

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held March 3rd, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Ann Bolen, Vice President. John Greene, President, was in attendance but recently back from vacation.

Treasurer's Report was given by Jeffrey Lewis:

Total Assets	\$4125.23
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$4125.23
Net Income	-\$ 63.09

Newsletter and other minor expenses exceeded ad sales and membership renewal income this month.

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

Police Report

Our CRO, Officer Chris Allen, spoke. The majority of crimes were shoplifting, auto larcenies (5), and vandalisms/graffiti (6). Compared to last year at this time, vandalisms are about the same but larcenies were worse last year. The Gang Squad is looking into the graffiti but there is nothing definitive to report. Audience members also reported garages in East Beach being opened by "unknown means;" and an "abandoned refrigerator" on East Ocean View Avenue.

Guest Speaker: Barclay Winn, Incumbent and Candidate for Super Ward 6, City Council, City of Norfolk

Barclay cited several successes over his 15 year term. He also noted he is the only *businessman* on Council. First, East Beach, along w/former Councilman Wright. The tax base has gone from \$350K then to \$4M today. Second, the Wards Corner resurgence. Third, Harbor Walk/Pointe East, which had been a trailer park site. He said the grocery deal "almost happened," but a "critical mass" is needed to entice retail here. He also noted several challenges. First, there's a 50% minority population in Norfolk and people "should be able to live where they want to live, not where they have to live." He also said, "We have to do better with our public schools...but even an elected School Board can't make changes overnight." He said, too, that, "companies should adopt schools," and that 70% of students are on subsidized meals and many have never been read to.

With regard to flooding, he said that Pretty Lake, the Hague and Mason Creek are the top 3 areas to be addressed, though, when pressed, Pretty Lake is *not* one of the areas targeted for the \$100M City grant. He also said, "There will be 'maintenance dredging' in Pretty Lake this year," which surprised many there. He was also pressed by the audience about the continuing need for "streets, gutters and sidewalks" and why they couldn't be installed concurrent with the Pleasant Avenue sewer work (it was noted that "we" [the Civic League] have asked and the answer is no). He highlighted the new OV Business Café and Branding Campaigns that have just begun. He concluded by saying that "a major turnover this year would be counter-productive to the ongoing momentum in our City."

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

Guest Speaker: Noelle Gabriel, Candidate for Norfolk School Board, Super Ward 6, City of Norfolk

Dr. Gabriel is one of two candidates for Ward 6. As a product of the Norfolk School System, and currently practicing at CHKD, Dr. Gabriel believes she has “a full understanding of students’ needs.” She cited several accomplishments she is proud of. First, she visits schools weekly, and commented, “it is a privilege to receive an education,” and if a student assaults a teacher unprovoked, the student will be expelled. She also believes in transparency and full and open communications, to include School Board meetings. Health and wellness programs now address issues like obesity, and high school students possibly starting school later, though Fairfax County just got that implemented after years of trying. Parental involvement is also key; 70% of Norfolk students don’t have both parents. Schools and teachers aren’t the solution to many of our society’s ills, she said, but also that, “without an education, these kids will become the statistics you start your meetings with.” She also said that aging and antiquated schools need to be “repurposed,” such as Councilman/Principal Smigiel’s new school.

During Q&A, she supports “open campuses,” for kids on the cusp of graduation but they have “issues” where a “typical” classroom setting might not be right. She also supports the idea of NATO, military and retiree “mentors” for students; preventive medicine through wellness centers; and dedicated school gymnasiums, *not* multi-purpose gyms/auditorium/cafeterias.

Old Business

- The Amstar Motel case before the Board of Building Code Appeals has been continued, as has the criminal case for unpaid lodging taxes.
- The Grants 101 Workshop was re-scheduled to March 5th.
- There is a “Business Café” that has been introduced to promote more entrepreneurship. The first session was a huge success and others have been scheduled, to include March 14th in the Nansmond on the Bay Community Room.
- The Charity Hockey Game is on Friday, the 8th of April, at the Scope Arena between the “Demolition Men” and the USS Abraham Lincoln. The tickets are \$12.00, with \$2.00 going to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. Contact Ann Bolen or Alex Ewsuk (the goalie for the Demo Men), at William.ewsuk@gmail.com for tickets.

New Business

- There is a Planning Commission meeting on 24 March to consider a new Jimmy Johns (like Subway) at the site of the former Matts Service Center on Shore Drive. Also a Wells Fargo Drive-thru next to Starbucks. Both were voted on and unanimously approved. Last, there are architectural drawings for a new Surf Rider that will go before Planning at a future date.
- There is a Ward 6 and Mayoral debate on March 10th at the Pretlow Library for all interested.

- The Wetlands Stewardship wishes to do a project on Pretty Lake behind the Rec Center. A signup sheet was made available and about 10 individuals signed up to help at a workday to plant native grasses and restore the shoreline. The Lafayette Wetlands Partnership knows how to do this and has \$32K for hard costs but needs to mentor our group of volunteers.
- There will be a meeting on March 28th from 6-8 p.m. at the Slover Library to discuss “Green and Complete Streets.”
- Someone has proposed an Ocean View “Restaurant Week,” which was fully supported by the attendees.
- Researchers at ODU wish to get input from residents and learn how we view flooding and sea level rise. Focus groups are planned for March 17th and 24th at Pretlow Library and, if interested, you must sign up at mcovi@odu.edu. (Michelle Covi). You will receive a \$20 gift card for your time.
- Donations are still being accepted for the victims of the Willoughby Spit and 1800 block of Kingston Avenue fires. Please contact Heather Tebbenhoff for more info at Heather.Tenbberhoff@uss.salvationarmy.org
- Several local business owners, home developers and other “positive” people have been invited to participate in an Ocean View “Good News Team.” Thanks to those participating!
- St. Patrick’s Day parade 19 March.

Our speakers next month will be Dr. Warren Stewart, candidate for Ward 6 (TBD); and Carter Smith, candidate for School Board from 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,

John Greene

President