

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held March 12, 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 John Greene. Jeffrey Lewis, Treasurer, was not present:

Total Assets	\$5466.78
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$5466.78
Net Income	\$716.00

Assets include \$850.39—the “License Plate Fund”—which was discussed separately (below). Income was derived from ad sales and membership dues. A detailed financial statement is available on request of John Greene, President.

Police Report

Officer Warren Snyder, our Community Resource Officer, reported there were “only” 14 reported incidents in our area, which was “way down,” since 20-40 are “normal.” All were property crimes. “Body cameras” are now available to most officers on the streets; the goal is for all officers to be equipped. In response to a question, he also indicated everyone with a home (i.e., Johns Brothers, ADT, et al) security system should register it with the City to avoid fines if the system alerts unnecessarily/accidentally.

Guest Speaker: Thelma Drake, Co-chair, Sand, Beach and Dune Management Advisory Committee

Thelma Drake, former member of Congress and current Civic League member, provided members an update on the work of the combined City, Federal, State and volunteer “Sand, Beach and Dune Management Advisory Committee,” which was commissioned last fall by the City Manager’s office, among other ideas, to develop a “wish list” of desired outcomes for future dune management in Norfolk, to include dune height and sand removal and replenishment; submit ideas for possible revenue sources to study sediment transport costs; and evaluate other State & Local dune management plans in the Mid-Atlantic region for “best practices.” The committee has only met twice, though once informally and also once for a “walk about,” and will meet again the end of March. She highlighted the dramatic increases in sand encroachment over the last twenty years and last several years in particular—citing three properties in particular—not only adding to dune heights, but onto individuals’ properties and covering City cut-throughs and walkways. She also noted how the Bay “dynamics” are different along the eight miles between East Beach and Willoughby and may require different strategies. She stressed how “access to, the view and preservation of Norfolk’s beaches is important to all of us. If beachfront property values decrease as a result of sand encroachment, all our values will suffer.” Though the study is less about flooding than sand mitigation, in response to a question about flooding, she did say that needs to be addressed in the context of a “comprehensive plan for the area.”

Guest Speaker: Nicole Carry, Better Together Norfolk

Ms. Carry was a last-minute addition and spoke on behalf of the citizen's group, Better Together Norfolk, explaining its purpose and asking for signatures on two petitions. She highlighted how, in a November 2014 citizen-led referendum, more than 85% of Norfolk voters agreed that Norfolk should elect its School Board, thus making Norfolk one of the last municipalities in Virginia to move from an appointed school board to an elected school board. Beginning with the May, 2016 municipal election, a portion of Norfolk Public School Board will be elected to serve four-year terms by the voters of Norfolk. The remaining NPS Board members will be elected in May, 2018. At a January 2015 meeting of the Norfolk City Council, Council voted 5-3 in favor of a ward, versus a "hybrid," system of elections for Norfolk Public School Board members, despite apparent overwhelming support for a hybrid, not Ward, elections. The Better Together Norfolk group is now asking, by petition, that the Norfolk City Council reconsider their decision to elect the NPS Board members via a ward system. More information is available at www.bettertogethernorfolk.com.

Old Business

"The License Plate" account—\$ 850.39—was discussed. This was initiated several years ago, but the individual whose idea for an "Ocean View License Plate" originally is deceased, and The Commonwealth Bank and all associated records no longer exist. One of the City attorneys, Adam Melita, indicated to the President there was no legal impediment to simply moving the money into the General Fund. Thus, after a separate discussion by and recommendation of the Board of Directors, there was a motion to advertise for three months (meetings, website and newsletter) that anyone who contributed to the OV License Plate fund who can produce evidence (e.g., a cancelled check) they paid their \$10 fee may receive a refund. After June 1st, the balance of the \$850.39 will be transferred into the general fund to be applied to designated charities. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. A show-of-hands indicated four of the attendees input to the original fund!

New Business

Members were asked to contact the Chesapeake Bay Foundation if any of the 175 floating oyster cages used by Tangier Island watermen were located.

An update from the EOVC Coordinating Committee Meeting on Feb 24th was provided. This is one of the many informal neighborhood "task forces" the City Manager's office sets up and supports. Ann Bolen and I attended and the agenda included:

- Ocean View Park summer music program was discussed and ideas are being solicited for FR evening programs. There are a variety of funding sources, but there's still a \$4K shortfall, which means the FR program will be cancelled unless funding sources are identified.
- Shurl Montgomery, retiring Dir, NRHA, discussed the Request for Proposal for the Bay Oaks Park Neighborhood Development. The proposals from the 4 contractors who bid are due 31 March; and the selection will be end of April. There's additional info on our website under Events/Items of Interest.
- And there are still negotiations ongoing to get a YMCA in our area involving who owns which parcels of land across from Mac's Place; and how much it's going to cost to sell them to whomever. The Y is completing work on one in VA Beach and that has to finish first. Stay tuned!

Community Garden Spring Cleanup Day is March 27. Deborah Lutz, who chairs the Garden Committee, will be here in April with an update on activities for the year and how you can help!

On March 28th at the Norfolk Scope, there will be a very special Hockey Match to benefit the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society immediately preceding the regularly-scheduled Admirals game.

Keep Norfolk Beautiful Day is April 18th. This is a city-wide event; our “piece” is EOV. Ann Bolen and Amanda Skupin, who’ve overseen and run our portion the last couple years have volunteered again this year. There will be a neighborhood cleanup by the residents—EOV, East Beach, Bay Breeze and Bay Point, Harbor Walk; trash pickup by the city; help from the Sheriff’s office again; food for the volunteers. It all ran very smoothly last year but, again, that’s because folks stepped forward to help.

We’re also looking ahead to this summer and some kind of Neighborhood Festival centered around the water—either the Bay or, more likely, Pretty Lake—involving kayaks and/or paddleboards. Stay tuned but this could own version of “Harborfest.”

Our next meeting will be April 2nd. Virginia State Senator Lynwood Lewis 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 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

John Greene, President