

East Ocean View Civic League

Minutes of meeting held November 3, 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	\$2335.67
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$2336.67
Net Income (June through August)	\$ -14.42

It was noted that, for security reasons, lights were installed in the neighborhood Garden due to vandalism. The Board approved paying a monthly utility fee of \$25 to Dominion Virginia Power. It was also reported to the membership, as it is periodically, that we support 3 charities: the EOV Rec Center, the Storehouse Outreach Center, and Coach Dwight's various team activities and boot camp.

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

Police Report

Officer John Folscher reported that there had been twenty incident reports in our area last month which included one robbery where those involved knew each other; two commercial burglaries; three residential burglaries; and two stolen vehicles and several larcenies from vehicles.

Officer Folscher advises we be careful during the holiday season and stay in well lit areas while shopping.

Guest Speaker: Ms. LeeAnn Bennington, Rockefeller Christmas tree project

Ms. Bennington reported about the coming 2nd Annual Rockefeller Christmas Tree project held in the Gazebo area in West Ocean View. The festival is for all of Ocean View and the kickoff will be Sunday, November 27th at 5:15pm. There will be a ten foot live tree, lit garlands, free kettle corn, hot chocolate, baby animals, the Hurrah players and Santa Claus will arrive on a hook and ladder truck. The display will be up through January 6th and is funded by a grant through the City of Norfolk. The committee really needs volunteers for this fun event. If you can help, please call LeeAnn Bennington at 646-6348. A donation was also taken from the membership.

Guest Speaker: Councilwoman Andrea McClellan, Super Ward 6

Ms. McClellan represents Super Ward 6, which includes Wards, 1, 2, and 5. She has been in office four months and reports that the Council has a very positive working relationship and is

evenly balanced: 4 women and 4 men, 4 African Americans and 4 Caucasians. Her email is: andria.mcclellan@norfolk.gov.

She reported that City Manager Marcus Jones is leaving for a job in Charlotte, NC, and he will be missed. The City is starting a nation-wide executive search for his replacement. She stated that the primary job of the City Council is to hire/fire the City Manager. The process will be confidential but transparent. The candidate will need to be especially educated in the areas of water, education, and technology.

Ms. McClellan opened the floor for questions and she informed our members that the City is working on more affordable housing (moving people with a voucher system); putting GPS on buses; the flooding issue, especially here in Ocean View and the Hague. There is a \$120 million HUD grant and the City is working on how to spend it. As to the Sand Replenishment project along the Bay, she reports that it will begin in January 2017. The project will be the same as it has been proposed to us in the past.

The dredging of Pretty Lake will begin November 14th. It was last done 12 to 15 years ago.

In answer to the perennial and perpetual question about gutters and sidewalks in the Pleasant Avenue area, Ms. McClellan said to keep pushing by writing letters and making phone calls to members of the Council.

In a question regarding the state of Norfolk schools, Ms. McClellan reports that there is an antagonistic relationship between the Council and the School Board that needs to be repaired. There will be five positions up for election in 2018. The elite academies inside the schools are preparing students well but the regular school division needs attention and repair. Ms. McClellan reports that there are five high schools that are under-enrolled, thus public "charter schools" would be a "tough road." Taxes may have to be raised to address the problems of education and repair. The long term goal to improve the schools is to get communities involved, but they also need leadership. Enrollment is declining, as millennials and empty-nesters are moving to Norfolk but families with children are choosing to live in neighboring communities.

In response to other questions, Ms. McClellan said the City bought the land on 21st street behind the 7/11; the Pretty Lake flood wall is a long way off as there is no money for the project and it will be 8 - 9 years before we see money from the federal government, however, engineering studies are being done.

East Ocean View Board of Directors Nominations

As announced last month, John Greene is stepping down from the position as President of the Civic League. Additionally, Board Member Willie Smith is also stepping down. Both men have served our area tirelessly and we thank them very much for their service.

Ann Bolen, Vice President, has agreed to fill the office of President on an interim basis for a year, so please be forward thinking and consider a strong and positive person to replace her a year from now.

With that said, the Officers of the Board are elected to a year term and the Board members are elected to two year terms with four members being elected on alternate years. The following slate of officers was introduced, accepted unanimously, and will be voted on officially in December:

President: Ann Bolen

Vice President: Steve Chamberlain

Treasurer: Jeff Lewis

Secretary: Ann Freeman

Board of Directors: Jimmy Carter, Alice Webley, Dave Moore, John Hadfield

You must be a member in good standing to vote.

Old Business

The Planning Commission voted on Oct. 27th to change the zoning so that the East Beach Company could develop the lot near the Lagoon Restaurant, near the Marina. The proposed project now goes in front of the City Council.

Please remember, the Community Garden at 18th and Pleasant is having a garden event December 10th at 1pm. Please come by. Also volunteers planted 200 plants in the "Rain Garden" on the side of the Rec. Center. The plantings are to help mitigate flooding. Many great volunteers made this possible.

A reminder: we are an organization that is run by volunteers. East Ocean View Civic League is known for all it is accomplishing but it is the people in the area that are responsible for all of the accomplishments. Please consider helping. Opportunities include but are not limited to the Rain Garden, the neighborhood garden, Juanita's children's garden, the newsletter (writing articles), preparing welcome packets to be distributed to new members of our community, code enforcement.

New Business

At this time of the year, we support the Thanksgiving and holiday programs of the Rec. Center and The New Life Christian Center. The Rec. Center is having its Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 19th from 1 pm to 3 pm. New Life Christian Center is having its Thanksgiving Dinner on Nov. 24th from 11 am to 3 pm. The Civic League approved \$600 for each organization towards their projects. Again, volunteers are needed and appreciated.

Note: the Rec Center will also have a 'Cookies with Santa' on December 17th.

Our speakers next month will be Mr. Tommy Smigiel, City Councilman Ward 5 and Mr. Gabriel Phelps, Norfolk City Public Works.

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