

Notes from the May 2007 Meeting of the Council of Civic Organizations

The meeting was heavily attended as it was a "State of the City" meeting with Mayor Oberndorf and council members Diezel, DeSteph, Wilson, Dyer and Wood. Absent: Henley, McClanan, Uhrin, Jones and Villaneuva.

Mr. Wood was asked about council members answering emails. He responded if the email comes specifically to him, he answers. If it's to all members, the email goes to the mayor.

Mayor Oberndorf and Ms. Wilson complained about the State's "unfunded mandates". Nobody from the State was there to answer the accusation, however.

Apparently there is a gang problem in some areas of our city.

When asked "what direction does Council give the City Manager", Mayor Oberndorf replied that there are two types of cities: strong mayor or strong city manager. Virginia Beach is the latter.

The Ward system was discussed. Mr. DeSteph came up with a good compromise, suggesting that each district should vote for their rep with the whole city voting for the "at large" members.

Also discussed was traffic congestion at Centerville and Indian River Road and mass transit. Nobody was allowed to interject questions from the floor or I'd have asked why the city needs more buses when no one is riding the ones we already have.

Elizabeth Gregory,
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