

East Ocean View Civic League  
Minutes of meeting held June 7, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by John Greene, President.

Treasurer's Report was given by Jeffrey Lewis:

Total Assets	\$3388.94
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$3388.94
Net Income	\$-140.03

A detailed statement is available on request of John Greene, President.

**Special Recognition:** Jacqui Johnson, Director of EOV Rec Center, made a special presentation to thank our member, Kathy Braden, for all the tutorial work she did during the school year for children who were at the Rec Center. We all offer our thanks and congratulations to Kathy for such extraordinary volunteer work.

**Police Report**

Officer Cogswell reported that the crime stats for our area are up a little, especially thefts from automobiles. City wide burglaries are up a bit, as well.

A major bicycle event occurred on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Over 200 participated, including a young boy on a big wheel. The event was paced by the Norfolk Police Bicycle Patrol and was a tremendous success.

The two houses on 7<sup>th</sup> Bay that have been a problem should be demolished by July.

Summer bike patrol officers are out on the streets but there are only three officers. The City is training more officers for bike patrol. The Beach Patrol is already working, and the leash law is in effect so be aware. Upon first offense, one will get a warning, and then a ticket.

**Speaker, Paul Hirschbiel, Democratic Candidate for Congress**

Paul Hirschbiel was born in Norfolk and stated that his parents were always involved in civic activities so he learned from an early age that it was important to be involved in your community. After going to the University of North Carolina, and then working in business ventures in New York City, where he helped small businesses grow and develop, he returned to this area. Paul moved his family back to this area and he and his wife, Susan, have been actively involved in this community since his return. One of his achievements was bringing the *Horizons Hampton Roads Program* to this area. *Horizons* is a six week summertime enrichment program for disadvantaged children and includes both academic and camp activities. Under Paul's initiative, the Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Virginia Beach public schools partnered with two Independent schools in the area and provide exceptional opportunities for these children.

His passion for the last seven years is an early childhood initiative, getting children Kindergarten-ready. Paul believes that getting a strong start educationally is the most important step in a child's educational life and this is supported statistically.

As for becoming a candidate, two years ago Paul didn't expect to be running for Congress but over the past year, with all that has happened in this country he reports he just "couldn't sit idly by," and felt he had to become a part of the plan to help this country. Congress has been paralyzed with partisanship, and he decided that he needed to step up and run. He feels that both parties are at fault for our present problems, and believes we need to get people in Congress who are willing to work together and solve our problems. He feels that one of the critical items our country has is the need to get our economy going. We need businesses to start investing and they are not confident of the future to take the steps necessary. He also feels that we need a comprehensive plan based on compromise ("which is not a dirty word") to deal with the deficit so we can move this country forward. It will require sacrifice on all of our parts. We have got to look at tax loopholes, subsidies, and get rid of exemptions. We need to get back to the 'Pay as you go' philosophy.

As noted, education for him is a priority, and he states that we need to develop a workforce training program. We must improve our educational system if we are to stay competitive in the world. We have dropped in our educational ranking internationally and this is not acceptable. Our education system is not working and must be addressed and fixed.

Paul states that we need to take care of our veterans, and to provide quality health care for them as there is a huge number of people coming home who need to be served. They served us and we must serve them. Unemployment for veterans in the 18 to 24 year old group is 30%, which is a disgrace. They are well-trained, know how to get to work on time and work to complete tasks and goals. We need to utilize these people.

Paul states that he is ready to start solving problems and feels that locally, infrastructure is the biggest issue in this area. It is a big money issue. We need money to support the port system which is a major contributor to this area. Ultimately the money comes from the federal government but we have to deal with it or we are strangled.

Paul took several questions from the members that included additional questions about solving the problems in education and infrastructure.

## **Old Business**

**The Great American CleanUp.** On Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> a dedicated group of Civic League members, under the guidance and direction of Bill Kerry, took part in the *Great American Clean Up*. The Civic League members worked the numbered streets from 2<sup>nd</sup> Bay to 7<sup>th</sup> Bay and a crew from the jail and their supervising deputies worked East Ocean View Avenue and Pleasant Avenue. All participants did a great job and we want to commend Master Deputy Peverly Yelity and Deputy David Brothers for aiding in this project. Picking up trash is a thankless task but it really helps to beautify our neighborhoods. All in all over 50 bags of trash were collected.

**The East Ocean View Coordinating Committee.** The Civic League, Neighbors Building Neighborhoods, Bon Secours, and Councilman Smigiel have met three times. John Keifer, the Sanitation Engineer, and a City Consultant were there for the City to talk about infrastructure improvements (gutters, sidewalks, curbs, street repair, sewers and drains). The city is working on it and John Greene reports that there is a "light at the end of the tunnel." They are in the design phase for street improvement (especially along Pleasant Avenue, then the numbered streets), and development of Bay Oaks Park. There is a 2-5 year time frame for these projects. We have been briefed on the pump station project that is moving toward completion.

## **New Business**

There will be a City Flood Plan Meeting at *the Pretlow Library*, June 14<sup>th</sup> from 6PM to 7:45PM. The City will present its flood plan strategy.

*New Life Christian Church* is having its annual Fourth of July Picnic and Freedom Celebration whose theme is Unity to Community. Rodney Hammond reports that there will be plenty of free food and activities and asks everyone to come to the Rec Center and join in the fun and festivities. There was a motion that was seconded and the Civic League donated \$200 to the event. The event goes from 10AM to 6PM but the fishing contest begins at 8AM.

Bill Kerry reports that the *Mayor's Ocean View Task Force* now has meetings open to all. The Task Force meets twice a year. Bill encourages members to attend as it is a great way to get information on what is happening in the City. Next meeting is Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at Pretlow Library and is hosted by our City Councilmen.

From *Neighbors Building Neighborhoods*, Ann Bolen reports that there are plans for another block party, tentatively in July. Streets in consideration are 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Newsletter Committee: we need help. If interested contact Ann Bolen or Jeff Lewis who are the only remaining members of the committee. Newsletter comes out quarterly.

The Farmers' Market project has been postponed for a while. The goal is to be up and running next Spring. They intend to do research and want it to be a fun cultural and community event. The East Beach "Farmers Fare" market is doing well. It is open Saturday mornings for the whole area.

John Greene asked anyone who is interested in serving on the Board to please let him know.

Code violations. The best way to get results from the City is to call Norfolk Cares with your concerns: 664-6510. There is also a form to report complaints on the City web site. You *do* get a response!

Our newsletter is available on line. [eovcl@eovcl.org](mailto:eovcl@eovcl.org) Check out all the other information on the site.

This is our last meeting until September. The Board will meet monthly during the summer. John Greene will send out reports, if needed, during the summer months.

A motion was made, and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman, Secretary

