

Downtown Norfolk Civic League February Meeting minutes

Welcome -Jason McDonald, President, DNCL

Minutes - Andy Holloway, Secretary, DNCL

Sector Report - Officer Benjamin Manning, CRO, NPD

Downtown Norfolk Council - Audrey Fussell / Mary Miller

Guest Speaker

- R. Carter McRee, PhD, MBA - Tidewater Compost
- Rehn Saunders- One Year Anniversary – Cruise Norfolk Year Round
- Dianna Starkey – VA Arts Festival

CUP/ARB

Coffee with the CEO - DID Renewal

February 25, 8am coffee/networking, 8:30
conversation

Bremers Room at the
Glass Light Hotel

Virginia Arts Festival Opening Night

March 5, 5:30pm happy hour,
7:30pm show

Leone's and Chrysler Hall: DNC members will receive a discount code for tickets to the show

Work from Downtown: Breakroom - Hoops

March 12, 12-2pm
MacArthur Square

Celebrate MEAC tournament with casual lunchtime hoops - we'll have inflatable games and other activities

Work from Downtown: Coffee Collision

March 25, 8:30-9:30am
Selden Market

Casual networking coffee

First Fridays

April 3 and May 1, 5-8:30pm
Granby Street by TCC Plaza

- Presentation from R. CARTER MCREE, PHD, MBA representing Tidewater Compost. Discussed the importance of composting and how accessible composting has become. Discussed the member structure that Tidewater Compost offers neighborhoods, individuals and businesses.
- Rhen Saunders reported on Cruise Norfolk. Shared statistics about the success of Cruise Norfolk, 2026 plans and ideas for further integration of cruise goers and downtown Norfolk.
- Diana Starsky shared a promotional video of the upcoming Virginia Arts Festival season
- CUP/ARB - Wells Theater / Virginia Stage Company plans to extend and update their marquee.
- Macarthur Mall Plans: Courtney R. Doyle discussed potential plans for the area that include redevelopment. Currently in the planning phase.

Sharing our collective voice

1. Attract Businesses that Accommodate Residential Needs- by focusing on a grocery store- by implementing the 2030 Plan for MacArthur Center and attracting neighborhood big-box retail (i.e. Target with a grocery store), medical services (UrgentCare), pet services (grooming/boarding, veterinarian, inclement weather indoor dog play area with extended evening hours), hardware store (subset of Taylors/Lowes/Home Depot with rental tools), dry cleaner, farmer's market, and more green space.

2. Make Living Downtown Safe - By supporting Norfolk Commonwealth's Attorney Ramin Fatehi in his attempt to ensure a safer pedestrian experience for residents and visitors of Downtown Norfolk. Our district, known for its restaurants, entertainment venues, workplaces, museums, and frequented by cruise passengers, attracts people for its pedestrian-friendly atmosphere. Sometimes, All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) or off-road motorcycles operating recklessly on Granby Street and at times, on sidewalks, can deter from the pedestrian nature of the downtown area at best, and at worst, may be a safety concern for some residents and visitors. We encourage our members to sign the Change.org petition to support the Norfolk Commonwealth's Attorney's proposed legislation to make Downtown Norfolk a safer and quieter place for everyone.

3. Make Downtown Living Desirable - by enforcing laws for noise issue; for loading zone violations; for parking violations- by adding a loading zone in front of residential buildings that don't already have one- by continuing to keep our alleys clean and removing graffiti- by removing the litter along sidewalks, medians, alleys, etc.- by keeping the business fronts repaired and freshly painted- by implementing the NEON Streetscape Project

4. Improve Downtown Outdoor Walking/Dining Experience - by maintaining the increased police presence late-night on Granby- by enforcing laws to slow down traffic on Granby - by enforcing laws for scooter/ebike riding on sidewalks along Granby - by managing scooter/ebike litter - by closing businesses that continue to violate the rules of their Conditional Use Permit- by installing a traffic signaling system for pedestrians to safely cross Boush at Brooke- by replacing/repairing missing/damaged bricks on our sidewalks- by cleaning sidewalks regularly and more often near the alleyways

5. Improve Downtown Driving and Visibility - by addressing the section of Freemason between Boush and Granby (proposal provided to Transit)- by addressing the intersections at Granby &

Freemason and Granby & Tazewell- by repairing the big pothole on Tazewell between Boush and Granby.