

East Ocean View Civic League
Minutes of meeting held March 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	\$3,626.27
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$3,626.27
Net Income	+\$425.10

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

Police Report

Officer Snyder reported there were 19 incidents reported in our area in the last month, including an armed robbery at the Tinee Giant on 7th Bay on the 6th. In response to a question about gang-related activity, he said there is some, but nothing organized and not for quite some time. Any graffiti noted in the area is analyzed before removal. "98% of it is 'tagging;' i.e., not legitimate gang signs. It is a Class 5 felony if one is caught and convicted, however." Longer shifts begin Sunday, the 10th, which will result in greater numbers of officers on the streets; decreased response times; smaller patrol districts; and additional bike teams on the streets. Beach patrol also begins in April.

Speaker: Judge Joe Massey, Juvenile Court

Judge Massey, a Presiding Judge in the Norfolk Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court of the 4th Judicial District of Virginia, was the featured speaker. He said the first Juvenile Court was in Chicago in 1899, set up to protect children against the abuse of companies they were forced to work for. They have evolved to where, today, if over the age of 14, a child can be prosecuted as an adult for "heinous crimes." He indicated that, in his opinion, the basic problem is a lack of leadership in the home. Most youth are minorities; many come from single-parent homes; "too many dead-beat dads who offer no parental or financial support and don't serve as role models." Thus, there is much social work involved, as there are often full dockets with domestic violence cases. Judge Massey spoke highly of the City's Foster Care program, as well as echoing Officer Snyder's positive comments about the City's Anti-gang squads. In response to a question about the need for increased "VoTech" training, he said that would be a great path. "A lot of our truancy is because kids are bored, see no path ahead and, in a leaderless home, they just cannot catch up. There is a great need for tradesmen, and VoTech offers a way ahead."

Guest Speaker: Dr. Amr Sheta, East Beach Dental

Dr. Sheta, a graduate of the University of Cairo in 1995, was introduced to our members at the meeting and is excited about being here. He offers a family practice 6 days/week, for all ages, to include orthodontics. He accepts most insurance plans but added, in response to a question, that "dental insurance is a supplement, and none cover everything, as many people think they do!"

Guest Speaker: Coach Dwight McDowell, EOVB Beach Athletic Association

“Coach Dwight” has been the EOVBAA Director since 1994, and “loves it.” There are between 300-400 local youth involved in a variety of sports (baseball, football, track), as well as co-ed adult softball. He also hosted a “Youth Survival Boot Camp” this past winter and looks forward to doing it again. He said he has no budget; the program runs off donations and “lots of volunteers, which helps make the program a success.” In response to a motion to support the program financially, the Civic League voted to provide \$250 to the EOVBAA, which should be able to sponsor five youth.

Guest Speaker: Delegate Chris Stolle, 83rd District

Delegate Stolle made a last-minute appearance, but was welcomed by the group. He spoke about the recently-concluded Virginia State legislative session, and largely about the transportation bill and Medicaid expenses. He said there was much debate about what is clearly a “(sales) tax increase, not only for the State as a whole, but for us here in Hampton Roads.” In the end, he said, it will more than offset the loss in the “buying power” of the \$0.17/gallon gasoline tax. In response to a question about “what happened to the increase from 4.5% to 5% that was supposed to go for road improvements,” he said the money went into a State Trust Fund, but “state-wide, not just this area, so we saw very little of it. The new tax revenue, which will be controlled by the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, cannot be raided.” The money will go specifically for roads, not public transportation or high-speed or local rail. It will also go towards maintenance first, not new construction, as the former account has been largely depleted. In response to the much-maligned tax on hybrid vehicles, he said, “I have one! The House took it out of the bill; the Senate added it; we’re still trying to get it taken out before signature.”

Regarding Medicaid expansion, he said this was a very difficult decision for Governor McDonnell to make. He said the Governor was “not willing to bet on the Federal ability to reimburse State-funded Medicaid expenses, thus he opted not to buy into Federal reimbursement rules.” He added that we need to “fix the Federal system, *then* expand Medicaid within the State.”

Old Business

A discussion of old business items was compressed in the interests of time. A Neighborhood Watch program for EOVBAA will be discussed at greater length in April. The first step will be identifying volunteers to attend an information session with our new Crime Prevention Officer, Antonio Barrera. Informational materials are on our website. The City’s Leash Laws have also been brought up and summarized; to wit, everyone must have their dog on a leash at all times unless you have an off-leash permit. They, too, are on the website. Last, the so-called “paper street”—Bayside Avenue, north of East Ocean View Avenue—will be discussed more in April when additional information has been acquired.

New Business (8:20)

A workshop for all Landlords, or prospective landlords, will be held at the Zoo beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the 21st. A Community Walk will be held this SAT, the 9th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. from the corner of Granby and Olney Road, to learn more about and discuss the proposed Arts and Design District along Granby Street north of Brambleton Avenue downtown.

Last, Mona Lisa Pizza will be submitting a request for a “special exception” to the City Planning Commission to expand operating hours. A discussion was deferred until April to allow a similar request by AJ Gators Sports Bar to go before City Council on 26 March; and for Tommy Posilero, Mona Lisa’s owner, to discuss the request at the April Civic League meeting. He was unable to attend this one.

The next meeting is Thursday, April 4th. Ms. Angie Kellam, the CEO of Samaritan House, will talk about her work and efforts there, which should be a very interesting discussion. Mr. David Speer, Norfolk Civil Engineer, will also give an update on what is now the ongoing Pump Station Upgrade at the SW corner of Pretty Lake Ave and Shore Drive. And, last, someone from Bon Secours will be here to talk about their spring initiative, "Passport to Health," a summary of which is posted to our website.

A motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by,

John M. Greene, Jr., President