

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Ocean Park Civic League
Thursday, May 10, 2007
Ocean Park Fire and Rescue Station**

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Howard Weinberg. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Weinberg confirmed that a quorum was present and introduced the evening's featured speaker, Virginia Beach Police Department Officer Ray.

Officer Ray identified our area as 330, in a precinct which extended from Pleasure House Road on the West side to the Lesner Bridge on the East, and from Virginia Beach Boulevard to water's edge. He cited police statistics from January 2007 to date, stating that all but 3 of the reports had been cleared, and that overall, The Ocean Park neighborhood was sound.

Ray continued by extolling the advantages of forming a Neighborhood Watch, which he said requires 80% participation by residents. He called attention to a number of pamphlets he had brought with him, dealing with such subjects as Personal Safety, Home Security, Cyber Safety, a cooperative organization among AARP, VB Sheriff's Department and VBPD, a Parent's Guide to Gangs, and auto theft prevention. He stressed that in the matter of home security, nothing was more valuable than motion-detecting sensor lights for night-time illumination.

His closing remarks addressed the rising influence of gangs in crime statistics. Current thinking is that local gangs are still mainly local, but that national gangs were infiltrating and that as that occurs, problems would become more serious. He stated that VBPD needs help in identifying individuals and incidents that are gang-related. He encouraged all citizens to make reports of all events in the neighborhood, even if damage was minor or apprehension was unlikely. For non-emergency reports, he gave the operative number to be 385-5000. He reported that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), representing all civic leagues in the Third Precinct, meets the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Bayside High School to discuss relevant issues. He ended his presentation saying that our Precinct Captain was Captain Smith.

At 7:30 p.m. the business portion of the civic league meeting commenced with Chris Stolle introducing himself as a candidate to replace retiring House of Delegates member Leo Wardrup. In the Treasurer's Report, Anne Kane stated that the April report posted on the OPCL Website was the most recent, requiring only the adjustment of \$235 dues income and \$2,520 in newsletter printing expense. Weinberg then directed the membership to refer to the Website for the minutes of the previous month's Board meeting and the minutes of the March 2007 general meeting.

Weinberg then issued a plea for more members to step forward to participate in the growing number of city and civic meetings where Ocean Park interests were being discussed and decided. He again addressed the need for an aggressive membership drive. Ed Krauss, with 12 new members to his credit, won the Sign-up Challenge award, a \$100

Ruth Crisp certificate donated by Vicky Schiano. Weinberg noted that OPCL still has a long way to go, with roughly 1400 households and a membership of only 185.

In general business, Weinberg confirmed that there would be no July meeting unless there were significant developments with the proposed Indigo Dunes. He noted that the by-laws call for Committee Chairs and Officers be dues-paying members of OPCL and that the election will be held at the November meeting, following the presentation of a slate at the September meeting. He needs three people to serve on the Nominating Committee, to identify candidates for all 4 officers, a northside and a southside representative and 4 at-large representatives.

For the first Committee report, Mike Wills stated that the most recent Bayfront Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting report could be found in the newsletter, but that the issue of gateway signage was under discussion, with some wondering whether the signage should read "Bayfront" or "Shore Drive", and that BAC was looking for input. A motion was made and approved that if the signage had not already been produced, OPCL prefers "Bayfront." A brief discussion of the scenic overlook under construction ensued.

Anne Kane delivered the Shore Drive Community Coalition (SDCC) report, declaring the Town Hall meeting on March 26 a resounding success. In the meeting April 30, 2007, SDCC learned that the city was contemplating more beach accesses of the caliber of the Albemarle and Dinwiddie ramps. She stated that the Sheriff's Department, which installed those ramps, would not be available for future ramps and that the city was looking for volunteers. In other business, SDCC was looking toward the May 21, 2007 Wetlands Board hearing regarding the proposed Indigo Dunes. The chamber has seating for 640 and OPCL is sponsoring a bus to the 9:30 hearing. The Joint Permit Application has changed and the Website www.NoIndigoDunes.com has technical information. Another issue before SDCC was a proposal to build condos at the site of the present Marina Shores marina. Petitions are circulating to oppose such development. The owner has threatened to replace the existing marina with a larger one if denied the permits to build condos. Kane reported that the residents have said they would rather see a marina, even if larger, than condos on the site. The final issue before SDCC concerns the increasing number of requests for rezoning from B2 to B4 along Shore Drive, from Business to Mixed Use, not as desirable as it might sound. In closing, Kane announced that there would be a meeting at the Fire Station on Monday, May 14, to review the proposed R5R architectural guidelines.

Kane then opened the report on Pleasure House Point developments by saying that SDCC was taking the lead position as representative of larger numbers of interested individuals and that future financial transactions would pass through SDCC, with OPCL turning over all funds (\$4,810.97) collected so far, reserving \$3,000 to meet commitments made to date.

Liz Dyer took over the report at this point, summing up the success of the Town Hall meeting. She announced that a high school student who attended the meeting has organized a benefit for the opposition to Indigo Dunes in the form of a concert at 271 Granby Street, featuring 9-12 bands, with a \$5 admission fee. Details can be had at

www.sdcc.info. Dyer again reminded the assembly that there would be a bus leaving from the Fire Station at 8:30 a.m. on May 21 for the Wetlands Board hearing, and encouraged all who planned to ride to sign up on the sheet she was circulating at the moment. She also said that she had been told that 30 students from Cape Henry Collegiate planned to attend.

Walt Stone completed the report by first by identifying the high school student as the one at the Town Hall meeting who had asked how much the Sandlers stood to make on the proposed development. He encouraged all to support the band effort on Granby Street and to do whatever was necessary to attend the Wetlands Board hearing. He emphasized that numbers do matter and explained how the opposition planned to present the case. He identified our expert as a member of the firm of W.L. Black. At the end of Stone's remarks, he was asked what answer was given to the high school student's question and the reply was that the development as proposed was expected to be valued at \$1 billion. In reporting recent donations, Kane noted that Weinberg's \$500 challenge had been met and exceeded, with a total of \$1,532 in answering pledges.

Mike Wills opened the Zoning Committee report with reference to an issue which he had raised in an article for the most recent newsletter. He clarified that the deadline for the newsletter prevented him from completing his investigation of a complaint prior to publication, but that he had properly identified the complaint as "yet unconfirmed" regarding the removal of trees from public space by a homeowner engaged in new construction on Raleigh Avenue. Wills reported that his investigation had shown that the trees were on the homeowner's property and that he did have the right to remove them. Other elements of the prospective homeowner's plans were not so clearly entitled and still required city approval.

At this point, the prospective homeowner rose to identify himself as Leo Wardrup and to demand an opportunity to refute the complaints lodged against him with the Zoning Committee. He proceeded to make his points and furnished the attending officers of OPCL with a copy of his letter to the civic league and a copy of his letter to one of the complainants, prospective neighbors Mr. and Mrs. Raymond D. Janezeck. He also included drawings of his proposed changes to the existing access to his property. Mr. Janezeck then rose to address Mr. Wardrup, but Weinberg limited his opportunity to speak, stating that the matter did not belong before the general membership, that it was not on the agenda, and that the agenda was too full to permit lengthy discussion. Weinberg advised the homeowner's to work it out privately.

Wills then noted that the city would soon be deciding the issue of whether or not to adopt the proposed revision of guidelines for R5R zoning. These guidelines were developed by a consortium of landscape architects, the Tidewater Builders Association, the North End Civic League, city officials and other interested parties. The stated aim was to encourage a more aesthetically pleasing alternative to the present custom of building three story boxes on small lots which have been grandfathered to allow duplexes to be build on lots of less than 10,000 s/f. Wills called on the members to support the proposed guidelines. A motion was made to this effect. In discussion, some members professed not to have heard anything about the issue, despite the observation by Secretary

Grace Moran that the city had sent at least two mailings to her, and Wills' and Weinberg's observation that the issue had been raised at numerous previous civic league meetings. A second motion was offered to table the first motion. No significant discussion was forthcoming, the motion to table was voted and defeated. The motion to support the proposed revision to the R5R architectural guidelines was repeated, voted and passed.

In New Business, Weinberg asked if there were any suggestions for speakers for future meetings. None were forthcoming, so Weinberg proposed that he invite the Coast Guard to send a representative to the next meeting. Liz Dyer brought up the concept of cigarette disposal units on the beach, stating that she had already placed two and sought funding to acquire another 10-12 buckets. Discussion revealed that members of the league could donate that number and it was determined that there was no need for a budget request. Dyer also stated that there was a need for one more "Scoop the Poop" dispenser and she received authorization to order it, a sufficient number of Board members being present to grant it.

In other New Business, Moran brought up the issue of the city's proposal to use the spoils area adjacent to the city marina as a dredge transport site for the dredging of the entire Western Branch of the Lynnhaven Inlet. Such a use would result in 40-50 dump trucks per day, by some estimates, coming from the dredge site onto Shore Drive at E. Stratford Road. Moran gave the name of Justin Worrell, an environmental engineer with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, and his phone number as 247-8063, as contact for comments. In a final piece of New Business, Wills alerted the membership to an application to open a parasailing business at the Lynnhaven Inlet, an operation which could possibly represent a nuisance to residents.

After a raffle awarding gift certificates from C.P. Shuckers, Dockside and H2O restaurants, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Moran

maint. dredging - permitted

city ^{has} not applied to offload at Crab Ck

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