

East Ocean View Civic League
Minutes of meeting held Sept. 6, 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	\$3,096.47
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$3,096.47
Net Income	\$-122.71

John Greene addressed the license plate account and said he would keep the membership posted on the possibilities of having an EOV license plate. If this does not materialize, those who have contributed will have their money refunded. There is over \$600 in this account. State legislature has to approve the plate design before it goes to another committee for issuance.

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

Police Report

Officer Snyder reported that crimes in this area involve primarily property, autos, residences, and sheds. The Marina Dock Masters have reported several boat crimes in the marina but appear to have waited until a number occurred before reporting them. They are working more closely with police to curtail the thefts.

The police posted a Speed Board on East Ocean View Avenue from Aug. 22nd to 27th and found that, of the 23,000-plus vehicles over the 5-day period, 52.9% of the cars were at or under the speed limit of 35 MPH; 46.6% were one to 10 MPH over the speed limit. The sign was a successful deterrent to cause motorists to slow down.

Lt. Jimmy Hackett, who replaced LT Alex McConnehy, was also present at the meeting.

Speaker, Delegate Chris Stolle, our 83rd District Representative in Richmond

Delegate Stolle made a brief statement and then took quite a bit of time answering questions from the membership. Questions covered flooding in this area, beginning school before Labor Day, opening HOV lanes to military in uniform, expanding 'The Tide,' and eminent domain. All of these are 'pending' issues; i.e., no solution as of now. Del. Stolle wants two-way communication with constituents and states that the Legislative process is slow.

Del. Stolle was recently appointed to the Transportation Committee. He stated the transportation "problem" has been going on for years and seemingly there is no solution. He believes we need a new revenue stream and mentioned that if we had voted differently in the 2002 referendum—where a small increase to the sales tax would have funded the construction of new roads—we would not have the same problems now. He believes we should have an increase in the sales tax, not tolls, to fund transportation, and there should be some "guarantee" that, if there is a sales tax increase, the money

raised in this area should stay in this area! He feels that “the people” will challenge a toll increase, and that will delay the issue further.

Speaker, Councilman, Tommy Smigiel

Tommy thanked Del. Stolle for his part in getting the money for the flood study in this area. He then stepped through a history of plans and funding for EOV. In 1992 the City did the first comprehensive plan for EOV, including infrastructure. In 1993 there was an amendment for “East Beach,” and the City’s focus for the next 10 years was on developing East Beach, which began in 2004, and created what Tommy referred to as, “A tale of Two Cities” in this area. In 1995, the City Housing Authority did a study that determined it would take \$65M to fix infrastructure in EOV, but no money was put toward the study. In 2003, an Ocean View “Corridor study,” with the focus on EOV Avenue, led to a plan with lots of pictures and concepts but no money either. The next plan was Project Focus, which folded rather quickly, and now we have PlaNorfolk 2030, which is a plan for the next 20 years focusing on 17 neighborhood areas, including EOV. City Council will be voting on Plan Norfolk 2030 this fall.

EOV is an NRHA Conservation area where, according to the City Manager, any money designated for EOV is located. That apparently isn’t much, as money for the last 4-5 years has gone to Fairmount Park, Wards Corner, Broad Creek and Southside—not EOV, as “their” money went towards East Beach. Tommy *did* state that “East Beach is the ‘jewel in crown,’ and East Beach has paid off its \$55M debt to the City and, with each sale, money goes back to the City.”

Tommy stated that to keep improving East Ocean View we need a strong Civic League. He also formed the East Ocean View Coordinating Committee, comprised of groups that care about EOV: the Civic League, Neighbors Building Neighborhoods, as well as Bon Secours, which has made a significant investment in EOV, to include street beautification, work with home owners, etc. The EOVCC has chosen one area—Pleasant Avenue from 8th through 10th Bay—to focus on infrastructure improvements, etc. The City committed funding for this project for sidewalks and curbs. Nine property owners have also shown interest in being part of this project and Bon Secours has matching funds to help. This overhaul should be done by September.

Tommy also got money in the budget for a planning study for Bay Oaks Park, though funding for the actual park is still needed.

Last, as noted above, the Army Corps of Engineers has funded to study flooding on Pretty Lake Ave. It is the first step before we can get Federal funding to solve the problem as they did in New Orleans.

Speaker, Allie Wittkamp, Treasurer, Hampton Roads Community Health Center

Hampton Roads Community Health Center has received a federal grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to open a satellite medical facility in our area. The proposed site is in the East Beach shopping center, adjacent to *Mona Lisa Pizza*. It will have medical and dental services and will do immunizations. It is *not* a free clinic, but rather serves those who are insured, under-insured, and not insured. This facility will be staffed with doctors from Bon Secours and plans to open in December.

Old Business

Amanda Skupin has been appointed to our Board of Directors to fill a vacancy. She will serve out the existing term and can be elected in December for another term.

Our most recent newsletter is very well done—published by *PostNet*—and we give a big thanks to Anne Mann, Ginny Alberts, and Ann Bolen for putting it together. Please consider giving them some help with its publication.

Our website has been overhauled and improved. Please check it out at *LivingEOV.com*.

Ann Bolen reported that NBN is working diligently to make the Farmers Market a reality next spring. They are contacting farmers; it will be at a central location; and it will accept Electronic Benefit Cards (food stamps). They need more vendors so please contact them if you can help.

The Multi-cultural “Explosion” will be a large event held Sept. 30th at Bay Oaks Park from Noon to 3PM, and co-sponsored by the Lighthouse Community Church, Bon Secours, and the City.

New Business

Please be aware of the following events:

Norfolk Play Day and Dogs Gone Swimming on Sept. 15th

Front Porch Summit, Sept. 22nd, from 10 AM to 2PM

“Spokin Thru History” Bike Ride, Sept 22nd, through the Forest Lawn Cemetery

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

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman, Secretary