

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held February 1, 2018 at the East Ocean View Recreation Ctr.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Steve Chamberlain, Vice President, President Ann Bolen was out of town..

The new Board members were installed at the meeting by Councilman Tommy Smigiel. Since Ann Bolen had to be away, Councilman Smigiel installed her during a phone conversation. The new Civic League Board members for 2018 are Ann Bolen, President; Steve Chamberlain, Vice President; Jeff Lewis, Treasurer; and Ann Freeman, Secretary. Board members at large: Michael Phelps, Juanita Snead, Monique Matuskowitz, Gerald Bunting, John Hadfield, Alice Webley, Jimmy Carter, and Dave Moore.

Membership dues for 2018 are due now. Please renew your membership. One cannot vote on any issues that come before the Civic League unless one has paid dues.

Treasurer's Report was given by Jeff Lewis

Total Assets	\$1393.57
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$1393.57

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

Ann Bolen has appointed Willie Smith, Frank Johnson, and Alice Webley to audit our budget. We are in the process of becoming a 501C-4 organization. The IRS has accepted our paper work but says it takes 6 months to a year for approval.

Police Report

Officer Fulcher reported that crime continues to be down in our area since 2016. Larceny from vehicles is still our major problem. There were 65 reported incidents in our area, mainly associated with vehicles.

Police continue to beef up efforts to take vehicles off the road that are or appear to be abandoned. Officer Fulcher gave his phone number 757-770-2198 and told members to call him directly with pressing problems.

Guest Speaker: Councilman Tommy Smigiel

Councilman Smigiel announced that he will be running for office again this year. He had Ann Bolen's permission to ask for members to sign a petition to get his name on the ballot. Signing the petition does not obligate a person to vote for him.

Councilman Smigiel reported that the housing development around Bay Oaks Park is making good progress. The City just bought 4 adjacent cottages from Ronnie Boone and will incorporate that land in the development. As for the Park, they are working on a playground, fitness area, and a picnic area. Another \$1,200,000 has been designated for the Park. There will be a parking lot and they will put up a Portapotty that, hopefully, will be replaced in the future with the real thing. NRHA advertised for builders to develop the lots maintaining the Coastal Standards that have been developed. They plan to announce the builders in March. Homes facing the Park with cost more than those that do not.

Councilman Smigiel also announced that EDC will be given the rights to develop the property near the 7Eleven. EDU made a presentation to us a few months ago and the project will contain homes, townhouses, and carriage houses. They will also have retail space and have commitment from three businesses.

Councilman Smigiel introduced Rocky Rhodes who is the President of the newly formed Business Association for the area. They will be electing a Board; dues will be \$50 a year.

The City bought the Bank of the Commonwealth building in 2017, hoping to turn it into the Senior Center. Those plans were turned down by the Seniors who will go to the Wellness Fitness Center near Granby Street. The City has been approached by a craft brewery company to buy the building.

An Aldi's food store is coming to Little Creek Road, near the old Atlas Building. Councilman Smigiel says that all of the food stores in the area are struggling and may have further problems when Wegman's moves into Town Center, in VB.

There was a major discussion in response to a question about restructuring East Ocean View Avenue to accommodate bike lanes, and become single lanes with a turn lane. Councilman Smigiel says the project is not a done deal yet. He, personally, has no preference. Steve Chamberlain announced that we, as a Civic League, will vote on this issue next month.

Guest Speaker, Nikki Southall, Neighborhood Development Specialist

Ms. Southall attended our meeting so we could meet her and she could acquaint us with her position. She is new to the position. Her department does new people packets, conducts training in Neighborhoods Building Neighborhoods, holds training for citizens. She covers Ward 5.

Some of the courses/training provided are: Methods to Explore Diversity and Build Unity; Live Asset Mapping Demonstration; Creating a Fantastic Image for your Neighborhood.

Guest Speaker, Edward Matthews, Bureau Manager, City of Norfolk, Recreation and Human Development

Mr. Matthews oversees a broad number of Recreational Activities in Norfolk. He holds a BS and MS degrees from ODU in Sports and Sports Management. He oversees all of the recreation centers, beaches, Park Rangers, and Senior Programs in the City of Norfolk. As he said, there is a lot going on.

In the Recreation Centers, the activities are 70% for school age children and 30% for adult activities. STEM programs are very important with the goal to educate and create. They also are used for career development.

Mr. Matthews reviewed several of the other programs they sponsor: GED training, Adult Day Camp, Wild and Crazy Days, Night Hawk Program. They sponsor summer camp for students that provides meals, activities, and programs for the whole summer for a price of \$58 for the whole summer. One of our members urged others to sponsor scholarships so students can participate.

Old and New Business

The REC Center Christmas party was a huge success. There were crafts, and a spaghetti dinner served. Gifts were distributed to all the children. Juanita Snead and Ms. Dana wish to thank everyone for their support.

Jimmy Carter is the leader of the CODE Committee. He is preparing an article for the newsletter next month and I hope some new members will consider volunteering a few hours a quarter of their time.

New volunteer opportunities have been posted on the website. We will also start including them in the newcomer packets. Please consider volunteering. Some jobs are quarterly, some just once a year but many hands make light work and helps build up our community.

There is a big basketball game on March 8th, here at Rec Center where the Police play members of the Community. Come to REC Center and cheer both teams on.

If you did not know, Crystal Schaad has opened the Crystal Palate on Pretty Lake Ave in East Beach.

Our annual Community Cleanup will be held on April 21st. Please mark your calendars. More information will be forthcoming on the website and at the March meeting. It starts here at the REC Center at 8:30aa.m. We are done by noon and follow with a community cookout.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 1 , 2018 and our speaker will be Bill Crow, President of the VA Ship Repair Association.

Please check our website regularly (www.livingeov.com) for information about our area and what is occurring here.

A motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman, Secretary