

MINUTES
NOTICE BOARD MEETING
December 14, 2015
7:30 P.M.
Watters Residence

Present: Ernie Lehmann, Howard Middleton, Tom Soapes, Clarence Tong, Christa Watters, Roger Waud, Fran Zorn.

Excused: Matt Hennesy

Guests: Joan and Darrel Drury

Tom Soapes called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

The Agenda was suspended for a presentation by NOTICE members Darrel and Joan Drury. Mr. Drury expounded upon the presentation he had made at the most recent City Council meeting and on the points discussed in the attached letter, asking NOTICE to send a letter of support of the position of VISION, a newly formed group of North Old Town residents who have coalesced around their views on development, the small area plan, Montgomery Park and related issues. Joan reported on research she and others have undertaken on the tree canopy in North Old Town and how it compares with other parts of town and of her wish to increase it by supporting a tree planting campaign.

The board listened for about an hour. Board members asked when VISION was founded, how many members they have, and why they felt the need for a group besides our civic association, of which they are members. Darrel said they have about 80 members, all individuals he has spoken to over the past couple of months. They have focused on issues related to Montgomery Park and now are focusing on the Giant/ABC site.

The board stated they would need to discuss the issues raised by VISION before considering any sort of endorsement, and pointed out that we cannot speak for all our members without surveying them. Joan and Darrel left after their presentation and the board proceeded with the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 10 board meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report/Membership: Fran Zorn reported membership stands at 116 households representing 169 persons. The membership list has been purged of those who have not renewed during the past year. Tom noted that the renewal rate is the best ever, and we will doubtless continue to receive renewals, particularly at the Winter Party. The bank balance is \$8,546.50. Fran has paid the fee to renew our Post Office box for the coming year.

Audit Report: **Howard Middleton, chair**, presented the Financial Report for the period 11/3/14 through 11/1/15 on behalf of the audit committee, which included Matt Hennessey and Roger Waud. The report, attached, found no irregularities. The committee noted a fiscal year surplus of \$623.81 and a balance on hand on October 31, 2015, of \$8,582.82.

Election of Officers for 2016: The following individuals were elected as officers for the coming year:

President: Tom Soapes
Vice President: Ernie Lehmann
Secretary: Christa Watters
Treasurer: Clarence Tong

The remaining board members (Matt Hennesy, Howard Middleton, Roger Waud, and Fran Zorn) will serve at large and fill committee and ad hoc responsibilities.

Meeting Schedule for 2016: The board will hold regular monthly meetings on the following dates: the Mondays of January 19, February 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12. No meeting is planned for July. Board members are asked to note these dates on their calendars. NOTICE membership meetings will be as follows:

Winter Social: February 18 (a Thursday)
Spring Membership Meeting: May 19
Fall Membership Meeting: September 22
Annual Meeting: November 17

Update on Development Projects: Tom will wordsmith a position for NOTICE to take on the Giant/ABC site redevelopment planned by Edens Developers as the project moves through the city approvals process. Other developments in process include the Old Colony Best Western Inn, which next faces the Planning Commission. The Bus Barn project is in the process of putting out its third Request for Proposals, the other two having not yielded any viable proposals. ARHA is presumably moving forward, but there is little news. Tom noted that he wrote to Councilman Smedberg, thanking him for reminding staff and Council that we as a City need to pay attention to make sure this project advances in a manner that fits in with the vision embodied in the Small Area Plan as it proceeds.

Update on SAP Process: The next meeting of the North Old Town Small Area Plan Advisory Group is set for December 17 at 7 p.m. in the Sister Cities Room at City Hall.

Winter Party: The date for the winter party is set for Thursday, February 18, if the room can be reserved for that date. Clarence, our new treasurer, will negotiate the deal. He has used the space before for another event, so knows the process. Fran will again handle the catering.

Report on Governor's Environmental Committee: Ernie Lehmann, one of the Citizen members representing Virginia in this group, reported that he is learning a great deal about issues in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Officials and citizens from all the states in the watershed are participating, discussing such issues as finding creative ways to finance improvements to sewer infrastructure and other water-quality infrastructure improvements.

Report on Airport Noise Committee: Clarence reported that issues of noise, flight paths, weather, larger planes and cooperative efforts vs. NIMBYism in and between different jurisdictions affected by the flight paths used for Reagan National Airport are among the topics being addressed.

Old/New Business: The board discussed whether in light of all the issues facing North Old Town it might be wise to produce a February/March newsletter. We decided that we may do that, but will wait and decide based on the outcome of the next few meetings and available time after Tom and Christa return from January travel.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 18, in the Portner's Landing Community Room.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christa Watters, Secretary