

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held October 5, 2017 at the East Ocean View Recreation Ctr.

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

Ann reported that she has convened a nominating committee for the election of Board members as required by the by-laws. Board officers serve one year terms and will all be up for re-election or replacement. Board members serve two year terms to ensure half the Board continues from year to year. Willie Smith has agreed to head this committee again and will present the slate of candidates at the November meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be heard at the November meeting. The vote will be held in December as per our bylaws. Installation is at the January meeting.

Old and New Business

*Nominations Committee for the Board- The nominating committee will be making is report at the November meeting. They do have a full slate of nominees for 2018. Additional nominations may be made at the November meeting from the floor. The vote is held in December as per our bylaws, and Installation of the 2018 Board is at the January meeting.

*OV Advisory Meeting held September 28th. Steve Chamberlain graciously attended for EOVCCL and shared the following:

*Bay Oaks Park: walking trails, playground equipment, workout equipment, and picnic shelters will be finished the end of Oct. Orange fencing will come down then. Next phase, will include constructing the parking lot along 3rd Bay as well as removing the basketball court and old playground equipment. Anticipated completion date is March 2018. Phase (6) will involve dune work on "Lookout Hill" and some infrastructure on Pretty Lake Ave. The grounds are pretty filled with mosquitoes and it was suggested groups consider building "bat boxes" to be placed in the park.

*5-7th Bay development: Originally planned for 40 single family lots but has now been reduced to 38 homes after decision was made to save 7-10 trees. 5th Bay will come back as a street. Infrastructure should be done by spring 2018 with home construction starting late spring next year. Lots will be sold to builders in the \$70K price range so NRHA can recoup some of the money spent on infrastructure work. The houses built will be in the 1500-1800 sq foot range with prices in the \$350- 400 thousand dollar range.

*Pinewell station: (Old Ramada Inn site)The Breeden plan was supported by the local civic league but rejected by Arch. Review Board. It must pass ARB before moving forward.

*OV Business Association- hope to have first meeting in November. If interested, contact Tommy Smigiel. Anticipate it being lead by Rocky Road of Edward Jones Investment in East Beach.

*The Tern Project: (located behind the 7-Eleven on EOV Avenue,)EDC asked for some big concessions from City (around \$4M). Council decided to delay his proposal for 30 days to see if other developers come forward. If they do, a formal RFP will be issued for this project.

*The Norfolk Legislative Agenda for the 2018 General Assembly Session is on the website.

The Ward 5 Advisory Meeting was held on Sept 25th and Gerry Bunting was kind enough to attend representing EOV. The following was shared:

-Norfolk is still fiscally stressed. For every penny in real estate taxes, the city takes in \$1.9M. The last increase in RE taxes was 4 cents. Three cents of the 4 went to support the building of new schools. The city is having trouble meeting expenses. Projections show that in several years our revenues will not be able to cover expenses. There is no more money for new schools unless they raise new taxes. The city does not wish to increase their debt load as they believe it will increase the bond rating. There has been talk of a referendum being put to the electorate to solve the flooding problem in Norfolk as the #1 priority. It is believed it would increase property values significantly and therefore generate the funds needed for schools and infrastructure.

-The Tide continues to lose money. It currently has revenues of \$1M and expenses of \$9M. Could the city run it for less?

-Tommy Smigiel said there is a new approach from the Mayor and City manager moving away from large projects and working with neighborhoods to improve them. They did recently reject 3 large downtown projects. Planning to invite Doug Smith, city manager to speak in 2018 to civic league.

The Council retreat generated six priorities for the city: Education, Housing, Public Safety, Economic Development, Transportation and Infrastructure.

Boat ramp off Shore Drive on Huette should begin construction soon.

Kroger taking over old K-mart on Military highway

Priority Ford closed and new apartment complex being built

Calgary Baptist School on Little Creek under contract to a company who will convert it for assisted living apartments.

M-star hotel still in litigation

Negotiations are underway on Mac's place

*The dedication for the Rain Garden and shoreline restoration project will be made on Oct. 9th at 11am for Jim Janata who helped fund these projects.

*There will be an Arbor Day celebration at Lafayette Park on Saturday from 10-2pm. There will be exhibits, a plant sale, food trucks and free tree saplings for participants.

*The Garden and upcoming events. The Garden is in need of some angels. We need 3-4 volunteers to agree to take one week a month and spend about an hour each week in the Garden to keep it looking nice. We have a signup calendar on the website.

-Upcoming events in the garden include: Oct 28th Apple Pumpkin Festival. Volunteers needed to help the kids build scare crows & Dec. 2nd Christmas in the Garden with a multicultural theme this year- Christmas around the world.

-Special thanks to all those volunteers who helped this Tues & Weds with the Rain Garden clean up and planting and the Garden clean up. I always say, it takes a village!

*Ann Marie Dori assembled volunteers to pick up trash in EOY last Saturday. Lots of storm debris and trash from the recent winds was collected. Thank you Ann Marie & happy Birthday week!

*Gabriele Phelps shared that the Water/Sewer project on Pleasant is progressing. All the water work is complete. New water mains have been installed from 17th to 11th Bay St. Sewer work is now being done. They are currently on 16th Bay and making their way to 11th. They plan to have 15-17th repaved and done by the holidays. One complaint made that they were dumping sewage- not the case, just ground water into the storm sewers but to prove it the water was tested- no sewage.

*Pastor Rodney shared the following from the Storehouse: "The Storehouse is gearing up for a BIG season of giving an blessing hundreds in our community who are less fortunate. Their outreaches are: 1. Thanksgiving Day Dinner- Nov. 23 Serving a free meal to almost 400 people. Please contact 757-227-9674 if you would like to attend, volunteer to serve.

-Thanksgiving Turkey Family Baskets to 50 families.

-Christmas toys/clothes distribution- Storehouse solicit families in need to apply for toys & clothing for their children. They provide 3 toys per child and a Christmas meal basket for each participating family. Rodney stressed donations are needed to support these charitable works.

*Budget Committee- Ann Freeman, Jeff Lewis and I will be working on the 2018 budget per the audit recommendation. We plan to present the budget in Nov., vote on it in Dec. and start 2018 off right!

*The police have noted gang activity and will have some staff working out of our REC center in coming weeks.

*King Tide -as you heard last month, Nov. 5th will be the KING TIDE. They are looking for volunteers. Fliers are in the back.

* Jill McCann of the new East Beach Urgent Care is proposing to have a flu shot clinic in November. They are doing it at Lake Whitehurst Civic League this month through CVS, and have offered the service to our civic league in November. We have not worked out all the details, but we will try and have it set up next month for membership who wish to get a flu shot.

Treasurer's Report was given by Jeff Lewis

Total Assets	\$2,976.91
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$2,976.91

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

Police Report

Officer John Fulcher, our Community Resource Officers (CRO) reported that crime is down in our area. The 2nd Patrol left a print-out of monthly crime stats on the back table. Larceny from vehicles is still a major problem. Lock your cars and do not leave valuables in the car. Officer Fulcher reported that there was one commercial burglary and a drug arrest where \$1,000 and an auto were seized. There was a crime of vandalism at our Community Garden where the storage shed was broken into and two generators were stolen. The thieves put a new lock on the shed so we have no idea when this theft occurred. Vandals also did a lot of damage to Bay Oaks Park.

Police are planning to beef up efforts to take vehicles off the road that are or appear to be abandoned.

Officer Allen, our other CRO, has left that position to become a detective. We wish him well.

Guest Speaker, Thelma Drake, Transportation Department or VDOT

Ms. Drake's presentation brought us all up to date on the VDOT projects in our area. Some are proposed, others are in the works. There is a wealth of information on their website, including a draft legislative proposal on Transportation.

Here are a few items on their agenda:

- the traffic light at 3rd Bay, which was brought down in an accident between a vehicle and a City truck, will be replaced as it is needed as a pedestrian walkway.
- the City is devising a bike plan and working with other City Departments so the projects can occur at the same time, i.e. paving
- there is a huge, on-going discussion in the City as to how to deal with the barrier in the Pretty Lake/Park View area.
- it has been ascertained that the OV flyover must be replaced as it is crumbling and dangerous. No trucks are allowed now and plans are underway to rectify this problem and make it safe. Not everyone in the area is happy about closing the flyover. The City is discussing how to best use all the open space in the area now.
- The lane change issue at Granby and Bay View Blvd. may happen.
- The intersection issue near the new Outlet Mall will open soon lessening traffic issues.
- Hot HOV lanes are coming to our area. They are already in use in Northern Virginia. You will need a free upgrade to your EZ Pass to use them. Use of lanes is voluntary; toll levels change depending on how many vehicles are using the Express lanes; current toll displayed on an overhead sign; general-purpose lanes remain free; need two or more people.
- Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel will have four lanes by 2024. Regional money is in place.
- Light rail studies have concluded they cannot expand west because of the constant flooding in that area. Studies continue for other routes.
- The train system to NYC is working well. There are three ways to get there: trains from Newport News, Harbor Park, and a bus to get you to these trains.
- Please report street lights that are not working to Norfolk Cares or Dominion Virginia Power.

Guest Speaker - Lee Williams, Coastal Tax Service

Mr. Williams reported that he had opened a new store in the East Beach Shopping Center. This store will be opened year round and is staffed with Tax and Accounting Professionals. Theirs is a full service operation which handles Business Estates and Trusts Tax returns; business tax returns; individual tax returns; and bookkeeping services.

Guest Speaker - Nicole Sanders, Candidate or Norfolk City Treasurer

Ms. Sanders has lived in the area for fourteen years, is a graduate of Hampton University with a degree in Computer Information Services. She is a 'working class' citizen who understands and relates to everyday constituents. She states she is eager to bring solutions and actions to issues that are often neglected.

Guest Speaker - Sean Jones, Candidate for Sheriff

Mr. Jones is a life-long citizen of Norfolk, is 44 years old, married with two children. He is an independent candidate whose focus is to help the Sheriff's deputies. Other goals include helping inmates transition back into society through rehabilitation and job training. He wants to be involved with Civic Leagues and sponsor a community event yearly.

Guest Speaker - Michael Voogd, Candidate for City Treasurer

Mr. Voogd is a retired Lt. Cdr., USN. He and his family live in the area and he is running because he believes the position needs integrity and responsibility. His degrees are in finance and has an MBA. His career as a Naval Officer has given him successful experience in managing large organizations, both personnel and departmental matters.

Elections for all these positions, as well as Governor, are held on November 7th. Please vote.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 2, 2017. Guest speaker will be Councilman Tommy Smigiel.

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