

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held April 6, 2017 at the East Ocean View Recreation Ctr.

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

President Ann Bolen began the meeting by recognizing Ray Ransom, Senior Neighborhood Development Officer, for all his help and support to our Civic League in the past. Ray is taking a job in Newport News. We will miss him.

Treasurer's Report was given by Jeff Lewis

Total Assets	\$4,257.54
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$4,257.54

A detailed financial statement is available on request of Ann Bolen, President.

Police Report

Officer Chris Allen, one of our Community Resource Officers (CRO) reported that the basketball game between the members of the REC Ctr. and the police officers was a resounding success. The REC Ctr team won and a good time was had by all.

He also reported that there were twelve incidents in our area last month, compared to twenty eight incidents last year at this time. One big problem is stolen license plates and the officers brought several sets of tamper proof screws. They are also available at local hardware stores and are not very expensive. Incidents included: 1 stolen vehicles, and 3 larcenies of auto plates.

Officer Allen reported that overall 47% of all crimes in our area are down, however, commercial burglaries are up 200% due to the burglaries at two of our neighborhood churches recently.

The police are conducting a drug take back program on April 29th from 8 am to 10am. These drugs would be prescription type drugs no longer needed and just sitting in medicine cabinets.

Beach Patrol begins again the first week of May and there is a goal by the Department to put more officers on bicycles throughout the area.

Guest Speaker: Gabriel Phelps, Department of Public Utilities

Mr. Phelps gave the membership an update on the Pleasant Avenue project, replacing water lines. He reported they are making great progress and are up to 11th Bay. Then they begin the sewer lines.

Guest Speaker, Jeremy Sharpe, Norfolk Planning Department, Coastal Character District

Mr. Sharpe stated that the goal of the Coastal Character District Committee is to make the Bay Front a different character from the rest of the City. They want it to be unique and not 'one size fits all' in nature. Their goal is the buildings have different heights, different setbacks. He feels the new 7 Eleven has the coastal feel.

His committee has been talking to the people in Virginia Beach as they also have long narrow lots as we do here. Virginia Beach visited Charleston, SC, as they have the same type of housing scheme there. Norfolk is trying to emphasize single family homes and getting rid of multi-family units. This will not be easy as the owners of these lots profit from the money received from multiple units. There will be public input sessions and the goal to have them is the end of May. Then they will present drafts of their proposals and fine tune these drafts from there.

Guest Speaker - SW Dawson, Candidate for the Commonwealth Attorney Position

Mr. Dawson is currently a defense attorney with his own practice in the City of Norfolk. He has been cited as a Super Lawyer and is on the list of the Top 10 Lawyers Under 40. He is a Democrat and is originally from Lancaster County, VA. After serving as a very successful Defense counselor for a number of years he feels called to change sides and work for the prosecution as he has come to see that there are real bad guys out there and wants to become a part of alleviating this problem as the Commonwealth Attorney. He is passionate about the fact that too many bad guys are getting slapped on the wrist and he wants to be part of making that come to an end. Violent criminal offenders will get his major focus. He states that Norfolk has a serious gang problem and that has to be addressed. He is less focused on petty offenders and fielded a couple of questions in that area. Mr. Dawson is passionate about making changes and does not believe in plea deals, especially for drugs.

There are three Democrats running in the primary on June 13th and there are no Republican candidates as of now. It is an open Primary and Greg Underwood, the incumbent is running, as well as Ron Bollander.

Guest Speaker - Pat Clark of the East Beach Writers Guild

The Writers Group began five years ago and produced the book, *By the Bay*, a series of short stories that they published and sold both locally and on Amazon. They have just finished their second book, *By the Bay II*, and that can be found on Amazon.

They will be a launching of this second book at The East Beach Bayfront Club in East Beach on Monday, May 1st, from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. They would love to see as many of you as possible at this event.

OLD and NEW Business:

* By laws: From time to time The Board looks at the By laws and makes some small changes. This year, prompted by the Audit, we will incorporate some changes. Thanks to John Hadfield

who did the heavy lifting, Alice Webly who assisted and the Board for their input. The rules say that we will discuss these proposed changes one month and vote on them the following month. We have posted the proposed By Laws with changes on the website, here are the highlights :

Article I. We added the dates for our fiscal year to run Jan 1-Dec. 31 each calendar year.

Article VII. We added the duty of creating an annual budget. The president and Treasurer will submit a proposed budget to the Board each November for adoption by the Board of Directors meeting in December.

Article VII. We added that the secretary shall present the minutes from the prior meeting via email to Board and membership and an approval of these minutes will be voted upon each meeting.

Article VII. The treasurer can write checks up to \$100 but over that requires a second signature by Pres, VP, or Secretary.

Article Xi was added to include a dissolution clause in case the civic league stops functioning.

More Notes

* Community Clean up and Spring Planting of the Community Garden events are scheduled for April 22nd. EARTH DAY! Please mark your calendars. We will have volunteer certificates for any children who need community service hours and we are planning a nice picnic after at 12:30 for all the volunteers.

* Mayors Task Force meeting was held on 3/16. Steve and Ann Bolen attended. The following was discussed:

City will look to get OV designated properly to utilize some state funds to promote the area. A 10K through OV (or marathon) is being discussed.

A hotel chain (Holiday Inn Resort) is interested in the Traveller's hotel site across from Judy Boone's office

Captains Landing has sold 10 units so far. Sales are going well.

The Task Force agreed for the City to focus on acquiring the property on OV Ave. and Chesapeake to include Shipwreck Sally's, Jet Ski place, Bar and hotel owned by Judy Boone.. Vision is to create a launch place where rescue to the Bay can be done but the blight removal would be a big improvement.

A letter of intent for the 7 acres behind 7/11 on the corner of Shore Drive and Little Creek Road has been issued. There is a 90 day exclusive agreement to work with the city.

Breeden Development signed a contract to buy Pinewell Station site (old Ramada Inn). The new design has more 2 BR units. The issue passed city council on 28th and the units are to be built on pilings. Breeden agreed to provide some money to upgrade the community beach across the street.

A Basemore style grocery store of 5000 sq feet is still being discussed for phase 7 of East Beach.

The City is fencing in the parking lot next to Greenies as it is City property and they are adding the land to the city park. No more parking of Greenie's customers will happen on the site.

Andria McClellan spearheaded a review of all the OV beach access points. There are 11 pedestrian walkovers on OV Ave. to the beach. Many have been rebuilt or improved in the past several weeks. Signage and bike racks will be installed.

Norfolk Codes is installing new software.

* Tommy Smigiel held his WARD 5 meeting on Monday, March 27. Thank you to Jerry Bunting for attending and providing the following notes. Some notes overlap those from the Mayor's Task Force Committee.

The Steak and Shake Restaurant on Little Creek is a franchise. That is the reason the menu is smaller. That is why there have been complaints that it is not comparable to the corporate restaurants people have eaten at. It is felt that the owner needs to hear of these concerns as this franchise getting a lot of bad press.

Most of Ronnie Boone's properties are for sale. The OV Pier listed for \$13M

Shipwreck Sally's has moved to Little Creek Road where Steel Pier Deli used to be.

The City is investing \$900,000 into Bay Oaks Park for two new playgrounds, paths and parking lot. The area is really shaping up.

Kroger is not taking over the Atlas Building on Little Creek but is looking at the old Kmart building on Military Highway.

The Senior Center will move into the Bank of the Commonwealth Building.

The boat ramp off Shore Drive on Huette is in the final design stage allowing boats access to Lake Whitehurst.

The economic town meeting last fall revealed that the 'top want' by our ward is the improvement of Norfolk public schools.

*** EOVL Charities:**

For many years, EOVL supported the REC Center, New Life Christian Center, and Coach Dwight and his East Ocean View Beach Athletic Association sports programs and his Back to School prep called Youth Survival Seminar. Our commitment has been anywhere between \$400-600/year for each charity. These donations were wonderful when our treasury was very robust. As the Civic League newsletter production cost has doubled, our spending has surpassed our income for the past few years. As a result it is time to revisit our charitable contributions which are now mainly gained from the collection of dues. We currently have 104 paid civic league members. With the budget being evaluated and proposed, it is felt that we can support \$1200 a year in charitable giving.

(Note: this item was put to a vote and the membership agreed to support the three named charities for another year. There were 36 votes to support.)

*The City of Norfolk has recently published the rules and regulations for any neighborhood that wishes to have a dog park on city owned property. Some of the required items include the following:

The request must come from the community Civic League which is required to have a 503c3 status (nonprofit designation). We don't currently have this designation.

The Civic League must create a committee for dog park care and raise the money needed to fence said dog park using City approved fencing.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 4, 2017 and our speaker will be the new sheriff, Joseph Baron..

Please check our website regularly for information about our area and what is occurring here.

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

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman, Secretary