

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held June 5, 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	\$6089.02
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$6089.02
Net Income	\$293.94

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

Police Report

Officer Warren Snyder, our Community Resource Officer, spoke and reported that the stats for this period were elevated—50 reported incidents for the month—but were mostly property crimes/larcenies due to the warm weather. We were advised to call 911 immediately if we suspect some person or activity.

The Beach Patrol started on May 1st, and the patrol's biggest issue is at the City beach. Various issues needing police presence are going on. They have already written 25 summons. Officer Snyder reported that it takes the patrol approximately 4 hours to go from Willoughby to Little Creek and back on their vehicles. He also noted that, when people are aware of this, they 'change' their behavior when they see the patrol until after the patrol leaves.

Parking is also a problem with the lot beside the old Ships Cabin gone. The Police Chief, Councilmen Smigiel and Wynn are aware of the parking problem and working on it. Call 911 to report illegally parked cars or other suspicious behavior. He noted the Beach Patrol cannot leave the beach to deal with parked cars, but other uniformed officers will be dispatched.

In response to a question as to whether boats are allowed inside the jetty to pull up to the beach and/or anchor, Snyder said, "If the area is crowded and people are swimming they are not allowed in the area. If only to anchor and not disturb anyone, it's allowed."

Guest Speaker: State Senator Lynwood Lewis (D), Sixth District

Senator Lewis was elected in a special election in January to fill then-Senator Ralph Northam's vacated seat when Sen. Northam was elected Lt. Governor. To connect with the voters in the district Sen. Lewis is having two town meetings this month: June 17 at Old Dominion University at 7pm; and June 23 at the Pretlow Library at 7pm. Senator Lewis' toll free number is: 866-797-1094

Senator Lewis reports he has a very busy schedule and is on several committees: Commerce and Labor; Rehab and Social Services (includes the ABC Board); the Local Government Committee, and the newly formed committee dealing with recurrent flooding.

Senator Lewis reported that the 2014 session was very long as it went eight weeks. They were supposed to write and pass a budget every two years but that has not happened yet. Virginia must have a budget by July 1st, the end of the fiscal year. The Delegates and Senators are on stand-by June 10th through June 30th to come to Richmond for a resolution of the budget. If the budget issue is not resolved the results will be devastating and felt across the State. Sen. Lewis says they are working on a solution and he feels they will be called back to a special session where they will pass a budget. The main problem is the health coverage issue. The Virginia Senate, in a bipartisan approach, wants to use federally-available money for a voucher system. Their program, called Marketplace VA, is expected to save \$600M over ten years with this approach. It has a “kill switch” if/when Government money is no longer available.

As for what did get done, the SOLs were reformed modestly for grades K – 12. They reduced the number of tests the students take, dropping the tests for social studies and science so the emphasis can be put on reading, mathematics, and writing instruments. They are studying how to measure progress. The mental health system was reformed in reaction to the “Creigh Deeds case.” \$38 million was added to their budget to get more beds for patients and looking into the length of time a person can be hospitalized. They are also looking at ethics reforms as a result of the McDonald case, tightening rules and regulations.

In response to a question about Lottery money, he said that, initially, the Lottery was to be used to fund education in VA. Subsequently, these monies were siphoned off for other purposes. That issue has been fixed and now the funds go towards education. The “catch” is they don’t supplement what the State gives schools but, rather, becomes the money that schools get.

When asked about flooding, Senator Lewis responded that, outside of New Orleans, Norfolk is the city that most at risk for flooding. A joint subcommittee has been formed to study the issue for two years and come up with recommendations. It is hoped that the Federal Government will lend financial assistance.

Guest Speaker: David Speer, Department of Utilities, City of Norfolk

The new Pump Station under the Pretty Lake Bridge is complete. It serves the area from the bridge to 11th Bay Street. Their next project is replacing aging water and sewer pipes starting at 21st and 22nd Bay Streets and Pretty Lake Avenue, and then moving west along Pleasant Avenue. Construction, though staggered, will be going on for years.

Old Business

Mr. Chris Sheppard, who is interested in building 7 homes on the lot that once housed the Bayview Motel at 3901 East Ocean View Avenue, requested and received approval of a zoning change request from the Planning Commission and the City but they their plans must first 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 this process is complete.

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

John Greene attended the City budget meeting that was held on May 7th at Granby High School. The budget passed and there were raises for teachers and EMTs. John spoke on behalf of EOV and neighborhood support but additional City funds are not in the budget.

The Mayor's Ocean View Task Force meeting is held quarterly and is hosted by Councilmen Smigiel and Wynn. The City distributed updated flood zone maps. As a result of this study, some homeowners may see increases in their flood insurance premiums. The waterslide at the Sarah Constant beach is up and running. It is privately run and was approved by the Pinewell Civic League.

The Codes Committee is active and working to improve the neighborhoods. If you see code violations contact Norfolk Cares online. Check our website for more information. 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 kayak/canoe ramp is up and running.

New Business

Coach Dwight reported that Senior Olympics was a great success. Many medals were passed out. His Youth Survival Seminar ("boot camp") will be held in August and the membership voted to give his group \$700 to sponsor attendees—sufficient to fund 20 student's fees at \$35/child. This is a very positive experience for children in this area. Participants will also receive school supplies at the end of the event.

Our next meeting will be September 4th. Please check our website regularly for information about our area and what is occurring here.

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

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman

Secretary