

East Ocean View Civic League
Minutes of meeting held June 3, 2015

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	\$5560.14
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$5560.14
Net Income	\$350.00

John Greene reported that, because no one requested reimbursement, the license plate fund of \$850 will be moved to the Civic League general fund immediately.

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

Police Report

John Greene reported that our Police Department Community Resource Officer has changed. Officer Warren Snyder has been replaced by Officer Ramon Ruiz, a two year veteran of the Norfolk Police force.

Officer Folscher reported there were 33 incidents this month that included a robbery of an individual, a robbery of a business, nine larcenies from autos, 4 burglaries, and a host of other offenses relating to the library and the beach. He reported that they are also dealing with myriad problems, day and night, on the jettys. Officer Folscher was unable to answer several questions from the members as to crimes they heard of in our area. He was also vague as to the dog issue on the beach and what is being done to control and contain it. (NOTE: He subsequently called John Greene and apologized for not knowing about a shooting, which appeared to be a domestic incident. He will be better prepared for future meetings).

Guest Speaker: John Mair, Owner of the East Beach Shoppes

Mr. Mair outlined and had a diagram for the renovation of the East Beach Shoppes; the development contractor is Woodard. He and his partners will sub-divide the largest space into ten smaller units. The back area may be rented for storage at \$3 a square foot. Upgrading the facades will begin in 60 days and will last 6 months. Mr. Mair stated, in answer to a question, that they will reconfigure and improve the signage. He has no firm offers yet for businesses wanting to rent these spaces.

Guest Speaker: Councilman Tommy Smigiel

Tommy began with a tribute to Officer Snyder who had come into the meeting earlier. Warren Snyder has been our Community Resource Officer for the past 19 years, as well as all of the other Civic Leagues in this area well, and we are unhappy and concerned that he has been replaced. Tommy Smigiel and the Civic Leagues are asking the City to reconsider.

As to what is going on in East Ocean View, Tommy Smigiel reports that:

- The City has set aside \$100,000 for landscaping to enhance and support the John Mair project. John Mair asked him about funds to put underground wires. Tommy reports that will take \$150,000 and the City is looking into making that happen.
- The City has hired a consultant to help with designs in the City. They have come up with four models with a “Coastal” design to be used in this area.
- There is a strong probability that a noted grocery store will be built on the property behind the 7-Eleven across from East Beach. A letter of intent has been submitted.
- Bringing a YMCA to our area is still a work in progress. Additionally, the City is trying to buy the apartment building near Jessy's Tienda. The City will try to purchase dilapidated properties as they come on the market, but they must first be for sale before they can take action.
- The 7-Eleven on Shore Drive has put in an offer on the property adjacent to it. They have promised the City they will redesign the new store using the Coastal Design model the City is promoting in our area. Also, the store near the Heritage Bank will be torn down and the latter will be remodeled at the request of all three neighborhood civic leagues.
- The Request for Proposal for the Bay Oaks Project (5th through 7th Bay Streets) was narrowed to three competing developers: Ryan Homes, EDC Builders, and a combined builders guild. The NRHA committee consisted of seven members who ranked each proposal and found that each group has both positive and negative attributes. The EDC group, which made a presentation at March our meeting, was the only group to deal in any way with Bay Oaks Park. The process now goes to the Development Committee and NRHA on Monday for a decision.

In response to a question from a member, Tommy said it would cost “millions” to put in curbs and sidewalks on Pleasant Avenue and the Bay Streets, thus the project needs to be done incrementally. He asks for our support by coming to Council meetings and making our needs heard there. This raised the question of TIFs/BID district process (a TIF would require a tax raise on residents and businesses in the area with the clear understanding that money would be spent in our area on our projected needs). Tommy asked if the membership would accept a 5 cent tax raise if the money came back to East Ocean View, and the members seemed willing to consider this approach. John Greene suggested that Tommy schedule Town Hall meetings this summer to garner support.

Guest Speaker: Deborah Lutz, EOY Community Gardens

(NOTE—This has since been postponed to a date TBD) The Community Gardens located on 18th Bay Street and Pleasant Avenue will hold a Summer Fest on June 27th from 10am to 1pm. There will be a DJ, games for children, food, and a nice time for everyone.

The Garden is funded and supported by Bon Secours, which has given them a budget of \$22,200. Bon Secours has also supplied sturdy, new benches and they encourage members to come by and take advantage of the vegetables, flowers, and other amenities of the garden.

Volunteers are needed for the many activities planned over the year, to include a story time for the area children.

Old Business

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 1-2 hour commitment a month.

The City has decided, with overwhelming approval of the Civic League, to install a stop sign on Pretty Lake and 9th Bay Street. The placement of the sign has yet to be determined.

New Comer Welcome packets are available for anyone new to the community who has been identified based on real estate sales listed in the paper. Packets include coupons to local stores and a myriad of information for anyone new to our area.

New Business

School Board applications are on the City website if one wishes to self-nominate at the public hearing on June 9th. Tommy passed out a petition that would support not designating Ward School Board members but rather City-wide elected members who then represent a particular Ward.

John Greene, President, announced that he is writing a letter to the Chief of Police, Mayor, and the City Manager in support of keeping Officer Warren Snyder on as our Community Resource Officer. Individual members were advised to wait and see what the City leaders decide before sending individual letters of support. Earlier in the meeting Officer Snyder addressed us to thank us for our support in the past and to let us know, in person, that he is leaving. The membership greeted him warmly.

Christine Morris, Chief Resistance Officer, City of Norfolk, then spoke briefly. Ms. Morris' department's goals are economic vitality, neighborhood cohesion, coastal flooding, as well as a pilot project dealing with older, less active citizens in our neighborhoods and how neighbors can better check on more vulnerable neighbors during times of storms and other troubles. The City is creating an "app" to create networks of neighbors who are looking after those who may be alone and not able to deal with storms and crises.

John Greene has invited Ms. Morris to speak to us again at a later date. He then concluded the meeting.

Our next meeting will be September 3, 2015. The speaker is TBD.

Please check our website regularly for information about our area and what is occurring during the summer.

A motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Ann M. Freeman

Secretary