

MINUTES for NDRA/ND MEETING

Thursday, March 25, 2010, 7 pm, Central Library, 3rd Floor

In Attendance: Board: Colette Hall, Bill Sampson, Jane Myers, Alex Ix, Pat Napoleon, Juanita Milby, Catherine Wray, Debra Weiss, and Ted Jones. **Residents:** Edith Good, Garrett English, Aditi Vaish and Leslie Channel. **Guests:** Officer Finkel, Stella Pool, (Stella is a ND resident, representing the library), Melissa Poelling, Mary Loose DeViney, and Carmelita Wood

Minutes of January 28, 2010 were approved.

A Presentation by District 3 Officer Finkel on Crime in North Downtown: The opening of Day Haven has reduced vagrancy and troublemaking in the Library and Lee Park areas. Pruning back overhanging branches and cutting away underbrush in downtown areas has reduced the homeless camping out downtown at night. Now they camp out along the Rivanna Trail where they can still be charged with trespassing. There was a rise in Vandalism up to 189 reported incidents in 2009. A 37% increase in rapes and 175% increase in purse-snatching indicate more precautions need to be taken. The recent increase in car larcenies requires we keep valuables hidden from sight and lock our cars at all times.

Alex Ix asked about how to deal with juveniles gathering at night in McGuffey Park creating disturbances to McGuffey Hill residents. Officer Finkel said there was increased surveillance of the area when incidents were reported and requested in the future that we give more detailed descriptions of exactly what offenses occur. Edith Good reminded him that people fear repercussions if they report certain individuals and incidents to police, but Officer Finkel pointed out that the police recently acquired new digital portable radios which cannot be scanned by any other party, including the news media.

B. Presentation on Fire Corps and Smoke Detectors: Mary Loose DeViney introduced us to the work of the Charlottesville Fire Corps, a non-operational support group for the Ch'ville Fire Dept. that enables community members to offer their time and talents to their local fire department. From preparing meals for the Fire Dept. to answering their wish lists for burn structures, to fund-raising, the Fire Corps fulfills a wide range of services including community outreach with education about preparing for and dealing with the threat of fires.

C. Neighborhood Advocacy: When Colette attended the meeting on neighborhood advocacy, she found that 6 of the 12 attendees were from the Fry Springs neighborhood and they all objected to creating the position of "Neighborhood Advocate". Colette thinks it's best to wait for the new City Manager to be selected before we choose a

“Neighborhood Advocate” She also feels that whoever fills this position will be viewed negatively by either City Council or the Neighborhoods. Colette invited our current Neighborhood Planner to NDRA meetings but he never attended, as NPs now concentrate their time and energies on Development and presenting to the Planning Commission. Pat Napoleon feels we are better off addressing our neighborhood issues directly to City Council rather than to a liaison. But Garrett English believes the Neighborhood Advocate would be a useful point of contact who might help to speed up resolution of issues. Ted Jones felt an advocate might serve in educating neighborhoods about issues. He asked if he could be tried for one year. And Debra Weiss felt an advocate could help as a combination of insider and outsider to neighborhoods.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Report on MCP/250 Interchange:

The Coalition to Preserve McIntire Park met today with City Attorney, Craig Brown, who expressed his wish to discuss the legal issues involved in the MCP with FHWA and VDOT before he makes any decision about the City’s part of the MCP. The Mayor agrees it’s better to resolve the legal issues now rather than face possible unlawful use of federal funds later.

B. Report on 5 Traffic Issues:

The Traffic Engineer agreed to put reflectors on the Park St. bump-outs. Colette and the engineer discussed the need to reconfigure the Perry and Nelson intersections with McIntire Road, but could not make final plans until the MC Parkway design is determined.

At 2nd St. and Nelson, striping of the road with guidelines was considered.

At Lyons Ave., there will be a Dead End Sign.

The parking place that obstructed the view of oncoming cars from Dragana’s driveway has been removed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. as there was not enough time to discuss further issues.

Minutes submitted by Jane Myers, NDRA Secretary