

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held December 4, 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	\$4622.12
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$4622.12
Net Income	\$-338.00

Continuing note: 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

Both Officers Snyder and Folscher, our Community Resource Officers, were present. Officer Snyder reported that crime in our area is down by half. There were 17 incidents—16 were property crimes and one was an assault on 10th Bay where the victim was reluctant to identify the shooter. Officer Snyder reminds us to be extra cautious during the holidays and use the mall security to walk you to and from your cars. It is *most* important to pay attention to your surroundings.

Guest Speaker: Chris Stolle, MD, Representative, 83rd House District

Dr. Stolle reports that the House goes back into session in January and he would like to hear from his constituents as to what is important to us. One of their tasks recently has been the appointment of three new judges whom he feels are outstanding people. He reports that he sits on the Appropriations Committee, and is Chairman of the Joint Commission on Recurring Flooding, which deals with issues not just in Hampton Roads but in the State of Virginia. They are working closely with the Governor's Panel on Climate Change and talking about sea level rise.

Topics covered included:

- Roads. We are beginning to see tangible results on I-64/-264 from a bill passed two years ago. The number one project, which is approved and funded, is the expansion of I-64 past Newport News to the Fort Eustis exit, including resurfacing the roads and making the roads smooth and safe. After that the project will expand to both Williamsburg exits. There are also three “mega projects” under consideration: the third crossing which will require a huge amount of money, a new Hampton Roads Bridge tunnel, and the high rise bridge to Chesapeake. They will fund the project that is ready to go the soonest. There is a new spur to I-564 being built by Terminal Boulevard to divert and ease truck traffic problems. This will ultimately be the location for the third crossing.

As to Route 460, they are looking for alternatives as this project is not going to happen. There are too many small towns and communities along this route to disrupt as well as wet lands issues. One option is developing Route 58 into an interstate quality road. All of these options are being looked at but he believes that future projects will be tied to I-64 as it is the main way out of this area. Unfortunately, all options are also years away.

- Budget Shortfalls. He reports this will be a big budget year, although it is the off year for submitting a budget. We have a \$1-2B shortfall and Virginia is a balanced budget state, so “there will have to be cuts, as we have used the ‘Rainy Day Fund’ and there is no appetite for another tax increase, on cars or otherwise.” Virginia is second per capita in receiving federal funding, most of which are contract dollars. Sequestration also impacted Virginia more than any other state. Recovery is slow since the recession and job creation is very low (a report stated Virginia was second lowest only to Detroit in job creation). In fact, most jobs created are lower-paying jobs. In response to a question whether there will be cuts to K - 12 education, Del Stolle said there has been no talk about this issue so far but “it’s possible, as 50% of the budget is education, 25% health, and 15% public safety, and cuts have come from these three areas up to this point.”
- Flooding. “A very complex problem,” and there are lots of conferences and meetings trying to address the issues. As for our area, billions of dollars are needed here over the next ten years. Officials are talking with the Army Corps of Engineers but there is no plan yet. There is talk with having Dutch officials visit as Holland has mastered the problems of sea level rise.
- Ethics. Del Stolle stated that there has been much discussion addressing this issue and the “public’s confidence definitely needs to be restored.” There *is* a danger, he said, in legislating a solution that makes it too hard to have “citizen legislators.”

Guest Speaker - Shaun McKenna, new owner of Alice's restaurant

Mr. McKenna and his wife are new to the area and have leased Alice’s—soon to be renamed to “Mac's On the Bay”—from the Boone Corporation. His wife, a caterer, is developing the menu and they are really looking forward to starting their new venture here. They plan a casual dining experience with an all-American menu. They are booking parties now.

Old Business

- East Ocean View Civic League Elections. The members were asked to elect the proposed slate of officers that were proposed at the last meeting. There was a motion to approve the slate, it was seconded, and the motion carried. President (John Greene), Vice-President (Ann Bolen), Secretary (Ann Freeman), and Treasurer (Jeff Lewis) and three Director-at-Large positions—John Hadfield, Rodney Hammonds, and Amanda Skupin—were elected for an additional term. Rodney Hammonds, John Hadfield, Steve Van Leeuwen, Juanita Snead, Willie Smith, and Jim Casey continue as members of the Board through 2015.
- Norfolk Flood Zone Map Meetings are being held throughout the City. FEMA is conducting these meetings and the next meetings will be: December 15th, Pretlow Library; January 6th, Southside Aquatic Center; January 7th, Norview Recreational Center. The POC is Robert.Tajan@norfolk.gov

He will print out the map of individual homes and how they are affected. Also check the following websites: www.norfolk.gov/FIRMupdate and www.norfolk.gov/flooding.

- Both the Rec Center and New Life Christian Church held very successful Thanksgiving dinners for those in the community. The EOVCCL contributed to both organizations and received letters of thanks from both organizations.
- The owners of the Lagoon Restaurant, who spoke to us in September to get League approval for live music, are scheduled to present their request at the January 22nd Planning Commission meeting. The meeting is open to all residents of the City of Norfolk but one is urged to check to see if this item is on the docket before going downtown.

New Business

- The owners of the Amstar Motel on Shore Drive have a preliminary plan to convert their motel to long-term stay units, and are working with the Planning Commission. (They have been at this address for over 20 years)
- Deborah Lutz is planning a "Christmas in the Garden" festivity on Dec. 6th, 1PM to 4PM. Please plan to attend. The raindate is the following Saturday (NOTE—It was moved!).
- The Rec Center will have "Brunch with Santa" on Dec. 20th. They would appreciate your financial help. The members voted to help finance with a check of \$250.
- New Life Christian Center also needs help with Christmas clothes and toys for 35 families. The members also voted to give them \$250.

Our next meeting will be the January 8th and our speaker will be Ms. Kristen Lentz, Director of Utilities, City of Norfolk.

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