

East Ocean View Civic League
Minutes of meeting held September 5, 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	\$4,225.33
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$4,225.33
Net Income	-\$213.18

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

Police Report

Officer Snyder, Community Resource Officer (CRO), reported that, during the summer, the 6-Member CRO unit covers 8 ½ miles of beach and drinking and dogs on the beach continue to be a concern. There will be an OV Task Force meeting on Sept 19th (at 5:30 p.m. at the Pretlow Library) to discuss the continuation of the off leash permit and when dogs can be on the beach.

As for crime stats, there were 69 incidents over the last 2 1/2 months since we last met. Larceny is the major crime in the area covering both homes and autos. Officer Snyder reported that 90% of the cars that were involved were unlocked and he is concerned because several of the cars contained guns. He reminded everyone to lock their car doors, but also not to leave guns in a car! Property crime had been decreasing but he has seen an uptick lately.

Speaker: Moravia Reed, Community Outreach, Norfolk Police

Ms. Reed was at our meeting to encourage us to nominate someone for the Police Department Crime Prevention Award. There are 6 categories, including youth, and handouts were available. The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, September 18th.

Speaker: Jim McDonnell, Candidate for the Office of City Treasurer

Mr. McDonnell was at the meeting asking us to support his candidacy for City Treasurer. He is a lifelong resident of Norfolk and attended Maury HS and ODU. Last year he was a nominee for the Crime Prevention Award mentioned above. He currently works for Merrill Lynch here in Norfolk and is also the President of the Talbot Park Civic League and is on the Economic Development Board. Mr. McDonnell stated that the Treasurer is a critical part of City Government, as the office collects taxes, and manages and distributes money. To differentiate the office from that of the Assessor's Office, the Commissioner of the Revenue assesses taxes. He stated that, at present, there is no association between these offices. Issues he deems important are changing back the Senior Tax Relief policy and collecting the \$20 - \$50 million in unpaid taxes owed to the City. He is not party-affiliated and vows to work hard if elected. His opponent is Anthony Burfoot, who will speak to us next month.

Speaker: Sherry Battle-Edmonds, Candidate for the Office of Commissioner of the Revenue

Ms. Edmonds was at the meeting asking us to support her candidacy for Commissioner of the Revenue. She believes that the Commissioner of the Revenue Office needs someone with a strong technical background and she states that she has that background. She is also an entrepreneur and feels she brings many talents to the job. Mr. Evans Postum, who defeated Sharon McDonald, the incumbent, is also running for this position.

Speaker: Brian Knight, Environmental Health Supervisor, City of Norfolk

Mr. Knight spoke on two topics, mosquitoes and rat control. First, Mr. Knight stated that, besides those two issues, his office also does inspections of water, restaurants and swimming pools. He brought 'mosquito dunks' to hand out to members who wanted them. They go into places where there is standing water, such as fountains and ponds, to prevent mosquitoes from breeding in them. It only takes 1 tsp. of water for a mosquito to lay eggs! His department surveys sites throughout the City looking for areas that produce CO₂ (carbon dioxide), as mosquitoes are attracted to such sites. They have identified 20 different kinds of mosquitoes in Norfolk but stated that there is no Eastern Equine or Nile virus here. If a site tests positive, the area is fogged and the residents notified.

Second, Mr. Knight stated that there have been many rat complaints lately. There are two types in this area: Norway rats and roof rats. Norway rats dig holes; roof rats climb trees and get into attics. The best way to get rid of them is to get rid of their food source, such as dog food or garbage, as they love junk and debris.

There is a web site, domyownpestcontrol.com, where one can buy a high grade, professional rat killer.

Old Business

We held a very successful neighborhood clean-up project, led by Amanda Skupin and Ann Bolen, on Saturday, July 20th. They are to be commended for their organization and leadership on this project. Not only was a lot of trash and debris picked up, but we fed many neighbors.

Next Spring we will finally have the dedication of, and ribbon cutting for, the kayak ramp to be located behind the Rec Center.

John Hadfield, Board member, is putting together Welcome packets for new residents to the area.

Councilman Tommy Smigiel hosted an EOVS Steering Committee meeting, with both City leaders and members representing all parts of EOVS, at the end of August. This group plans to meet monthly. There was discussion on the process that targets properties for acquisition and demolition. There is also a proposed study to determine best use of streets around Bay Oaks Park, especially 6th and 7th Bay areas, in conjunction with a possible Home-A-Rama proposed for that area. Severe flooding will have to be addressed first, however. Part of the Bay Oaks Park proposal is also to close 4th Bay Street, but there is no budget item for this.

Coach Dwight McDowell thanked all who contributed money so the neighborhood kids, football players and cheerleaders could have new equipment. The major issue was football helmets, as all of the old ones failed inspection. Due to the generosity of donors, the football team now has top of the line helmets to play in and the cheerleaders have new equipment also. Coach Dwight brought the team in to thank the members of the Civic League for their help.

New Business

Habitat for Humanity is constructing two new houses on 15th Bay and is looking for volunteers, especially with building skills, to help them in September and October. Please sign up.

Hampton Roads Transit is holding meetings right now to educate the public and get feedback about extending the TIDE to the Naval Station. Meetings will be held on September 10, 11, and 12. See our website for particulars.

We have many street lights out in East Ocean View and we ask your help. If you notice a light that is not working, go to the pole, get the number from the pole, then go to the City Website and report it as the best way to get results.

Last, and both these are going to be covered at the OV Task Force meeting on Thursday, Sept 19th, but Councilman Smigiel asked for initial thoughts on a possible Beach Curfew and No Dog Off Leash Permits. First, at this time there is no curfew for the actual beaches. The public beach parking lots—Community, Ocean View, and Sarah Constant—are closed after dark, but there have been “issues.” Some citizens have asked if the City of Norfolk could put a curfew on beaches so they are off limits after a certain time. A brief discussion led to the conclusion this is an enforcement issue—i.e., don’t have a curfew and penalize law-abiding citizens—but rather punish and fine those who break the law—fires on the beach, open drinking, etc. Second, dogs on the beach are supposed to be on a leash, unless the owner has obtained an “off-leash permit,” of which there are approximately 25 off-leash permit holders in the entire city! An argument has been made that it is confusing both for those without permits but also enforcement officials when they see dogs off leash. It’s also a health (dog feces) and safety issue (dogs around small children). A recommendation has been made to eliminate the off-leash permit for beaches, and increase enforcement of those who don’t follow the law. Council believes that increased enforcement could fix the problem, but that is problematic given limited staff and funding. Again, both will be discussed more fully on the 19th, and then at Council at a later date to be determined.

Our next meeting is October 3, 2013 and will be at AJ Gators in the East Beach Shoppes Center, and will start at 6PM. The first hour will be a Happy Hour and we are looking to attract new members. The second half of the meeting will be a regular meeting. Our speaker will be Vice Mayor Anthony Burfoot, a candidate for City Treasurer.

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

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman, Secretary

