

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held February 5, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by John Greene, President. Ann Freeman, Secretary, was on vacation; I took notes, as well as included items below that I was unable to convey in the interests of time.

Treasurer's Report was given by Jeffrey Lewis:

Total Assets	\$4630.78
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$4630.78
Net Income	\$-127.34

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

Options for what's been termed the "License Plate Fund" (\$850.39) will be discussed at the March meeting. I highlighted that member dues, along with advertising revenue from the newsletter, allowed us to donate over \$2400 last year in support of the EOVBAA, NLCC and Rec Center events.

Police Report

Officer Warren Snyder, our Community Resource Officer, noted there were 21 reported incidents in our area. Nearly all were property crimes and larcenies. There have been a couple armed robberies on Shore Drive, however, which represent a disturbing statistic. There was one arrest made. He also addressed a recent spate of vandalisms in East Beach and hopes they are isolated. Officer Snyder also addressed concerns that the police are either not responding, or not quickly enough, to reported crimes. Snyder said if an individual calls 911, someone will respond, though it may be slower if during a shift change or if a location is short-handed; and you may not see the police car/officer if you don't give your name.

Guest Speaker: Officer Roger Whitley, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, City of Norfolk

Officer Whitley, a 20-year veteran of the force and a former Community Resource Officer, is a member of the Crime Prevention Division. His goal, before retiring, is to "have every area of the city with a Neighborhood Watch program." He said that, of the three factors necessary for a crime—desire, ability and opportunity—a NW program helps eliminate the "opportunity" for it to be committed. He noted we're "already doing that every time you report a suspected crime. The NW program simply establishes it formally." It can also be a simple or complicated as we want it, but what's needed is for a small group of committed individuals to "take that first step," and he'll help them from there.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Kent Payne, Owner, Liberty Tax Service

Mr. Kent Payne, a retired Air Force officer and B-1 pilot, now owns the Liberty Tax franchise on Shore Drive and, believe it or not, the Statue of Liberty "does resonate with a lot of people!" He acknowledged the diversity of his clientele and pointed out his three tax preparers have over 30 years doing this. He noted the new Affordable Care Act will not have an impact on military members or Medicare recipients, as they've

been covered. If, on the other hand, you're an employer, you're most likely impacted having to provide coverage for your employees and your costs have likely increased. He noted that health care is, indeed, more affordable for many because of increased costs for those already paying. He is planning to grow his business, adding insurance and broker services, and hopes to serve the community, as well.

Guest Speaker: Mr. Albert Viola, Developer

Mr. Viola is a long-time developer with custom building projects all over the Hampton Roads area. He has worked with Land Planning Solutions, an engineering firm, to come up with drawings for a 40-unit condominium complex just north of/adjacent to the McDonalds at Shore Drive and Little Creek, where the "old trailer park" was. The property is zoned commercial (C-2) presently and will need to be rezoned to residential (R-14), which will allow for residential development. The plan is for 40 2-bedroom, 1140 sq ft units, with just shy of 2 parking spaces/unit (79); greater setbacks than required; and open space including rooftop gardens. His conditional zoning request includes a "proffered" site plan, elevations, density, etc. Viola said that, in response to, "Why this area," he believes his complex represents a "transitional area" from Little Creek to the Pretty Lake Bridge and "much needed higher quality housing than presently available at a \$200K price point close to the Bay." It will also preclude strip commercial development there or other potential uses such as another auto car/truck/boat sales location, warehouse or recycle collection station.

Matt Hales, the EOVC City Planning Commission (CPC) representative spoke next—not objecting to the project but rather asking the residents to think long-term and whether a condo complex is what they want and part of their "vision." He has spoken with the City Director of Planning, George Homewood, who indicated he is willing to have a City Planner speak to and work with the League on what they want for the area. Several residents pointed out the City has already "studied this area to death," as Councilman Smigiel himself has noted (many of them are on the EOVC website for reference); and another study doesn't seem warranted—though staff assistance wasn't ruled out—as we have stressed repeatedly a desire for more residential housing, decent quality hotels, restaurants, shopping and small businesses. Hales also indicated that zoning for current structures cannot be changed—only for property as yet undeveloped. It was also pointed out that only the CPC and City Council can actually *change* the zoning.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the request for a change from C-2 to conditional R-14 and the Civic League voted 25-4 for the proposal. The President will provide a letter of support to the CPC and plans to attend the 26 Feb CPC meeting.

(AT THIS POINT IT WAS NEARLY 8:30 P.M. AND I SAID I WOULD POST WHAT I DID NOT COVER IN THE MEETING; THAT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED BELOW).

Old Business

The Lagoon Restaurant. Their request to the City Planning Commission for live music, which was approved here in September, has been officially pulled from their schedule until detailed plans are submitted.

Newsletter. Our newsletter is now being printed by Norfolk Printing, but is going to cost us a more—\$3300 or so—which is about twice what we were paying. Newsletter income in 2014 was something in excess of \$4000, but, in order to continue the paper and to support our charities, we'll likely raise our membership fees, but not until 2016, to \$15 for an individual—currently \$10, and \$25 for a family—currently \$15.

License Plate Fund. Discussion tabled until March.

Bay Oaks Park Development. Five companies/partnerships responded to the city's Request for Qualifications, or RFQ, for the of up to 40 cottage-like homes and infrastructure improvements, \$400K of which has already been set aside, in the 6th- 7th Bay Street area. The RFQ was just the first part of the process. A committee of city and NRHA staff met and eliminated one of the five. The four companies that remain are the following: Ryan Homes/Mid-Atlantic; Associated Contracting Services/Jimmy Richardson and Bobby Holleran (sp)—combined builders from Builder's Guild; The Dragas Companies (Nick Baum); and GS Developers (Trevor Spiers) and Equity Development Corporation (Nick Jacovides). These companies should receive the RFP in the next few weeks, and then have until the end of February to respond to the RFP. A committee will meet in March and render a decision by mid-April. Councilman Smigiel will keep everyone updated.

New Business

The **Community Garden** schedule for 2015 is posted on the website. Deborah Lutz will provide more info to the CL in April.

Construction may begin soon on the **Bayview Motel site**, for which a zoning request from commercial to residential (R-12) was discussed and approved last spring. Jimmy Richardson, owner of Richardson Homes, will be the developer and has been working with the City architect, Ron Moore, who approved the first home design—the center one of 7 homes. The homes will have an “East Beach look;” be in the mid-300s range; 4-5 BR; 2 car garage in the back; the 12-ft. alleyway, which meets code, will be designed *not* to be a cut-through; and there will be a 31-foot setback from the “verge,” or sidewalk, area to the street.

There are plans to expand/tear down/upgrade several of the **7-11s** in the EOV and OV area. The gas station at Azalea Garden and Little Creek will convert to a 7-11. The one at Little Creek and Shore Drive may be torn down and rebuilt with a nicer design similar to the Sherwin Williams paint store. The same goes for the one at Shore Drive and Pleasant, and gas pumps will be put back. There may also be one where the old Heritage Bank is. Once these upgrades are complete, the plan is to close all or most of the remaining ones along OV Avenue all the way down to Chesapeake Blvd.

Lastly, in other news:

- There will be a new Starbucks where the old DQ was, along with the Verizon store and First Virginia Bank.

- There apparently is \$450K available for a boat ramp on the right side of Shore Drive across from the Little Creek base (to replace the one closed 5 years ago further west on Shore Drive), but that site may be changed to another one that would allow for more parking.
- The Sam's Club is underway where K-Mart was on Little Creek and hopes to open by next Christmas.
- Kroger will be closing their store at Wards Corner and placing one on the K-Mart site on Military Highway if it closes.
- The OV Golf Course will be under new management March 1st. The Pete Decker Pavilion will be upgraded with a needed restroom. It will also be the new voting location for that area when the Senior Center closes to make way for the condo and retail development there, and is relocated to the failed Commonwealth Bank site at Capeview.

Our next meeting will be the March 5th. Ms. Thelma Drake will be our speaker.

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 8:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

John Greene, President