in storage in the City) on Robinson Street—exact site is yet to be decided.
- RSA is considering making “parkletts,” temporary public space in a street environment.

**Tom Lisk** reported that the **Parking Committee** has received requests for more parking passes from individual property owners (apartments and condo owners) in the lower Fan. The Parking Committee will consider these requests at their next meeting in April.

Residents of Harvie Street and lower Park Avenue have requested being included in the parking plan instituted on West Avenue. However the Parking Committee recommends to the Board that the limited area be maintained until the pilot is evaluated—currently being done by both FDA volunteers and the City. The Board unanimously accepted the Parking Committee’s recommendation to continue the pilot (limited to West, Byrd and Boyd) and reevaluate when more data is received.

City Council’s new pending ordinance will create a parking violation for anyone who parks more than 18 inches from the curb. A motion was approved (11Y-1N) that the FDA should take no position on the issue.

**Minutes** from the March 4 meeting were approved.

**Matthew Stanley** commented on items in the **Treasurer’s Report** (attached).

- Notices for FDA membership will be sent via US mail to current non-renewing members and then to all Fan residents.
- When the FDA’s 2011 tax return was prepared by the new accountant, form 990EZ was substituted this year for form 990T (used in the past), thus saving time and requiring no federal taxes to be owed and no Virginia return to be filed.
- A motion was passed (9Y-2N) to reduce this year’s grants budget by \$1000 because of the lower proceeds from the Holiday House Tour.

**Colin Kelly** reported that the **Audit Committee** (Matthew, Bill, Tim, Colin) did a thorough job and found only three minor issues that were addressed.

**Matthew Stanley** stated he is drafting a set of financial policies which he will present to the Board for review when complete. These will be kept in a Policy Notebook-- a binder to be kept in the FDA building and updated as necessary.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Zoning:** **Bennette Burks** reported that the minutes from the last ABC/Zoning Committee meeting were emailed (attached). New issues regarding 1526 Grove and a Special Use Permit request at 900 W Franklin Street are to be considered at the next committee meeting.

**Code Enforcement:** **Calder Loth** cited a *Times Dispatch* article about derelict buildings. Calder agreed that constant reminders to the City could speed the City’s handling of derelict property.

He contacted the City (at VCU’s request) about street signs, where the identification of each street is at the same level, and thus cannot be easily read. He requested that a few be adjusted as a test case.

Calder feels Clean Sweep is beneficial, and we should continue to support the program. One corner at Main and Meadow perpetually needs cleaning. The Betsy Coffield trash cans are to be put on that corner.

**Communications:** **Laura Bateman** asked if any Board member would volunteer to be administrator of the FDA Facebook page, they should contact her.

A photographer is needed for the Annual Meeting, and Laura will arrange this.

**Grants:** **Laura Bateman** referred to the emailed Grants Committee Report. (attached) Of the grants requested, the committee recommended awarding grants of \$14,275 (of \$23,000 available), which includes \$2500 pending from the Visual Arts Center. It was suggested that the Fox School's Strawberry Street Festival grant be increased from \$2000 to \$2500, for which the FDA would become a "premier sponsor" with significant exposure in the media. A motion was passed that approved the total of \$12,275 -- which includes the Grants Committee recommendation of \$11,775 with addition of \$500 for Fox School. The Visual Arts Center grant request is under evaluation and will be discussed in an upcoming Grants Committee meeting for recommendation to the board.

Colin questioned how the remaining available funds would be handled in the grant process. Laura suggested a rolling application for the remaining of this year. Bennette pointed out that the Historic Monument Avenue and Fan District Foundation also awards grants and could be a strategic partner with the FDA grant process.

**Membership:** **Matthew Stanley** reported that having an FDA table at the Easter Parade was valuable.

**Education:** **Ted Theofanos** gave an update of a meeting with School Board member Kim Gray: the location of an IB middle school program is yet to be decided. Currently there is momentum to close Clark Springs, send those students to Cary, then Cary students in Zone 1 to Fox. Franklin and ACDC program would be moved to the Clark Springs building.

**Trees and Parks:** **Colin Kelly** encouraged Board members to participate in the April 20 Paint the Town Green effort with VCU.

- Parks Committee made an application for a "Love your Park" grant from the City of Richmond. So far they have not heard.
- Geoff Wilson has agreed to work on Federal Park; Colin is hopeful that Retreat Hospital will adopt that park.
- A tree in Paradise Park is to be replaced with money from a grant.
- Meadow Street Park has been seeded and fertilized.

**Programs Committee:** **Bill Montgomery** reported that a jazz concert in Meadow Street Park will be May 5—the first FDA concert of the season.

**VCU:** **JoAnne Nolte**, after meeting with Kathy Howard of VCU, sent to the Board members a draft copy of a new VCU Liaison position. (attached) If Board members have comments or suggested language changes, they should send them to Ted or JoAnne before the next meeting. VCU would like permission to use this document with other organizations.

**Website:** **George Hostetler** reported a question about security on our website. We are dependent on pharrout.com (who guarantees security), but he foresees the FDA site being redeveloped to be independent.

**ByLaws: Ted Theofanos** received the Board members' individual comments on the bylaws and found that amending the bylaws would be too complex for this year. In addition, the FDA needs to be in compliance with trade name requirements (currently in process). JoAnne Nolte gave the 1968 Articles of Incorporation with 1981 Articles of Amendments to the secretary for preservation in the records. Ted recommends that a new by-laws committee be formed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Party Patrol: Roger Whitfield** reported that he examined last year's records to ascertain the past and current use of the Party Patrol. He found that the number of calls had remained relatively steady: 8 calls per weekend in 2011 and 7.5 calls per weekend in 2012. To maintain the Party Patrol with VCU's participation, Roger volunteered to meet with VCU and encourage them to sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

The FDA's **Outreach to Community Party** will be postponed.

A possible candidate for the **FDA Holiday House Tour Chairperson** has been identified; Bill Montgomery will follow up on this.

After discussion about the **chicken ordinance**, a motion was made and passed (8Y-3N) which stated that the FDA does not support the ordinance because it is not appropriate for the Fan, but if the setback were changed such that it is appropriate to this neighborhood, the Board would be willing to reconsider it.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Selection of the FDA's Annual Award recipients will be done at the next meeting. Three candidates have been nominated for Volunteer of the Year. There is presently no nominee for the "Excellence in Residential Restoration," but there is one nominee for the "Excellence in Commercial Development" Award.

Roger Whitfield requested committee summary reports so that he can prepare his speech for the Annual Meeting.

Sally Holzgreffe has responded to the email blast and agreed to take on the duties of FDA secretary for next year.

VCU's Brian Ohlinger offered to present the Master Plan to the Board. The Board is considering whether to accept his offer and whether the Board has an issue with the expansion that VCU proposes. Roger suggested that a small group of Board members share the information now available and then decide if there is an issue that needs to be taken to a larger group.

A 10:38 the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Repp, Secretary