

West Avenue Improvement Association

Sprint Meeting Minutes– Monday, April 11, 2010 – 7:30PM

The meeting was called to order by Interim Mayor Tim Feehan.

Officer MC Ruland (MCRuland@VCU.EDU or DJ50) of the VCU Police Department was the first guest to address the membership. Officer Ruland described the increased patrol presence in our area. This included bicycle officers roaming the alleys. He covered VCU Students and loud or disturbing parties. Members were encouraged to call VCU Police for any residences where it is known that VCU Students are tenants. The university has an academic disciplinary procedure that could be put in place if students are repeat violators. Graffiti is also an issue in the area and in particular they are looking into a tagger named Steve. A new Anonymous Texting system is up and running and can be accessed by sending a Text to 274637. VCU is also on Twitter and Facebook and can be found by searching for VCU Police. Members had several questions for Officer Ruland which covered parking violations at the corner of Park and Boyd, Alley speeding and the recent disturbance on Broad Street after the VCU Basketball loss.

Interim Mayor Feehan made a motion to accept the minutes from the fall meeting into the record. The motion passed.

Treasurer Earle Morrison came forward and presented the financial report for the association. Total funds as of the report were \$8,215.23.

Member Bill Creekmur gave an update on the ongoing relationship with VCU. VCU has not honored the the agreement (June 7th 1990 Memo of understanding) regarding expansion and use of properties in the area. Franklin Street rentals are not compliant with the agreement and VCU's only response is that they hope those will move to new facilities as they come online. The FDA has not been helpful regarding these issues. Members were encouraged to both become board members and participate in the zoning meetings. FDA board elections just occurred so the earliest we could participate would be next year.

Former Mayor Marty Martin came forward and reported on the meeting of the council of former Mayors regarding the slate of WAIA Officers for the upcoming year. Several candidates were discussed for the position of Secretary and after deliberation Tom Stallings was selected for the post. Tom accepted and the slate of Officers was submitted and passed (Tim Feehan – Mayor, John Fottrell – Vice Mayor, Tom Stallings – Secretary, Earle Morrison – Treasurer).

Garden Tour Chair Thea Martin came forward to report on this year's tour. She covered several dates:

1. Spring Alley Clean-Up – Saturday, April 16th 8:00am-12:00pm

2. Hot Dog Party – Saturday, April 16th 5:00pm-8:00pm
3. Spring Cocktail Party – Saturday, April 30th 6:00pm-8:00pm(The Cimbalo's - 1500 West)
4. 70th Annual Garden Tour – Sunday, May 1st 1:00pm-5:00pm

Also, the Garden Tour date conflicts with the Fan Women's Kitchen and Garden show and there are two homes in the 1000 block that are participating. As this is a ticketed event, access to those gardens will be limited. Thea also requested that members open their gardens for judging.

Mayor Tim Feehan updated the membership in the meeting regarding the WAIA 70th Anniversary Party meeting held last month. There are several open needs for volunteers and he has asked for members to come forward to help. Tim will be leading this effort in the interim. Save the date of Saturday, September 17th 2011 as the date of the event.

Finally, Mayor Tim Feehan discussed upcoming changes to the WAIA By-laws. With the passing of our Dear Friend a Mayor, Robert Smith, it was evident that the By-laws had not spelled out the details of the steps required for succession when a Mayor leaves office. As such, the officers will be making suggestions for such details. There is also a motion being considered to change the terms for the Officers from one to two year terms. The thought being that the one year term, particularly for Mayor does not provide enough time for meaningful service. The officers will meet to discuss, communicate findings and bring forward to the membership for consideration in the Fall Meeting. **Any members interested in participating in a committee to address these By-law changes are encouraged to contact Tim Feehan.**

No other new business was presented and the meeting was adjourned.