

Notes from the 12 March 2008 Meeting of the Council of Civic Organizations

The CCO met Wednesday, March 12, 2008, in the Central Library, President Sam Reid presiding. A quorum was present. Minutes and budget passed. Rosemary Wilson of City Council attended.

Each meeting CCO intends to spotlight a community. The first community spotlighted: Green Run.

The speakers were Karen Lasley from Zoning, Andy Friedman from housing and Lynn Roundtree of code enforcement.

Mr. Friedman spoke on a new committee being formed to study Revitalizing and/or Redevelopment. This is meant to address aging neighborhoods and neighborhood and housing preservation. Mr. Friedman's department hopes to provide financial incentives to homeowners who need to upgrade their houses but cannot afford to. These incentives will come in the form of tax breaks. The committee also intends to have architectural "guidelines" though it appears VA State Law precludes design requirements. The committee is new and just started meeting in January.

Mr. Roundtree spoke on code enforcement. He suggested civic leagues invite the zoning inspector assigned to your area to the civic league meeting so as to address concerns regarding zoning.

Ms. Lasley spoke about zoning.

After the talks, questions were entertained from the floor. Carolyn (don't know her last name) worried that this new committee might be a code for "regentrification". She was assured by Mr. Friedman it was not. An architect mentioned that Norfolk's pattern book was absolute and that Norfolk was having difficulty.

Elizabeth Gregory,
CBCL CCO Liaison