



MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 10, 2024

TIME: 7:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY: BRYAN CARLSON, PRESIDENT

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDANCE

- **President:** Bryan Carlson (present)
- **Co-Vice Presidents:** Val Murphey (present) and Mark Bouziane (present)
- **Co-Secretaries:** Heather Putnam (Absent) and Erin Nicholson (present)
- **Treasurer:** Melissa Butler (Present)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approved

Bryan Carlson: Introduction and housekeeping

Brianne Zambriczky – picnic – May 4th 4-7, looking for volunteers. Sign up through FaceBook page or email on the back of the Rag. Fee covers everything: O-Tool's, beer, wine, soda, bounce house, live band. Renew membership for better deal. Picnic will take place on the corner of New Kent and Prince Arthur. Brianne will connect with Nancy for membership information. Can join/pay membership at the picnic for the discounted rate. An improved system or process would be helpful for financing.

Elisabeth Linka – Commonwealth Office

Post Office update – current recommendation is to NOT use the blue post office boxes. Do bills and taxes, etc. online. Track mail online. Use mail in voting, or plan to use the designated boxes around the city for voting – City Hall voting box is monitored by cameras 24hrs/day. Call RPD 2 (need #). A congressional delegation toured the Sandston postal facility, which is considered one of the worst in the nation. Result of the audit shows that the processes in the facility are not good. Rep McClellan has requested hearing, Commonwealth Attorney's office will keep us posted. Postal workers are overworked and there have been at least two armed robberies where the thieves were able to get the key to the blue box.

Q: (Mark Bouziane) – will there be info from election group for people who receive ballots in the mail, so they know what to do if they don't receive them? A: (EL) Registrar was at town hall – city will be sending out a voting guide. Everything is dependent on the mail. His team was there. They were enthusiastic, can call them if any concerns. If you have requested as a mail-in voter but haven't gotten your ballot, you can go to the poll and get a provisional vote. Call Registrar with questions.

Q: (Carolyn Donahue) - Are blue boxes going to disappear? A: (EL) Not sure. Hopefully replaced with better secure boxes. RPD is involved.

Q: (CD) - Is it safer to take mail directly to the post office? A: (EL)- Unclear – still going through Sandston. Hearings will address the deficiencies. It is a two-point problem: theft plus the problem at Sandston. Be kind to your postal workers.

Kristen Nye—City council rep – Updates:

- For online DPU payments, the vendor has changed. You will have to create a new account with a new service – city is now absorbing the fee, you can see 36 months of past bills, and it's easy to do. Go to RVA.gov under public utilities.
- Roadwork west of Forest Hill – there is a sewer line issue near Food Lion heading east. Repair will take 4-6 weeks. Take extra time to get to Target, and other businesses nearby. The sewer line broke and it was an emergency situation. There are other areas compromised, still investigating. RVA.gov posting updates. It's a pain but needs to be fixed.
- Neighborhood cleanup – May 18th. Trucks will come through for furniture, tires (4), no paint. Next one is Sept 14th. Details in the last newsletter and on the city website.
- City budget – Mayor Stoney introduced it a few weeks ago and shared with council members ahead of time, which was nice. Advocated to expand the park ranger program, which launched last year. We have 2 rangers in the park system (we should invite one to come to a meeting.) They do not carry weapons, but are boots on the ground at the park, river, etc. Mayor proposed 3 additional rangers.
- Nye ice cream social June 9th 2-4pm – before Music in the Park, will circulate before the date.
- Not running for reelection next year. Just taking a break from public service. Appreciate the WHNA who has supported over the year.

Q: Brian Carlson – when they do road work, do the utilities look to check gas, electric, etc., when the roads are open? A: (KN) Yes, they try to, but if it's an emergency maybe not. Not always perfect.

Q: Gaye Elliott – what has all of this done to Jahnke Rd. timeline? A: (KN) – Just got over another hurdle, there have been many hurdles, just got approval from CSX. Should start this calendar year. Will have sidewalk, road will be wider, safer, get rid of ditches, look nicer. All the potholes by the school will be addressed. Was going to end at RR track, but extended for safety, slow down traffic, bumpout. Whole area will be repaved.

Q: Susy Meyer – will there be speed bumps? EA: (KN) - Everything is approved for public safety

Q: Sandy Golden – on FH, coming toward WH – new lanes on right side, are they parking or bike lanes? Makes the other lane very narrow. Fast traffic. A: (KN): Parking lanes, marked.

Bruce Gold – Business District updates. Positive news about Westover Park – space behind the school with the baseball field – money allocated, but some delays b/c the property has been under the School Board and the developers needed them to transfer land. That hasn't happened yet but is in the pipeline. But there are plans to renovate and make the space more useable.

Robert Kelly – Cleanup over the weekend – to support garden week on April 24th. City will deliver mulch April 20th, get a group out to mulch, focus on Westover Hills Blvd and key areas. Plant pansies, something colorful. Annuals. 8-11 am on Saturday if anyone wants – meet behind Library on the 20th. Mulching rake and wheelbarrow help. Need to week NK/WHB triangle, too. May be back out in late May/June. Label your tools.

Dick Bragg – Pamela Zell in charge of the Garden show. Clean up of the alley on River Hills. Also on April 20 8-11. Tot lot is the same day. We support the church and they support the tot lot. Church supporting with mulch. 3-5 on April 20th.

Mark Bouziane - Historic Garden week – get tickets on line – Methodist church will be the center, can buy tickets on the day.

Pianist Salvador (Sam) Lupica and Pamela James recital – April 28th at 3pm. Money may go to the WH Elementary School

Bruce Gould– Dodson Development Group – 4701 FH Ave, BoA redo – is making huge progress. Steel skeleton is up. March/April next year. No name for it yet. The owner of the old Westover building, restaurant next door, the locker room, and the former violin shop is adding apartments. Making good progress. Will be painting building to get rid of graffiti, working on parking lot.

Other vacant area – Westover place. Dumbarton. Working with Blackwood development but they are still dragging their feet. No progress. Partnership between two people but they don't have any plans. Q: Does WHNA have any influence on CVS? Needs upkeep. A: (BG) Won't happen. That's why we want local merchants. They care about landscaping, etc.

New Business

- **Sara Abubaker** – moved here in 2011 and is a former WHNA president. Had to move to 42nd street but is running for City Council for our district.
- **Nancy** – Membership drive – 305 households have signed up. 34% which is pretty good.
- **John Coskey** – Stray watch. Today is national hug your dog day – go home and hug

