

East Ocean View Civic League
Minutes of meeting held January 3, 2013

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	\$3,375.80
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$3,375.80
Net Income	-\$395.23

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

Police Report

Officer Snyder reported that crime statistics for our area are exactly the same as for one year ago. This month there were 18 property crimes and 2 crimes "on person;" one was a domestic incident.

Installation of Civic League Officers

City Councilman Tommy Smigiel installed the Civic League Officers and Board Members. Only Juanita Snead was not present.

Speaker: Councilman Smigiel

Councilman Smigiel represents Ward V in the City, along with Barclay Winn who represents Super Ward 7. Mayor Fraim was originally the Councilman for this area before being elected Mayor.

Tommy reported that the City is in the midst of the present (3-year) Budget Cycle, and the next cycle is approaching in May. He will be requesting \$3M--\$2M of which would be spent in phases on infrastructure (gutters, curbs, and sidewalks) in the 5th - 7th Bay Street areas--and estimates it will take \$6 million to complete this project. Tommy has also requested \$500K for Bay Oaks Park yearly, again a phased approach.

Tommy reported there is definitely interest in (re)building in our area, and permits for EOV are the highest in the City. He will be forming an EOV Steering Committee, made up of City employees from the various City departments, as well as the Civic League President, for a more focused approach on what is needed to promote and nurture growth in our area.

Tommy Smigiel also noted, somewhat tongue-in-cheek, that Norfolk has become the "7-Eleven capital of the world," with both corporate and franchised stores dotting the landscape. He and other members of the City are working with store owners and, in particular, the owner of the 7-Eleven on the corner of Shore Drive and EOV Avenue on a "kinder and gentler" landscape. Three dental offices and a medical clinic have also opened in the last year in our area.

The City is proceeding with its plans to buy the site of the former Travelers' Inn, the hotel that burned down. This sale/deal appears to be coming to a successful conclusion. The City is also looking to buy a new home for, and possibly relocate, the Senior Center from West to East OV Avenue.

In response to a question from the floor, he noted there have been several EOV "Corridor Studies," and that they'll be made available to the Civic League (**NOTE:** They have been posted to the website). He also responded to a question about the "Ed Clarke issue," which is pertinent to members who own land on the Bay. Ed Clarke, a developer, has laid claim to owning the paper street that runs along the top of the dune, and has filed a law suit with the City. The City is holding a public meeting Jan. 31st to determine whether to fight or settle with him, and wants property owners' inputs. Property owners involved have received a mailing from the City with all the details.

Guest Speakers: Jeff Sharer and Melissa McDonald, AJ Gators Restaurant

Mr. Sharer is co-owner of AJ Gator's Restaurant, along with Al Zuhars, and they are in the process of renting space in the East Beach shopping center at 9575 Shore Drive. The space is next to the medical clinic and two spaces away from *Mona Lisa Pizza*. Ms. McDonald will be the manager. Sharer and Zuhars have owned/operated 14 restaurants for the last 14 years and have had no ABC violations in all that time. They will employ 35 to 40 people and will be open till 2AM nightly. There was a motion that was seconded, approved and passed that supports their coming to the area and the hours they will be open. Their next step is to go before the City Planning Commission.

Guest Speakers: Jim and Sharon Smith of East Beach Sandwich Shop on Pretty Lake Avenue

The Smiths outlined plans to expand their existing store into the space next door and to get our support and approval before going before the City Planning Commission. Additionally, they will be increasing the size of the kitchen, adding more tables and chairs, adding more storage space, and selling Boars Head deli meats, seafood, dairy products in a market type set-up on the order of *Taste Unlimited*. They have also expanded their menu to offer daily combo specials. Their hours of operation will remain unchanged. Target date for opening is February. There was a motion that was seconded, approved and passed that supports their expansion.

Old Business

John Greene attended a City Council Meeting where PlaNorfolk 2030 was discussed. It is the first plan for the City since 1992. It is a plan, with nothing funded as yet. Language was inserted to improve infrastructure along Pleasant Avenue. The Plan will go before City Council later this year.

New Business

Those interested in signing up for the next Norfolk Master Gardener Class are encouraged to do so. Dates are Feb. 12 through April 18.

President Greene congratulated Ann Bolen for the wonderful newsletter and encouraged members to write articles for coming editions. The issue is printed quarterly. Next issue is April 1st.

President Greene announced that, among our goals for the coming year, we will look at establishing a Neighborhood Watch Program, though he cautioned the program requires a great deal of member participation and time. The Board will also look at strengthening and developing committees.

It was reported that we have submitted paperwork for a grant for a kayak ramp at the Recreation Center. It was also noted that kayaks need to be licensed!

Our next meeting is February 7, 2013. Our speaker will be Sharon McDonald, Commissioner of the Revenue.

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

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman, Secretary