

## East Ocean View Civic League Meeting

1 October 2015

(The meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The following is offered as a summary of what I had intended to cover.)

**Treasurer's Report.** Our current balance is \$4575.00. There were minor expenses in September in support of the City's Neighborhood Expo, which we attended.

**Police Report.** Officer Folscher would have briefed there were several vehicle break-ins in the area and other crimes, and asked everyone to please lock their cars. One break-in resulted in an arrest due to the quick thinking of a passerby who gave a detailed eyewitness description of the thief.

The first **Guest Speaker** scheduled was **Mr. Chuck Rigney**, Director of Development for the City of Norfolk, who will be invited back to a future meeting. He was **NOT** going to announce the completion of the deal for a local grocery store. Those negotiations continue and he and Councilman Smigiel remain very hopeful. I will try to reschedule Chuck for December.

The second **Guest Speaker** was **Mr. Richard Ottinger**, the Republican candidate for the 6th Virginia Senate seat currently held by Lynwood Lewis. Everyone is encouraged to vote on Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Old Business.** The **Amstar Motel** that burned up—or at least half of it—is scheduled at a point to be determined to be razed. What will go there in its place is undetermined. It is zoned commercial so it could be another hotel, restaurant or similar commercial establishment. We will work with the City on the best “deal” for the community. Scheduled and funded work on **Bay Oaks Park** is nearing completion. I also met representatives from the Neighborhoods Directorate about a possible “**Welcome to EOV**” sign that might become the prototype for the rest of Norfolk they've sent to a couple designers to work on, perhaps to be located at/near the base of the Pretty Lake Bridge.

**New Business.** At a City awards ceremony in September, two **COOL Awards** (which stands for Civic Opportunity and Outstanding Leadership) were given as part of the City's *Neighbors Building Neighborhoods* initiative. There were only five for the entire City, and EOV took two of them! First, **Jessy's Tienda y Taqueria** won the **Best Small Neighborhood Business award** for the second year in a row. The second was for the **Best Healthy Neighborhood**, and the **EOV Children's Garden**, which Juanita Snead and her late husband started, just outside the EOV Recreation Center.

At the November meeting, proposed language for an amendment to our By Laws will be introduced to increase the **Member Dues** just slightly for next year and beyond. Dues are currently \$10/individual and \$15/family. We'd also like to institute what we're calling a “Business” membership, which will give business owners some percentage discount on their newsletter ad. We're not sure about the amounts, though, or wording to amend the By Laws, but will be by November. Per the By Laws, we will vote in December.

Per our ByLaws, we'll also be proposing our **Board of Directors** slate for 2016; and voting in December. A few have already but, if anyone else would like to volunteer to serve in 2016, please

let me or another board member know soon. Thanks. None of us hold “jobs for life,” so all are welcome!

At the November meeting, Bobby DiBerardinis and/or his project partner, Russell Turner, will attend and brief their proposal to build 103 apartments, called **Taylor's Landing**, and retail, on the tract of land directly south of Surf Rider, opposite the entrance to Harbor Walk. If we approve, the proposal will then go to Planning Commission the following week, the 12<sup>th</sup>, and, if we support it, I'll provide a letter of support, which I've done in the past.

Our next **Newsletter** should be printed in the next couple weeks and distributed to our advertisers first; it will be online; and we'll have copies here in November and December.

What's now called the **International Coastal Cleanup**, or ICC, formerly known as “Clean the Bay Day,” will be held SAT, **17 October**. It's an international event and Norfolk is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year of participating on the 17<sup>th</sup>. **Ann Bolen** is leading our local effort and has asked volunteers to be here at the REC Center at 9:00, and they'll clean up the local area for 3 hours until noon. The Lions Club will be doing the entire 8 miles of what's left of our beachfront!

The **Pumpkin Festival** will be held at the Community Garden at 18<sup>th</sup> and Pleasant Avenue on SAT, **24 October**. There will be activities for everyone; please come; it's free. As always, Deborah Lutz, who leads that effort, is always looking for more volunteers to help her.

We have also locked in our annual **Membership Drive and Open House**, which we'll have at **Mac's Place** this year on Tuesday night, **8 December**.

Our **next meeting** is Thursday, **5 November**.

**John Greene, President, EOVC**