

East Ocean View Civic League  
Minutes of meeting held April 4, 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	\$3,627.09
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$3,627.09
Net Income	-\$265.08

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

**Police Report**

Officer Folscher reported that the department has been doing sweeps in the area and they have been effective. He introduced Sgt. Lee, who is in charge of this area, which contains 18-20 Civic Leagues, including Willoughby and West Ocean View. They both reported they are monitoring the complaints about dogs on the beach, and the Beach Patrol will be up to full speed by Memorial Day.

The crimes in the area continue to be mostly larceny from autos. Tinee Giant on East Ocean View Avenue has now been robbed twice recently. The Police ask that citizens be alert and report suspicious activity.

In answer to a question about bike patrols, there is a small unit with one Sergeant and eight officers who are currently focusing on Little Creek Road. Drinking on the beach is against the law, and there is zero tolerance close to the beach where there are families and life guards. There may be a bit more leeway if one is quiet, and there is no alcohol "in evidence."

**Speaker: Angie Kellam, Executive Director, Samaritan House**

Samaritan House provides services for homeless families and those fleeing domestic violence. Offices are located in Virginia Beach but serve the entire Hampton Roads area. They are 29 years old, have 35 employees, a host of volunteers, and receive 8,000 calls a year for assistance. They grew out of a need cited by faith based communities in the area, and are the largest domestic violence/homeless center in Virginia. They operate from a \$2.4M budget, and provide housing for the homeless mainly through host homes. 80% of the homelessness is caused by domestic violence and 30% of the homicides in Hampton Roads are related to domestic violence. Samaritan House has safe houses all over the area.

Samaritan House works with local landlords to "case manage" families when they are able to get into their own home. Their primary focus is on the children in these families and 63% of their clients are school aged children. 60% of these children will be involved in delinquent behavior if not reached and have services early on. Consequently they began a program entitled "Safe Start," to assess children and determine their needs when they first come to Samaritan House.

Ms. Kellam said there are three things we can do as citizens to help:

- 1) Be alert and, if you suspect something is not right in a particular household, alert these people that there is help available from Samaritan House.
- 2) Volunteer. There are many, many opportunities to help that include: sorting materials or clothes for their store, helping clients prepare resumes, working with the children in many capacities, using your computer skills, etc.
- 3) Donate your treasures: clothes, household items, etc. Trucks will come to your house to pick up items. Their store is called, "Thrift Store City."

### **Old Business**

Mona Lisa Restaurant is will be applying to both Planning Commission and City Council for a "special exception" to have their hours of operation extended to reflect the same hours as approved for AJ Gators. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by the membership to support this request. Hours, if approved, will be: Monday through Thursday to 1AM; Friday and Saturday to 2AM, and Sunday to Midnight.

The City is considering legal action against developer Ed Clarke regarding the so-called "Paper Street" that runs across the dunes between approximately 1<sup>st</sup> Bay – 20<sup>th</sup> Bay Streets, but the home owners involved have received no notification as yet.

President Greene passed around a sign-up sheet for members to register interest in learning more about a Neighborhood Watch Crime Prevention Program for East Ocean View.

### **New Business**

The New Life Christian Center is sponsoring an event called *Compassion 2013* on May 18<sup>th</sup>, from 9AM to Noon, to benefit their Storefront, which serves the area by distributing food, clothing, and household items to those in need. They will serve over 500 families, distribute food, do health screening and medical consultations, and have healthy eating demonstrations. The Civic League eagerly agreed to be a sponsor for \$250. Other sponsors include: New Life Christian Center, Operation Blessing, Bon Secours Health Systems and many other community organizations. They need 120 volunteers to serve in a variety of ways so please consider donating some time to help them.

There is a Town Hall meeting on Monday, 7PM, at the New Crossroads Rec. Center to discuss the proposed hotel and conference center in Downtown Norfolk. The event is sponsored by Councilman Tommy Smigiel.

Evans Poston is running against Sharon McDonald in the Democratic Primary for Commissioner of the Revenue, and there will be a debate April 11<sup>th</sup> in the Lake Taylor Hospital cafeteria. Ms. McDonald spoke to us recently and Mr. Poston has requested to address us.

Habitat for Humanity is beginning the construction of 2 new homes on 15<sup>th</sup> Bay. There is a kick off celebration on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. There are several opportunities to help out. Please contact Habitat for details.

Wetlands Planting will occur on Colley Bay. April 20<sup>th</sup> from 9AM to Noon, and volunteers are needed.

Our next meeting is May 2, 2013. Our speakers will be Chuck Rigney, Interim Development Director, City of Norfolk; and David Speer, Norfolk Bureau of Engineering.

A motion was made, and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman, Secretary