

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held October 2, 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                 | \$6111.87 |
| Total Liabilities and Equity | \$6111.87 |
| Net Income                   | \$-155.33 |

The Board intends to resolve the license plate account, \$850.39, as the person whose initiative it was passed away and the bank that handled the account has gone out of business.

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

**Police Report**

Officer Warren Snyder, our Community Resource Officer, was accompanied by Lt. Launder, the Blue Sector Commander. They both spoke and reported that our crime statistics are down for the last reporting period. There were 37 reported crimes, of which 33 were property crimes/larcenies, mainly from automobiles. We later learned they were mainly in the East Beach area and residents have been asked to be aware and lock their vehicles. In 85% of these crimes, owners reported that they had not locked their cars.

Councilman Smigiel had asked the Lieutenant to break down the statistics for this area over a three month period. The Lieutenant reported the aggravated assault crimes in our area were all either domestic-related or acquaintances of the victim. Most of these reports have been cleared either by arrest or declining to prosecute. The Lieutenant broke down the statistics on property crime and reported that these crimes were perpetrated by juveniles or younger adults who were checking cars. The hot spots in July were the 1st View area; in August, the 2000 block of East Ocean View Drive and Denbigh Park area; and in September, 1st View towards East Beach.

Officer Snyder reported that on Saturday, October 4, 2014, the Police Department and members of the East Ocean View Rec. Ctr., ages 14-17, will have a basketball game from 6-9 p.m. The purpose is to build a better social relationship between the police and the youth in the area.

**Guest Speakers: Councilman Tommy Smigiel and Bruce Leuthold, NRHA**

Councilman Smigiel did a presentation, "New East Ocean View Area," that outlined the four areas/priorities that he and the Redevelopment and Housing Authority are working on: Economic Development, Infrastructure, Healthy Communities, Quality of Life. Among items mentioned:

- There is a *Starbucks* coming into the Food Lion shopping center and is already under construction. *Starbucks* usually means a higher retail area.

- There is also a Verizon Wireless store that is proposed for the same area of the shopping center.
- The motel at 3011 East Ocean View Avenue is finally demolished.
- The kayak launch is finally complete but may need some final finishing touches.
- The City has bought properties in the 7th Bay area and will demolish them.
- The City, after being initially rebuffed, made another offer on the Bank of the Commonwealth building to use as the new Senior Center.
- The Tax Infrastructure issue discussed this past spring has been delayed. Until or unless changed, taxes from any new houses in EOV go into the general fund and not the EOV fund.
- The City has allotted a revenue increase of \$250,000 to get work started on Bay Oaks Park, though the project needs \$3.2 million to complete. This is in addition to \$400,000 previously allocated for infrastructure in our area.
- The City is now targeting 5th - 7th Bay Streets (7.2 acres with "Urban Residential" [East Beach design] zoning) to build up to 40 homes on 50 foot lots, 1200-2400 square feet, with a targeted sales price of \$325-350K. Money from the sale of the lots would go toward infrastructure needs. Homes would need to be raised significantly due to flooding issues and conform to coastal design guidelines. There is no set design yet, nor contractor(s) chosen. The Request for Qualifications will be released in November; a Request for Proposal in December; and possible agreement by April 2015. There could be one builder chosen or a consortium of builders.

#### **Guest Speaker - Mr. Corey Coleman, Co-owner of Cross Fit Little Creek**

The Cross Fit Center is located in the East Beach Shopping Center at the opposite end of the strip to Mona Lisa Pizza. They have been opened since May 2014 and can accommodate clients age 3-75 yrs. There are high intensity work outs and each session lasts an hour. All are invited to come and check them out.

#### **Old Business**

The owners of the Lagoon Restaurant, who spoke to us in September to get League approval for live music, missed the deadline for the September City Planning Commission meeting and will present their request at the October session. John Greene, President, will attend and verify the Civic League voted its approval. The meeting is open to all residents of the City of Norfolk.

The Neighborhood Expo, sponsored by the City Neighborhood Development Department, was held last month 20th at the New Croc Center and was very well attended as over 500 gift bags were given out. Board member, Amanda Skupin, nominated Jessy's Taqueria for the *Cool Award* for the best small business, and Jessy's won!

The owner of the property at 3814 Pleasant Ave., which partially burned across from New Life Christian Center, continues to fight demolition. The City Attorney has asked that it be torn down but three hearings have been continued.

The Codes Committee is active and working to improve the neighborhoods. Amanda, who leads our codes effort, asks that if you see code violations contact Norfolk Cares and put in a work order.

Ginny Alberts reports that the Bay Oaks Park clean-up was very successful and they are going to do it again on Saturday, October 11th from 9am to 11am. Please come out and join us.

In response to a question asked last month about the status of the beach sand replenishment, Lee Rosenberg, the Environmental Services Manager for the City, commented, "renourishment is still on track for Spring of 2015. The project is going through environmental permitting right now."

### **New Business**

Please consider taking part in the Celebration of Arbor Day, October 4th, from 10am to 2pm at Lafayette Park. Trees will be given to participants to take home and plant.

We will hold our annual Membership Night/Open House at Jessy's Taqueria on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 7pm to 9pm. Please come, join and meet other members of the Civic League and the community.

The Community Gardens will hold the *Garden Apple and Pumpkin Festival* on October 25th. Please see our website or Deborah Lutz for details.

The Rec. Center is having a Halloween 'Spooktacular' on October 30th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm for the neighborhood children. There was a motion, which was seconded and approved, that the Civic League donate \$400 to the Rec. Center towards this event.

It is also anticipated the Civic League will support Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the New Life Christian Church, and the Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the Rec. Center.

At our next meeting in November, we will be looking for and accepting nominations for the Board of Directors. The positions that are open are President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer (all one year terms) and several general member Board positions. We are always looking for "new blood" and for people who want to be involved. Elections are in December and one must be a current member to vote.

Our next meeting will be the November 6th our speakers will be Mr. Patrick Wilson, reporter for the Virginian Pilot and Mr. David Speer, City Engineer.

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