

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held February 7, 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	\$3,191.17
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$3,191.17
Net Income	-\$225.37

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

Police Report

Officer Folscher reported there were 30 incidents reported in our area in the last month, including 17 larcenies from cars, and 1 robbery of the 7-11 on 2nd Bay. Police units are moving to 12 hour shifts with 2 officers in each car. In response to a question from the floor about gun shots heard on 18th Bay recently, Officer Folscher had no definitive info.

Speaker: Sharon McDonald, Commissioner of the Revenue (e-mail: Sharon.mcdonald@norfolk.gov)

Ms. McDonald has been Commissioner of the Revenue for the City of Norfolk since 1997; this is her fourth term. Her team developed a video of the services performed, and there is a link to this video on our website. Her job is to "make sure everyone pays their fair share of taxes." She asserts we need strong economic growth in the City to maintain our fiscal health.

The Office of Commissioner of the Revenue focuses on two things: operational efficiency and customer service. Ms. McDonald praised her staff and highly commended them for the services they provide. Her office handles all taxes, except real estate; provides DMV services that do not require photographs; and free income tax services, both State and Federal, if one qualifies. They also handle residential yard sale permits. As for taxes, her office enforces code but does not set rates.

The department has a newsletter to enable citizens to better understand how their tax revenue is utilized. Additionally, her department is working to develop a portal that will allow citizens to check on their Personal Property taxes and pay them on line. They hope to have this service up and running by June. For those who are interested, the department budget is on line.

Ms. McDonald reported that the Ocean View corridor is one of the stronger areas of the City due to East Beach. Additionally, she reports that the service sector is doing well but other businesses are struggling. Overall, though, businesses in Norfolk are doing well as reported in sales and revenue reports, and we are moving in the right direction. The downside is that ports and the military are our major businesses and, if sequestration occurs, it will have a major effect on our economy. If the ports leave and military levels decrease, Ms. McDonald proposes the following solutions to fill the void:

Option #1 – there are lots of young "techies" in Norfolk who are young and creative, and we need to create an atmosphere to keep them in Norfolk where they can work, live, and play. There are

many great neighborhoods throughout Norfolk, and we need to nurture them so they can develop small micro economies; Ghent is a great example.

Option #2 – Use and support the many great Higher Education facilities in the area: EVMS, ODU, NSU, etc. These institutions all have research facilities and there are jobs connected to research. We need to partner with these institutions so they continue the work begun here in Norfolk. If we don't, the jobs won't stay here.

Guest Speakers: Barbara Willis, CEO of Hampton Roads Community Health Center; and her staff, Tracy Davis, Jason Azare

Ms. Willis was happy to report that we finally have a health center up and running in East Ocean View, located in the East Beach Shopping Center next to Mona Lisa Pizza. Getting funding from the federal government took two years and, in the interim, they lost the primary care doctor they had initially contracted, but Ms. Willis was pleased to report they found another very competent primary care physician, Jose Rodriquez M.D., who begins April 15th. Dr. Rodriquez served in the military for twenty years and is new to the private sector. He was introduced to our members at the meeting and is excited about coming here. All staff will be Board-certified. There will even be dental services two days a week.

They anticipate that the demand will be great and slots limited. They offer a full complement of services with an electronic medical record system. This will be comprehensive, quality care. Anyone can use the services and the fee is on a sliding scale. If one is 200% below the poverty level, services are deeply discounted. There are also lab services on site.

Old Business

John Greene reported the following updates (they are also on our website):

The only Master Gardeners class this year will be from Feb. 12 to April 18.

Helen Sommer of *Habitat for Humanity* is hoping to start construction of the Habitat House on 15th Bay Street between February and April or May.

Anne Bolen reported on the new kayak and canoe launch site behind the Rec Center. Anne wrote grants to get the funding and did a great job making this happen. Because it is tidal water, licenses are not needed for kayaks and canoes. One cannot use a trailer to launch these water craft but there is ample parking at the Rec Center. There will even be a place to hose off after your 'trip.' Signs will be used to show the way to the ramp. The City will provide the maintenance and signage, all thanks to the grant.

President Greene reported on behalf of Ward 5 Councilman Tommy Smigiel the City has signed a letter of intent to buy the *Travelers' Inn* site. There are 2 parties interested in buying the *Ramada Inn* site. The city budget process is beginning and there is a link on our website for "Community Conversations." Tommy will be submitting proposals for infrastructure, Bay Oaks Park and business improvement initiatives in EOY.

The Civic League will be exploring Neighborhood Watch, beginning with one street at a time. The CL will also focus on Committee structure this year, especially codes.

New Business

Notice: DOGS MUST BE ON LEASHES at all times without a permit.

Bayside Avenue "Paper Street" issue: Developer Ed Clark owns a "paper street," Bayside Avenue, that runs across the top of the dunes adjacent to all bay front property between approximately 1st Bay – 20th Bay Streets. There is on-going litigation attached to this issue. We propose to have a fuller discussion in March.

Our next meeting is March 7, 2013. Our speaker will be Joe Massey, Juvenile Court Judge.

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

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman, Secretary