

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held May 1, 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	\$6382.96
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$6382.96
Net Income	\$345.60

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

Police Report

Officer Warren Snyder spoke and reported that there were 15 reported incidents for the month, again, mostly property crimes. There were 2 violent crimes, one of which was a domestic incident where there was no report made as the people involved did not wish to press charges.

The Beach Patrol started on May 1st. Officer Snyder reported that the hours of the patrol will be staggered on Fridays and Saturdays to provide longer coverage of the beach front. SROs (School Resource Officers) will help them when school lets out.

In response to a question about "dogs on the beach" rules, the answer was no dogs are allowed on the beach in any season without the owner having an off leash permit, the permit must be with them and the owners must produce it when asked. Additionally, dogs off leash must respond promptly to their owner and return to the owner as soon as called. Officer Snyder reported that there are lots of complaints about dogs on the beach.

Guest Speaker: Representative Chris Stolle (R), 83rd District

Dr. Stolle is a retired Naval Officer, has an MBA from William and Mary and is a medical doctor. He works as Vice President of Regional Affairs at Riverside Medical Center where he works as a Physician Advisor.

Dr. Stolle reported that this has been a long General assembly session but went well until the last three weeks. He and others are working on Bill HJ 16, which creates a subcommittee to work on flooding in this area. He stated that the consensus was that we need to meet and come together and work on realistic possibilities when storms hit. He is working with the Army Corps of Engineers and others on adaptations.

Bill HB 2 concerns the Commonwealth Transportation Board and states that there has to be a mechanism in place to explain how they spend their funds. Dr. Stolle stated that this committee is using tax monies wisely. One can now go on line to their website and see what projects they are working on and how they are funded. Every project gets assigned specific criteria based on a number of factors and is quantified and ranked before the money is spent. Each area of the State has different needs so projects may differ widely.

The assembly is also working on SOL (Standards of Learning) reforms. The State wants to encourage critical thinking in our students and not have teachers teaching to the test, therefore, the number of SOL tests has been reduced to give extra time to teachers to expand the curriculum.

Dr. Stolle also reports that the General Assembly is looking into ethics reform.

The Assembly has not been able to approve a budget because of conflict over the Medicare expansion (Affordable Care Act) issue. The ACA did not pass through the committee process, as the Democratic-led Senate put it into the budget; hence, there was no debate because it bypassed the entire legislative process. This tactic undermines the legislative process, according to Dr. Stolle, thus there is as yet no plan to fund the Medicare expansion and the General Assembly remains deadlocked over the issue. Dr. Stolle believes that the General Assembly will eventually pass a budget that does not include the Medicare expansion. By the way, if there is no budget, the State shuts down.

In answer to questions from the floor Dr. Stolle reported that Federal matching funds are now 50% and the Feds have promised to fund the program at a 90% rate for the next three years. Reimbursement is to be based on the Federal poverty level.

Dr. Stolle reported that the Federal Government is facing the same problem as the State in regards to transportation issues as the program is funded on gas taxes and they are falling. Our money comes from the federal government and this year there has been a dramatic shortfall in funds because the Feds are running out of money for transportation.

A member questioned why the Transportation money goes to NOVA. In response Dr. Stolle said that the Commonwealth Transportation Board is working on keeping money raised in the location it was generated. Hampton Roads had 3 representatives on this committee but the Governor has removed two members and replaced them with people from NOVA. This is very concerning to our area.

Guest Speaker: Barbara Willis, CEO Hampton Roads Community Health Center

Ms. Willis reports that the Health Care Center in the East Beach Shopping Center is doing very well and now has dental care. The Health Center has been in operation for a full year with a full-time medical doctor who saw over 500 patients last year. She is very pleased to announce the Center has had dental facilities for the past 6 months. They provide good medical care and also help clients apply for an insurance policy under the AC Act. They offer affordable help and very reasonable hours of operation.

Ms. Willis took exception to many of the arguments Dr. Stolle offered against the Affordable Care Act. She stated passionately that people should be the focus of our approach to medical care. There was a lively exchange that showed that Ms. Willis and Dr. Stolle are on opposite sides of this argument.

Ms. Willis will come back next month as her power point presentation was not operational and she will expand upon what the Center offers the community.

Old Business

Last month Mr. Sheppard, who is interested in building 7 homes on the lot that once housed the Bayview Motel at 3901 East Ocean View Avenue, requested our support in rezoning the from C-2 (commercial) to R-12 (residential). We voted to support this change of zoning but were concerned that the houses were too

similar in appearance. This project went to the Planning Commission at the end of April, where they approved the zoning change but want the plans refined to meet or mirror the plans that have been used for others buildings in the area. The City Architect, Ron Moore, is using City pattern books to influence the design. Ground breaking will not occur until at least June of this year.

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

The issue of the paper street that runs along the dune line at the Bay went to court this week and the judge threw Ed Clarke's case out, in which he claimed ownership of this paper street. It was great news for home owners along the Bay.

John Greene, President, and Amanda Skuppin, Head of the Codes Committee, met with George Homewood and the City Codes team. They even toured the area. As of the end of April, 40% of the code violations that Amanda's committee has identified have been fixed or repaired. This committee is doing a wonderful job for our community and is very effective.

The City will be refurbishing the basketball court at the south end of Bay Oaks Park with a new surface. This court will be used by the youth of the area 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.

New Business

The new Kayak/boat ramp was dedicated on Saturday, May 3rd in conjunction with the annual "Keep Norfolk Beautiful" Clean-Up Day. We needed lots of volunteers and are thrilled the Sheriff provided a clean up crew to help us out. Please check our Newsletter or web page (www.livingeov.com) for more information. A picnic lunch was served to all volunteers.

Coach Dwight is sponsoring our Senior Olympics team. All citizens who are 50 years of age and above are encouraged to participate. There is a wide variety of events. ODU, in conjunction with the City, will host this event at ODU on May 12 through 15.

The Storefront, a part of the New Life Christian Center, is holding a Yard Sale on Saturday, May 24th, from 8am to 1pm in the parking lot of East Beach Shoppes. The church has been in the area for 28 years and provides a wonderful service to those in this community. The Church is looking for donations for this yard sale. Please bring any usable items to the Church, Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:30am to 2:30pm. They will pick up your items if you call them.

On May 10th from 9am to 2pm the Norfolk Sheriff, Commissioner of the Revenue, and the DMV are holding a Community Day get together at Harbor Park.

The City of Norfolk is accepting nominations for the School Board. One can self nominate. Check the City website for the process includes filling out forms and an interview.

Guest Speaker: Tommy Smigiel, Councilman, Norfolk City Council

Tommy Smigiel is running for reelection to the City Council. Tommy addressed the group and enumerated the things he is working on to improve East Ocean View and the things he has accomplished during his term.

Remember to vote on Tuesday, May 6th.

Our June meeting will be the last one before summer break. Our speakers next month will be:

- State Senator Lynwood Lewis
- David Speer, City Engineer, on the Pump Station upgrade
- Barbara Willis, CEO Hampton Roads Community Health Center

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

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman,

Secretary