

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held April 3, 2014

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	\$6283.96
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$6283.96
Net Income	\$1,125.00

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

Police Report

Officer Warren Snyder spoke and noted crime stats look good. There were 18 incidents for the month, mostly property crimes. The coming warm months mean there will be more activity as school is out and there will be an increase in juvenile crime.

The Academy graduation means our area will probably get 12 new recruits and this is good news. After a three month period of training the new recruits will become part of the regular precinct force.

In response to a question, the homicide last month on 8th Bay is still under investigation and no arrests have been made. Officer Snyder states this is not a random crime and they do have a suspect.

There is graffiti under the Pretty Lake Bridge but it was determined it is not gang tagging. Please be aware, people doing this have to be on a boat. Report any spraying activity to the police.

Guest Speaker: Darrell Crittendon, Director of Parks and Recreation and Open Spaces, Norfolk

Mr. Crittendon introduced two members of his team, James Mitchell who runs the Community Centers, and Jason Barnes, who is in charge of Open Spaces.

Mr. Crittendon stated the City of Norfolk has a \$20 million dollar deficit and in order to balance this deficit his department will have \$1 million cut from its budget. Therefore, they are working to restructure their budget. As far as projects in our area are concerned:

- *our center will get a new basketball court by July 1
- *after attending our meeting they announced that our center will get new folding chairs
- *the opening of the new kayak ramp will meet the May deadline
- *Norfolk bike month is coming. Check the City website for more details.

*Senior Olympics – all citizens who are 50 years of age and above are encouraged to participate. There are a wide variety of events. ODU, in conjunction with the City, will host this event for the next four years.

*Bay Oaks Park – plans are 91% complete with construction documents, however, there is no construction money and \$3.2 million is needed. The City plans to construct the Park in yearly phases. In the meantime, the City will refurbish the basketball court at the back of the Park with a new surface so it can be used until construction begins on the Park. This agreement was reached by Jason Barnes of the City and Rodney Hammonds of the New Life Christian Center Church and the Civic League.

*RBI baseball – the City is reviving this program for inner city youth. It is sponsored by Major League Baseball and there is a minimum charge to participate. This program does not compete with other youth leagues in the area.

*The EOVS Senior Center – there are possible plans to relocate the Senior Center if the sale of the land they sit upon is sold as a part of the deal to develop the area that also includes where the Ramada Inn had been located. There are no concrete plans but talk has included buying the Bank of the Commonwealth and refurbishing that site as a Senior Center. The Senior Center is City funded and staffed by the City. It was suggested that the City have its Grant Writer pursue grants to help fund this project.

Guest Speaker: Jim Driggers, Candidate for City Council

Mr. Driggers is running against Councilman Tommy Smigiel for City Council. The election is May 6th. There will be a debate on April 15th at Granby High School, along with a Mayoral candidates' debate.

Mr. Driggers stated he has three focal points: education, infrastructure, and business. He is concerned that the Business Association in the Little Creek area no longer exists and wants to revive this association.

Guest Speaker: Chris Sheppard, Sheppard Custom Homes; and Tina Minton, Casa Bella Development

Mr. Sheppard spoke for both Tina Minton and himself. They are interested in building 7 homes on the lot that once housed the Bayview Motel at 3901 East Ocean View Avenue; are requesting the property be rezoned from C-2 (commercial) to R-12 (residential); and would like the support of the Civic League. They spoke to the Civic League Board last week and outlined their plans. The Board asked for more details and Mr. Sheppard seems amenable to changes. This project goes to the Planning Commission at the end of April, but the drawings must go before the City Architect beforehand and we need to understand that the drawings we see might be changed.

As at the Board meeting, there was a great deal of discussion about the fact the 7 houses appear very similar in appearance. They were asked to go back to the drawing board and be more creative, and to refer to the City's "Neighborhood Planning Book." Councilman Tommy Smigiel was present at the meeting and suggested that the City might consider dropping their lien on the property if 6 homes, rather than 7 were built. The developers indicated 7 are needed to make their "price point."

In conclusion, the Civic League voted to approve the change in rezoning but have concerns with the facades of the houses. The motion to approve, with concerns noted, was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Old Business

The Community Garden works under the guidance and direction of Deborah Lutz, who commented, "This is a wonderful part of our area and we would love more volunteers." Everyone is encouraged to adopt a garden box; come to the Spring Clean-Up and Planting April 26; the Strawberry Festival, May 31; the Watermelon Festival on July 12th; and to please look for all the Fall events that are planned.

Coach Dwight has postponed his "Boot camp" for students to the Fall and will have it coincide with the opening of school. He will need volunteers and financial assistance at that time.

The expansion of Jessy Tienda's has been approved by the City.

The Codes Committee continues to file complaints with Norfolk Cares. The good news is that 7 property owners fixed their problems before the Committee had to report them. Amanda Skupin and committee are doing an amazing job. See Amanda if you can help. This committee is making a huge difference and the City has taken note.

New Business

John Greene, along with many other Civic League Presidents and Community leaders, took part in a Budget Exercise sponsored by the City. The purpose of the exercise was to let the community know the City has a \$20 million shortfall and had participants trying to come up with ways to solve it.

The motel at 3011 EOV Ave. is now condemned and the City intends to sell and or redevelop.

The City has a potential buyer for 719 EOV Ave, which is the site of the old Ramada Inn and also the adjacent property where the Senior Center is located. The property cost \$3 million and the plan includes 250 market rate apartments and 20,000 square feet of retail space. It looks like it will be over a year before any dirt is moved.

The Dairy Queen in the Food Lion parking lot is to be torn down and several other businesses have expressed interest in that site. Stay tuned for more developments.

The annual "Keep Norfolk Beautiful" Clean-Up Day will be May 3rd from 9AM to 12:30PM. Our home base will be the Rec. Center this year. We need lots of volunteers and are thrilled the Sheriff will provide a clean up crew again this year to help us out. Please check our Newsletter or web page (www.livingov.com) for more information. Please call Ann Bolen 362-0337 if you or your group wishes to become a sponsor. Bags and gloves will be provided. A picnic lunch will be served to all volunteers. We will also dedicate the kayak ramp that day.

Our next meeting will be May 1st at the East Ocean View Recreation Center at 7PM. Our guest speakers will be Ms. Barbara Willis, CEO of Hampton Roads Community Health Center and Mr. David Speer, City Engineer, who will give us an update on the new pump station.

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

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman, Secretary