

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held January 7, 2016

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	\$3,575.32
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$3,575.32
Net Income	\$462.50

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

**Installation of Board 2016**

Sheriff Bob McCabe, who was at the meeting as our guest speaker, installed the Board members for the next term. They are: Officers John Greene, President; Ann Bolen, Vice President; Jeff Lewis, Treasurer; Ann Freeman, Secretary. Board members are John Hadfield, Amanda Skupin, Deborah Lutz, Juanita Snead, Willie Smith, Michael Phelps, Scott Berry. *(Note: Rodney Hammonds, who has served on the Board for the past few years, resigned prior to this meeting so he will not be installed. John Greene asked members to consider becoming a part of the Board. After the meeting, Steve volunteered to serve and, after consulting with the Board, John appointed Steve to finish Rodney Hammonds' term).*

John Greene reported on our Open House last month at Mac's Restaurant. The cost for the evening was \$400 and 8 new members enrolled. It was a nice evening to come and visit with friends and neighbors but we had far fewer members attend than in the past. The Board will revisit the idea of an Open House, because the goal is to increase membership.

**Guest Speaker: Mr. Robert McCabe, Sheriff, City of Norfolk, Mayoral Candidate in 2016**

Sheriff McCabe came to speak to us and make his case for being Mayor of Norfolk. He grew up in Norfolk, went into the USN after school, and ended up aboard a ship stationed here after Boot Camp. After three years he left the Navy he began his career in law enforcement at St. Bride's Correctional Center, then joined the Norfolk Police Force and worked there for 12 years all while getting a degree from St. Leo's in Criminology. When he took over the Norfolk City jail it was in shambles and under investigation. It has been voted one of the best places to work since 2012. The jail is a \$40M enterprise, where there are contracts, budgets, and general administrative responsibilities that translate to the job of Mayor. He says he will apply what he has learned as Sheriff to running the City of Norfolk as Mayor.

His vision for Norfolk is that he wants people to come here to live and have good schools. He stated that his #1 priority will be the public schools. One third of the City budget goes to the schools—over \$30 million a year—and “not much has changed in 34 years. They remain an embarrassment and need attention.” The School Board also needs to be held accountable for how this money is spent. In

addition to schools, he also wants fully funded police and fire departments, and that small business owners need help and he wants to change the process. "Permits take way too long (90 days) and they have to pay taxes ahead of time before they can open." He added that Council needs leadership; and that regionalism is a problem and State incentives to encourage regionalism must be explored. He concluded saying that, if elected, he will retire as Sheriff, will always be available and will be a full time Mayor.

The election is May 3rd.

### **Police Report**

Officer Folscher, our Community Resource Officer, reported that there have been 18 larcenies, auto-related, and two burglaries. Regarding an assault, he said an arrest has been made and a couple more arrests were possible (*Note: This was later determined to be incorrect*). There have also been several robberies at 7-Elevens; the police are on it but be vigilant.

There is a real concern about a group of 5 - 6 young men in the area—most visible when school buses are returning children to the neighborhood—harassing and beating one resident. The police are not labeling it gang activity but are on high alert and have alerted the gang unit. These young men are violent, thus we are told not to handle them ourselves, and to call 9-1-1.

There was a rape but victim was uncooperative; also a simple assault.

### **Old Business**

EOVCL Charitable Contributions. John Greene reported that the Civic League supports three groups yearly from the dues it receives, plus the newsletter. These organizations are: the EOV Rec Center, The Storehouse/New Life Church and Food Ministry, and Coach Dwight's East Ocean View Athletic Association.

In 2015, the Civic League gave \$600 to the Rec Center for its Thanksgiving dinner and cookies with Santa; \$600 to New Life Church for its food programs at Thanksgiving and Christmas; and \$700 to Coach Dwight—\$350 for his Boot Camp and \$350 for athletic team needs.

Newsletter Costs. Our newsletter, very capably edited and compiled by Ann Bolen, prints 500 issues a quarter, costs \$700 a quarter to print and those costs are almost totally covered by advertisers. Bon Secours has offered to publish our newsletter at no cost but asks for a contribution to the Community Garden on Pleasant Avenue. Bon Secours donates \$20,000 to this garden.

Sand Replenishment. The process is moving along. Emergency repairs were scheduled at 11th and 12th View Streets in November and December, but the City has had to deal with property owners who must grant permission to cross their property to make fixes. One owner will not grant this permission, and the City is trying to work around him. Emergency repairs also include the Bay Breeze Point walkway, which was washed away. The City will sculpt a berm.

The contract to replace sand was rebid (\$38 million). The City and Corps of Engineers budget was \$21 million and both agreed to make up the difference. The work will start at Bay Breeze Point in the spring and move toward Willoughby, stopping for turtle migration. The project will go 24/7 and take upwards of a year.

The Dune Management Committee, co-chaired by Thelma Drake, has published a draft Coastal Management Plan that focuses on sand management and controls. The plan is with the City and may be briefed to Council in February. Implementation details will then need to be worked out.

Amstar Hotel. The City has ordered that the hotel be completely demolished. It has given the owners until January 20th to decide if they will hire a demolition crew or if the City will hire a crew. The property is not big enough for a YMCA, as was suggested.

Bay Oaks Park. It is also still a work in progress. There are two holes on either side of the property, surrounded by orange fencing, for two signs, approved by the Bay Oaks Committee, identifying the Park. When they are installed Phase 1 will be complete. Four benches have also been installed. Phase 2 will use the same contractor who will widen the sidewalks from 5th to 7th Bay and redo some of the curbing. 4 pedestrian lights may be installed around the half moon sites. That is all that is funded at this point.

Former 7-Eleven at 3039 East Ocean View Ave. This will be reopening soon as a convenience store with an approved ABC license. The Civic League objected but they were told that a building has to have been closed for two years, even with a different owner, or else permits are grandfathered.

Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority. NRHA is selling 35 lots in this area this summer between 5th and 7th Bay. There will also be a townhouse development at Captain's Landing in West Ocean View, which was supported by Councilman Tommy Smigiel. Check the website for more details.

### **New Business**

The Board will look at revising the By-Laws over the next few months.

Our next meeting will be February 4th, 2016. Andria McClellan, candidate for Super Ward 6 on the City Council, will be our next 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