

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Ocean Park Civic League
Thursday, September 9, 2004
Ocean Park Rescue Squad**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Chris Hendricks. The first order of business was a report on the staffing of the Ocean Park Rescue Squad by William Bailey, President of the Virginia Beach Police and Firefighters. To open the presentation, a taped interview of Chris Hendricks by a TV Channel 3 news reporter, was shown. Bailey has been monitoring staffing of the Virginia Beach Fire Stations and has learned that the Ocean Park and Chesapeake Beach Fire Stations are chronically and critically understaffed. In Ocean Park, the city's goal of fire response within 6 minutes was met 60% of the time (on average over a 6 month period), rescue response goal of 9 minutes was met 72% of the time and ambulance response of 12 minutes was met 80% of the time. He circulated a chart to amplify these observations, as well as daily reports to document his findings. He reported that in comparison with other Southside cities, Virginia Beach did poorly. Hendricks proposed that the Board would likely form a safety committee to address this and other relevant issues. Rhonda Morrison (Secretary-select) agreed to maintain a monthly spreadsheet of Bailey's reports and send them to the Shore Drive Advisory Committee and attend the Rescue Squad Oversight Committee meetings monthly.

Dave Metzger then presented an update on Pleasure House Point developments. It is confirmed that a Sandler enterprise has acquired the option of the property. It is rumored that they would like to put 400-600 units on the parcel, but so far no plan has been submitted to the city, to his knowledge. Hendricks noted that since OPCL has sent a letter of introduction to the Mayor and City Council and received a response from the Mayor, the League has a line of communication within which to pursue this issue. Metzger agreed to prepare and send another letter to the Mayor regarding Pleasure House Point by the end of next week, September 13, 2004, in accordance with his earlier commitment to author such communication. Metzger also added that he has invited various city council members to address OPCL, but that so far only the District Representative Louis Jones has agreed to appear. He has not designated a date. Hendricks referred attendees to Page 6 of the most recent newsletter for a copy of the letter which Metzger has written to members of OPCL outlining the situation and furnishing points of contact for individuals to generate community pressure. A question from the floor regarding the city's Open Space Budget was answered by Hendricks saying that some city acquisition was still a possibility. After other questions from the floor regarding the Slanders, Metzger reported that to date, they have not been very approachable. A final question from the floor established that in a letter-writing campaign, using one's own words would prove most effective. At this point, Hendricks introduced Janet Dunphy, the *Virginian-Pilot*, and *Beacon*, seated in the assembly, and said that she would be following PHP developments in neighborhood reporting.

In an update to the R5R Zoning issue, Metzger reported that North End and Chesapeake Beach neighborhoods were circulating petitions to Virginia Beach Planning Commission regarding the re-writing of this zoning, requiring a 10,000 square foot lot for duplex construction. An e-mail address is to be posted on the OPCL Website. Todd Solomon, of the Shore Drive Community Coalition (SDCC), seated in the assembly, reported that there had been no action by the city or the Planning Commission to date. Hendricks promised to have more information by the November plenary meeting.

Regarding the proposed Osprey Point Park, Hendricks proposes that a letter of support be written to the architects of the plan. From the floor, the question was raised as to whether the proposed park would further stress the limited parking available at the adjacent city marina. Anne Kane responded that since there were no amenities involved other than landscaping, the location would not likely be a driving destination. John Wigmore, the Southside Representative, observed that since he has lived near the spoil site, he has sent letters to the city requesting a lowering of the elevation, which this would accomplish. Hendricks called for a volunteer to voice concerns to the city. Metzger agreed to take on the role.

The next agenda item, the Stratford Road property, was postponed, as OPCL is still awaiting the completion of title transfer and recording, under the supervision of Past President William Sykes. Sykes was not present to project a date for accomplishment. Hendricks referred attendees to Page 9 of the newsletter for a more complete report of the present status.

Anne Kane announced the availability of tickets to the SDCC Oyster Roast, an event designed to enhance community spirit. This will be the last time the event will be held at the Duck Inn. An art show, live music, Hobie cat races and cash prizes are planned. Event will be held Sunday, October 3, 2004 from 1 – 5 p.m., food served 1 – 4 p.m.

Hendricks then presented an overview of the proposed changes to OPCL By-Laws, which have been prepared by Susan Karlau. One of the major changes is to the size of the Board of Directors, enlarged to include representatives of Aeries on the Bay (AOTB), Three Ships Landing (TSL) and the two high rises. Other changes and revisions will be posted on the Website by Sunday, September 12, 2004 and will be voted on at the November plenary meeting. In view of the urgency of getting the three representatives involved as soon as possible, Hendricks requested that Article V, which addresses this issue, be voted separately and incorporated immediately, if passed. There was some discussion about the appropriateness of including representatives from these neighborhoods, since they all have their own individual organizations. Consensus was that such conditions did not preclude the desirability of having all three neighborhoods included in OPCL. Kane moved to incorporate the revised Article V immediately and the motion carried. Jill Broome was accepted as AOTB Representative, Rhonda Morrison as TSL Representative and David Blevins tentatively designated representative for the two high-rises, with a permanent representative to be determined. Rhonda Morrison was also confirmed as Co-Secretary of OPCL.

On the subject of the newsletter, Carol Collins and Jean Sleeman were acknowledged and thanked for excellent work. Kane reported that 1,800 copies were distributed. Membership was discussed next, with Hendricks urging each member present to bring one other person with them to the next meeting.

Hendricks then referenced the job vacancies listed in the newsletter and urged members to step up to the plate to fulfill some of the needs of the community as expressed on Page 4 of the newsletter. Vacancies include a need for a Social Coordinator to plan the December social event, a Meeting Dates Booking Manager, Attendance and Door Prize Coordinator, Local Traffic Coordinator, Youth Reporter and back-up volunteers to attend Citizen/Government meeting when designated representatives were unavailable.

Carol Collins reported on changes and additions to the newsletter, including classified ads free to members and youth services ads. She also solicited member input for recipes, special events, area history and the like. Material must be submitted 3 weeks prior to the plenary meetings. Advertising is expected to expand this year, with a \$25/issue, \$100/year cost. From the floor came a recommendation to include a block of information in the newsletter detailing the rates. In a final note regarding the newsletter, Kane supervised the presentation of newsletter names submitted. The membership voted to name the newsletter *the Ocean Park Echo*.

In new business, Bob Leavenworth, of Jefferson Road, gave a short presentation about the Virginia Beach Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Its focus is disaster preparedness, is funded by FEMA and is conducted at a Virginia Beach Fire Station. The grant money is managed by the fire department and 160 people have already been trained. Individuals may volunteer to the Virginia Beach Volunteer Council. Hendricks offered to put the information on the Website.

In final business, Kane gave the Treasurer's report. In the savings account, OPCL had \$13,508.80 and in the checking account, \$2,568.11, as of August 31, 2004. Newsletter bills are still outstanding.

After the door prize drawings, and the awarding of the newsletter-naming prize, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Next meeting will be November 4, 2004.