

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held May 2, 2019

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

**Treasurer's Report** was given by Jeff Lewis

Total Assets	\$18,017.35
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$18,017.35

The Civic League received \$10,000 from a grant we applied for from the Shoreline Restoration Project which was completed last year. These funds will be used to restore the second part of the project. Additionally, there is \$1,400 in the account for a Jerry Bunting tribute.

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

**Police Report**

Officer Fulcher reported that we had 29 incidents in our area last year at this time (April through May). He was happy to report that we have 13 reported incidents during the same time period this year. As usual, many were auto related. Reported incidents include one burglary and three shop lifting incidents.

In response to a question a member had last month regarding pedestrians having the right-of-way across Ocean View Avenue: Officer Fulcher said he has contacted John Stevenson from the City but has not heard back from him. Ann Bolen heard from Mr. Stevenson about speeding on Pleasant Avenue but not on this issue.

Officer Fulcher reported that the police sweep the area once a month, specifically checking on Code Violations. He also reported that the Beach Patrol has begun. On May 23rd, the police are having a 'Meet and Greet' at City Park to let the citizens know about rules for the beach; dogs; etc. There is also a Community Open House on May 14th.

**Guest Speaker, Cheryl Anne Cogalin, Principal, Little Creek Elementary School**

Ann Bolen asked Dr. Gabriel, Head of the Norfolk School Board, to introduce our speakers from the School System.

This is Ms. Cogalin's second year as Principal at Little Creek Elementary School. She had been a reading specialist prior to becoming an administrator. Little Creek is the largest elementary school in the Norfolk system with 700 students and is now fully accredited. They have a growing population with a growing number of Spanish speaking students. They use small group instruction to meet the needs of all their students. In addition to their regular faculty, they employ 7 retired teachers three days a week as support staff. Class size ranges from 18 students

in a PreKindergarten class with a teacher and assistant; 21 students in Kindergarten through Grade Three classes; and 25 students in Grades Four and Five. Resource classes include; physical education, art, music, media and computer. Each student has a Chrome book computer.

Ms. Cogalin reports that they have a strong PTA and Title 1 money allowed them to buy the Chrome books, hire more support staff, and provide extra enrichment.

### **Guest Speaker, Latesha Wade Jenkins, Principal, Lake Taylor High School**

Ms. Jenkins has been the Principal of Lake Taylor High School for the last three years and throughout her presentation she received accolades for what she has accomplished during her three year term at Lake Taylor High. She began as an English teacher and has served in many Norfolk High Schools over the last several years and has an extensive background in administration. She instituted a positive change in the school culture and works to hire faculty that are passionate and highly qualified. She works to train them, support them, and retain them. She believes in providing the right content and the right skills that students need to be engaged in the learning process which include critical reading and math skills. She believes in elevating students to educate them. There has been a significant change in Lake Taylor students under her administration.

Ms. Jenkins has developed a Leadership Academy where 40% of these students are on Honor Roll. Lake Taylor provides ACT and SAT prep classes and the school works with Regent University on providing live courses for the Lake Taylor students. Ms. Jenkins believes students need to be connected. She also is beginning a Principal Advisory Committee where she meets with students to get their input about what is needed and what needs improvement. She and Cape Henry Collegiate School are working on a dual project where students will collaborate to do community service projects.

Lake Taylor has received a grant to increase SAT scores. There will be Saturday sessions and AP teachers from around the area will work with students to accomplish this goal.

**Dr. Gabriel, Head of the School Board**, addressed the membership and answered several questions. When asked about the School Board's three highest priorities, she listed the following:

- 1) Meet and succeed State and National standards in all schools,
- 2) Retain and attract strong faculty,
- 3) address the aging school facilities.

Dr. Gabriel also addressed the need to rebuild Career and Technical Education courses and facilities. She said that it is a real goal to develop strong relationships with businesses and Tech schools in the area.

## **Guest Speakers: Michael Kerry Williams and Maestro John Brewington of the Tidewater Winds**

Mr. Williams reported that the *Tidewater Winds* is a non-profit, professional group of 55 musicians who perform mainly in the Sousa style. They will perform 16 to 23 free concerts in the Hampton Roads area this summer. This is important because all of the other performing arts groups in the area do not perform in the summertime. They will be based at Norfolk Collegiate School. Their programs are powerful, fun and their repertoire includes jazz, contemporary, and marches.

Concerts are free and they raise money through fund raising and grants.

Their education program gives internships to high school and college students and provides a fantastic experience for them.

Maestro Brewington has been a middle school band director for 19 years. He is a percussionist and loves music and that love is readily apparent! He has played with the *Virginia Symphony* and is Chairman of Fine Arts Education. He played with Walter Noona as a teen and performed at Chrysler Hall. He joined the *Tidewater Winds* at its inception and it is an important part of his life. His goal is to bring children into the concerts, put music in front of them, so they will learn to love it.

Please attend this summer. It is a great night out and a wonderful experience.

## **Updates**

**Community Clean up:** There were 32 volunteers that registered and they collected around 45 bags of trash. The amount of trash was way down from prior years and everyone commented upon how much cleaner the neighborhoods are (even the Sheriffs dept!)

**Community Garden:** As you know we have a beautiful community garden located at the corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and Pleasant Ave. Bon Secours reports that it has invested over \$2.1M into this Garden over the past 8 years. It is felt that it is important that there is a person on our Board that represents the Garden and is willing to give a brief report on Garden events each Civic League meeting, as the Treasurer does. The Garden is a community resource and it is hoped we, as a community, continue to care for it and use it. Let Ann Bolen know if you have a suggestion for a Board Member to represent the Garden.

**SOAR reading-** The Silent and Out Loud reading program last summer here at the Rec Center was a huge success. With a generous donation from the East Beach foundation and the civic league this year, the program is ready to inspire the summer REC Children once again. We are looking for volunteers to read to the children. Some need 1 on 1 reading time but most enjoy the group setting which allowed each child to read a paragraph or a page if they wanted and then they discussed what they had read. Please volunteer. The program will start again the first

week of July and run through August with reading to happen on Mondays and Fridays from 11-11:45

As for the Tides Ball Field Grant. It was stated last month that EOV won a competition to have our ball field redone by the Norfolk Tides. Not so. The field that was redone was the other OV Field used for NAS Little League. This is sad because our field could certainly use some love.

Clean the Bay Day is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Meet at REC at 10am. Ann Marie Dori is leading this event and needs volunteers.

Sheriff Joe Baron shared info on his 2019 Youth Sports Camps that are free to Norfolk residents ages 10-14. They will have a camp dedicated to Football, Baseball and Basketball. Contact Norfolk Sheriff's office for more info.

Next month the Principal of Azalea Garden Middle is coming as well as our City Forrester. Additionally, there are two developers who will come to discuss their projects: Bonaventure with Part 2 of their Seniors Housing project on Pretty Lake that will be built on the Cutty Sark land and EDC who is looking to do another project located near Little Creek and Shore Drive.

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

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

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman, Secretary