

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held February 4, 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	\$3,557.50
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$3,557.50
Net Income	\$672.00

John Greene noted that the Civic League Board would spend time developing a budget for the coming year that details how much money we will spend on the three charities we support: EOV Rec. Center special programs; Coach Dwight's athletic programs, including his boot camp; and the special holiday activities of the New Life Christian Church/Store Front Ministry that we have supported in the past.

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

Police Report

We were introduced to a new CRO (Community Resource Officer), Chris Allen. Our past officer, Romel Ruiz, has been reassigned to Counternarcotics. Officer Allen reported that he has been on the Norfolk Police Force for 5 1/2 years, and all this time he has been in Ocean View so feels he knows the area well. He reported our statistics as 4 burglaries; 10 larcenies, 6 of which from vehicles, mainly in the Harbor Walk area; 1 motor vehicle theft; and one commercial robbery. He continues to remind us to lock our vehicles and do not leave our valuables in them. When asked by neighbors who live next door about a shooting last Saturday at or near 3500 East Ocean View Avenue, he responded he had not heard anything. Another officer responded there was a shooting and that homicide is handling it. He was not at liberty to give details.

President Greene then introduced Detective Salisbury of the Gang Unit who was at the meeting to discuss our concerns about the apparent gang-related incident around Christmas and any "gang" activity in our area. Det. Salisbury said he is one of only three members in the unit, which usually has 12 members, and it serves the entire City, so they are very busy. They also handle school problems involving three or more youth.

As to gangs in the area, he reported that it is not illegal to be in a gang, and in order for a crime to be a gang crime the crime has to benefit the gang group. The predominant gang in this area is the Bloods with a small group of Crips in the area, and a lot of "wannabe's." He said that when the Bloods and Crips fight anywhere, it is almost always about money.

The gang unit here in Norfolk collaborates with State and Federal agencies. Det. Salisbury, in particular, interfaces with them. The gang unit has no connection with the vice and narcotic units. The response

time to a call varies but they try to be quick and rely on patrolmen to help them respond. Ocean View has been quiet with activity coming in waves of opportunity.

The number for gang related activities is: **664-7020**. We are advised that if we have information to go to our CRO (Community Resource Officer). Officer Allen's cell phone number is: **757-390-0414**.

Guest Speaker: Andria McClellan, Candidate for Super Ward 6, City Council, City of Norfolk

Ms. McClellan is running for Barclay Winn's seat on City Council in the coming election. There will be three people running for this position, including Mr. Wynn. Andria McClellan was raised in the Hampton Roads area, went to high school in Virginia Beach, graduated from UVA, and attended the Wharton School of Business. She is an entrepreneur who moved to California in the early years of her marriage and is now back in this area and living in Norfolk. She and her husband have three sons who attend Norfolk Public Schools. She is also a member of the Planning Commission. Her membership and resultant activity led to her decision to run for City Council.

Ms. McClellan believes the City needs new focus and new energy. Attention and money has to go to the communities as well as downtown. Our schools need much attention. Without good schools the City cannot attract new businesses to the area. Additionally, we need to focus time, attention, and money on the water/flooding problems in the area. We must ensure quality of life in Norfolk. She believes both better communication and more technology are definitely needed.

She wants people to stay in Norfolk and build and grow their businesses here. She stated that 45% of all business in Norfolk is tied to the State and Federal governments and we need more diversity and need to attract more non-governmental business to keep the area vibrant and guard against what could happen if the government pulled back.

In a discussion about the fact that Norfolk will be electing its School Board for the very first time in May, Ms. McClellan believes the City Council needs to work with the School Board. The City Council sets the budget for the schools and the School Board will distribute these funds. There must be coordination.

The election is May 3rd for City Council, the School Board, and Mayor.

Old Business

Sand Replenishment. The process to replace sand along the Bay is moving along. The plan is close to finalization and is a comprehensive and workable plan for the beach front, sand and dunes. The Deputy City Manager has overseen the plan. When finally approved, 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. Many people have worked tirelessly to make this process happen including Thelma Drake, Beach Front Civic League Presidents, the Army Corps of Engineers, the law offices of the Norfolk City Government, and local, State, and Federal agencies. The plan is now to be briefed by the Norfolk City Council. When approved, will become part of the City Strategic Plan.

Amstar Hotel. This is a work in progress and an entangled web. We are three weeks after the final order for demolition of the motel. The former owner transferred the property to his wife and uncle who

are opposing the demolition. They have hired a lawyer to file an appeal. The process goes back to discussion/litigation with the insurance company and the City.

Bay Oaks Park. The signs are up and are very attractive and 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 are to be installed around the half-moon sites. That is all that is funded at this point.

There will be a Charity Hockey Game on the 18th of March at the Scope Arena between the "Demolition Men" and the USS Abraham Lincoln. The game will precede an Admiral's game so you get two games for the price of one ticket. Prices announced soon. Check our website for details.

There will be a Grants 101 Workshop, on Saturday, February 13, from 8:30—11:30 am, at the Norfolk Police Department Third Precinct, 901 Asbury Avenue. Info is on web. Grants can be written for all kinds of needs: street lights, signage, needs for the garden. This is a tutorial on grant writing basics.

There was a good collection of City officials at the EOV Steering Committee meeting. John Greene and Ann Bolen attended from our group. Discussion included: how to market OV; to whom, and what "themes." They discussed a possible OV "Marketing Team," using "Apostles" from the City, Civic Leagues, business reps, and developers. John reports it was a very good meeting. If you're interested in participating, please let John or Ann Bolen know.

John Mair, who owns East Beach Shoppes, has been in discussions with combinations of the City Public Works and Dominion Power about putting the utility poles along Shore Drive underground. The upshot is that \$350K is needed to put them underground; Mr. Mair says he is not willing to put the money into this project.

Trash Pick Up. The Sheriff's Department picked up a total of 142 bags of trash last weekend in January in Norfolk parks, schools, streets and neighborhoods. They picked up 30 bags in East Ocean View on the numbered Bay Streets. As John Greene said, it is a nice service.

John Greene reported that there are a couple European grocery chains, Aldi's and Lidl, interested in EOV perhaps. The Development Department is pursuing this interest and comments from the floor were positive about these stores and felt we would be fortunate if either grocery chain came to our area.

Also reported by John Greene, there's something called a "Business Café" in the works that may be located at Nansemond at the Bay in OV. There's a kickoff meeting on Feb 22nd at 1:00 p.m. for businesses interested in expanding into the area. More information will be forthcoming.

Pinewell Station is the name of the project at the old Ramada Inn site. This project will go before Planning and City Council soon but is expected to move ahead. There will be 145 units with 4000 sq feet of retail. The units will be comprised of one and two bedroom units in the 4 stories over the parking area. 25% green space will be preserved. The project will include demolition of the existing Senior Center, which will be relocated to the old Bank of the Commonwealth site, with a GRAND OPENING anticipated in September 2016.

John Kownack, Head of NRHA and a member of our Civic League, gave an update on 5-7th Bay project, which is on our website from earlier in December. There are 32 lots, all designated as single family homes, and the intent is to put the project out for bid to the NRHA Builders Guild. Houses will have a “coastal character” look and be elevated off flood plain by 7 feet. The hope is to offer lots in March or early April.

The idea of a YMCA resurfaced, either in addition to or in lieu of the Recreation Center here. We offered that, for as much benefit as the Center offers the Community, it’s old, tired, there’s little money available for upgrades and it needs to be replaced. A YMCA offers many opportunities the community would embrace. The YMCA prefers a lot closer to East Ocean View Avenue for more visibility.

The flooding issue remains at or near the top of our list of priorities, along with improvements to Pleasant Avenue, and how to pay for flood abatement improvements. The City seems to be self-generating support and fixing the problem without waiting for Federal aid. Right now, they feel that the only way to pay for these improvements would be through Tax Increment Financing, or a TIF; and/or a sewer assessment, on your utility bill. As this impacts all of Norfolk, not just EOV or The Hague, the issue must garner support from a majority of City Council.

New Business

Our next meeting will be March 3rd, 2016. Barclay Winn, City Councilman for Super Ward 6 on the City Council is running for reelection and will be our next speaker, along with Dr. Noelle Gabriel who is running for School Board, Super Ward 6.

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