

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held May 7, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Ann Bolen, Vice President. John Greene, President, is on vacation.

Treasurer's Report was given by Jeffrey Lewis:

Total Assets	\$5240.14
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$5240.14
Net Income	\$-718.64

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

Ann Bolen reported that Deborah Lutz has been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Civic League Board that occurred because Mike Joyner has been transferred. We thank Mike for his service and welcome Deborah to the Board. Deborah is a leader in the EOVC Community Garden and an active member in many other activities in the area.

Police Report

Officer Warren Snyder, our Community Resource Officer, reported that there have been 21 reported incidents since our last meeting: 19 were property crimes, mostly larcenies; and two violent incidents and two arrests have been made.

The police will be out on bikes this summer throughout East Ocean View. The Beach Patrol is training right now and will be out in full swing by Memorial Day. Additionally, school is getting out for the summer soon and it is important to note that there is a curfew for the youth from 11pm to 5am. Allowances can be made for students coming from and going to work.

In response to a question from the floor, Officer Snyder said that it is not cost effective for the police to process autos in an auto crime situation.

Guest Speaker: Sheriff Bob McCabe

Sheriff McCabe reported that he is a life-long resident of Norfolk, retired from the USN, and was a policeman in Norfolk for twelve years before moving on to the Sheriff's Office. He stated that the Sheriff's Office and the Police Department employees have the same powers but they work in conjunction with one another, not in opposition. Norfolk has the biggest jail in the State and has triple bunks in the cells due to overcrowding. Inmates must receive two hot meals a day and are not given privacy as per federal and state guidelines. The average prisoner stay is 58-60 days and only 5-8% of the inmates are "hard core." Most of the non-violent inmates are in for repeated non-payment of child support. Sheriff McCabe says the judges give these offenders three or four chances to correct this problem but most still end up becoming jailed.

Sheriff McCabe has established the biggest work force for non-violent criminals in the area. It is voluntary but the inmates want to be busy. Sheriff McCabe believes in rehabilitation to help these people get their lives back together. They have placed inmates in almost 40 restaurants, in the ship yard, and in other places to gain skills. They do lots of clean up, i.e., at Harbor Park, Scope, etc. They even do small equipment repair. Some work in the kitchen cooking for the population. The kitchen is open 22 hours a day. Workers can earn a certificate for cooking and kitchen work.

They also have GED programs, substance abuse, and anger management. All are voluntary. The goal is to make these people successful and help them turn their lives around. Most are 18 to 32 years of age and not used to working. As for medical care, there is a 24/7 medical staff and the City (taxpayers) pay the cost.

In other areas, Sheriff Mc Cabe started a foundation 12 years ago for youth. He has sports camps for Middle School kids during the summer. His aim is to keep the kids busy and off the streets, which is the best method of crime prevention. His one week football camp has counselors who are or were pro football players, and many who grew up in this area. They are always eager to help out.

Additionally, he provides five one-week summer camps where everything is free.

Other programs he supports include a senior watch program where senior citizens are visited once a week to make sure they are all right and that their needs are being met; and a program for run-aways.

In response to a question from the floor, the Sheriff's salary is paid partly by the State and partly by the City of Norfolk. Our Sheriff and deputies are paid next to the lowest in the area and they lose good people to neighboring cities. As such, they have a hiring problem.

Guest Speaker: David Speer, Norfolk City Engineer

Mr. Speer was here to give an update on projects that are on-going in the area (water, sanitary system, pump station). Their department does not cover treatment plants. He reported that they have done a study as far west as 13th Bay to Shore Drive. After they finish the Pump Station they will move to new water and sewer lines. They finished at 21st and 22nd Streets and have paved the roadway there.

Phase II begins this summer: Pleasant Avenue to 17th Bay and behind the 7-Eleven. From there they will move onto the side streets. In response to a question about whether the City will put in sidewalks and curbs at the same time his short answer is "No, not part of this project."

Guest Speaker: Coach Dwight McDowell of the EOVBAA

Coach Dwight focused on the baseball season and the teams they are supporting this spring and summer. They include three leagues of 5 to 7 year olds; 8 to 10 year olds; and 11 and 12 year olds. The schools have taken over the older students. They are also sponsoring Adult Softball for those 18 years and older. This is the 5th Season and they practice Sundays and Mondays. He needs sponsors for the baseball players at \$45/person. The Civic League voted to give him \$350 toward this program.

Senior Olympics is also sponsored through EOVBAA. These events are for those 55 years and older. This event takes place May 11th and 12th and Coach Dwight needs participants. The event was held at ODU last summer. His teams the last two years have done very well.

Old Business

Albie Viola has proposed to build 40 units behind McDonald's. The Civic League endorsed this project and it passed its Development Hearing with the City Council.

A Reminder: if you paid \$10 to the EOVB 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 was April 18th from 9am to Noon and was a huge success. A hearty thanks to the 96 volunteers who participated and picked up over 200 bags of garbage and pulled 800 pounds of 'stuff' from Pretty Lake. Amanda Skupin and Ann Bolen worked hard to organize this event and make it so successful. The Sheriff provided a crew as he always does. We thank him for patrolling the more difficult areas and Officer Snyder drove around to make sure all our workers were safe and sound and to deliver water.

The Codes Committee has been very effective but finds itself down to two members: Amanda Skupin and Jim Casey. We need help and they will train any and all comers who are willing to help them. It is only a one to two hour commitment a month.

New Business

A Town Hall meeting will be held May 11th, hosted by State Senator Lewis at the Pretlow Library at 7PM.

Norfolk Commissioner's and Sheriff's Community Day will be held May 22nd at 1612 Willow Wood Drive, Lakewood Park. This gathering gives you an opportunity to challenge your personal property tax assessment if you think it is too high. The Sheriff's Office will be providing, free of charge, identification cards with a photo and finger print for children 0 - 15 years of age and seniors over 55 years of age.

Watch for upcoming Zoning rewrite meetings. The process runs through 2017. Watch our website for developments as John Greene, our President, is on the commission.

School Board applications are on the City website if one wishes to self nominate.

Bon Secours is sponsoring free YOGA at the Rec Center every other Tuesday at 7pm beginning May 12th.

Heather Valdez of Liberty Tax Service and Pastor Rodney Hammond of the New Life Christian Center are co-sponsoring a Roadside Party on May 16th from 1pm to 4pm as a part of their "Giving Back to the Community" endeavors. The event will be held at the New Life Christian Center. Lots of food and activities. You are asked to bring a food donation.

New Comer packets are available for anyone new to the community. They include coupons to local stores and a myriad of information for anyone new to our area.

Our next meeting will be June 4 , 2015. Councilman Tommy Smigiel 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,

Ann M. Freeman

Secretary