

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held April 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. John Greene, President.

Treasurer's Report was given by Jeffrey Lewis:

Total Assets	\$5078.44
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$5078.44
Net Income	\$442.00

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

Police Report

Officer Warren Snyder, our Community Resource Officer, was unable to attend our meeting but gave his report to John Greene, President, and noted our area is looking good. There were 16 reported crimes and all were property crimes (larcenies), mostly from vehicles.

Guest Speaker: Ralph Northam, Lieutenant Governor

Our scheduled guest speaker, State Senator Lynwood Lewis of the 6th District, was unable to attend and Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam spoke in his place. Lt. Gov. Northam began his message to us by saying that we should all get involved in our government and vote. He then went on to cover a variety of topics/issues that are happening in Richmond. Lt. Gov. Northam stated that his job is part-time and, during the session, he presides over the Senate. The job of the Governor and of the Cabinet is bringing economic development to Virginia and they are doing a great job bringing in new businesses. Points he made were:

Legislature. The legislature passed a budget unanimously. A highlight is that no money was cut from the K - 12 nor the higher education budgets. The mental health budget also was not cut. Virginia is required to and balances its budget every year.

Ethics. Ethics is a highly discussed and debated topic and revised ethics laws are still a work in progress. Referring back to his field of medicine, Lt. Gov. Northam reminded us that Pharmaceutical companies used to wine and dine doctors. That has all changed now and it is time for that to happen in government.

Redistricting. Lt. Gov. Northam stated that this is a major item that needs addressing and fixing in the State.

Education. Lt. Gov. Northam stated that all children need Pre-Kindergarten/Early Childhood Development Education and Virginia has received a grant of \$17 million dollars towards that end. Higher education costs are soaring. In answer to a question, the lottery money that was initially targeted for education and was diverted has now been designated for education as it was originally intended.

Mental Health. The Governor has formed a Mental Health Task Force which the Lt. Gov. chairs. They are working on Crisis Intervention and with the police as too many people in the system have mental health problems.

Health Care. The Affordable Care Act and, at the State Level, Medicaid Expansion aim to cover the working citizens who cannot afford health care. Lt. Gov. Northam stated that if all people are covered than health care costs could be reduced. Using the emergency room is a very expensive way to cover people medically. The legislature is working very hard to bring back the ACA money slated for Virginia back to Virginia.

Off Shore Drilling. Lt. Gov. Northam states a lot can happen when you drill, and one of the negative side effects is that this drilling can seriously affect NASA. The military is also nervous about the proposed oil rigs. Agricultural interests are also nervous as clams and oysters must have clean water. On the positive side, it would be a great shot in the arm for the Eastern Shore. If there were to be an accident, tourism would also greatly be affected. It is important to know that Virginia would also receive no profits or royalties from this drilling, as the money goes elsewhere. The bottom line is that this country needs to move away from fossil fuel as an energy source.

Guest Speaker: Deborah Lutz, EOV Garden Committee

Ms. Lutz oversees the neighborhood community garden located on Pleasant Avenue. She works in concert with Bon Secours, Master Gardeners, NLCC/Store House, and Operation Blessing. The garden will be getting lighting this year. The City provides their water and it is a pesticide free garden. Their goal is a safe, secure place where people meet and visit. It can be an educational experience as well as a place to rest and relax. They are raising food and flowers and now have a hydroponic component as well as providing food for the neighborhood.

The Garden has really grown and is in real need of volunteers and donors. They have several ways to contribute in both ways. They put on four festivals a year. Check our website for more details.

Guest Speaker: Gayle Greene, Master Gardener

Mrs. Greene spoke to us about a combined project of the Master Gardeners, the City of Norfolk, and the East Beach Company. The project involves planting native seeds on the back sides of the dunes, both flowers and grasses. She provided packets of seeds and instructions for planting.

Guest Speaker: Trevor Spiers, GS Developer

Mr. Spiers, along with his partner Nick Jacobides of EDG Homes, is one of four prospective developers of the Bay Oaks Park site. They made a presentation to us, as well as to the Bay Oaks Park Committee previously, before presenting to the City. They intend to include a plan to build out the Park site as well. Their project includes townhomes, single family homes, and small businesses. Homes will be in the \$325,000 to \$375,000 range with three bedrooms. It was noted the City Architectural Review Board may not accept town homes.

Old Business

The Newsletter is just out. Special thanks to Ann Bolen who does an amazing job. Our dues support this newsletter as well as three charities.

Albie Viola, who presented to us previously, has proposed to build 40 units behind McDonald's. The Civic League endorsed this project and it passed the City Planning Commission hearing unanimously.

A second reminder that, if you paid \$10 to the EOV License plate fund many years ago, we will refund your money with proof of payment. This summer we will move the remaining funds to our general fund.

The Keep Norfolk Beautiful Clean-Up Day will be April 18th from 9am to Noon. Amanda Skupin is in charge again this year. We will take part cleaning our streets of litter. You are asked to meet at the Rec. Center for gloves and garbage bags at 9am. There will be a picnic at Noon. We need volunteers and a couple of people with pick-up trucks. The Sheriff will provide a crew as he always does. We thank him for patrolling the more difficult areas.

The Codes Committee has been very effective but finds itself down to two members: Amanda and Jim Casey. We need help and they will train any and all volunteers who are willing to help them. Why don't you check with them and see if you can help?

New Business

We are planning a Summer Festival. Although there is no date yet, stay tuned for more details.

Our next meeting will be May 7, 2015. Norfolk Sheriff Bob McCabe, and David Speer, City Engineer, will be our speakers.

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 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman

Secretary