

Chesapeake Beach Civic League

General Meeting Minutes of 16 November 2006

- 1) The meeting was **called to order** at 7:06 p.m.
- 2) **In attendance** at the meeting were the following officers and committee chairs:
President – Steve Kohler
Vice-President – Robert Marshall
Secretary & Webmaster – Bob Costello
Adopt-A-Street/Waterway Committee Chair – Darryl Stubbs
Architectural Preservation & Zoning Committee Co-Chair – Mark Walker
Business Liaison – Julie Sterzing
Historian – Kathy Damon
Meeting Coordinator – Debi Layton
Membership Committee Chair and SDAC Liaison – Wally Damon
Newsletter Editor – Kim Schmidt
Pleasure House Lake Committee Chair – Heidi Janicki
Also in attendance were 27 other voting members, for a total of 39 voting members
- 3) President Kohler **opened** the meeting and **welcomed** the members in attendance.
- 4) The **Pledge of Allegiance** was said.
- 5) President Kohler **introduced the Executive Board** for the benefit of new members.
- 6) **Corporate sponsors were acknowledged** by Julie Sterzing. She, also, made the following announcements:
 - a) The Business Liaison(s) position is open for 2007. Interested parties may contact President Kohler.
 - b) Julie introduced Brian Radford, owner of H. K. on the Bay, our latest sponsor. Mr. Radford bought Chic's Café and will be opening H. K. on the Bay in its place. Prior to opening to the general public, the restaurant will open to family and friends only on Friday, December 1st and to neighborhood residents only on Saturday, December 2nd. Proceeds from both nights will go to charity. The hours are 5:00pm – 12:00am Monday - Thursday and 5:00pm – 2:00am on Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, brunch will be served from 9:00am – 2:00pm. The establishment will be a restaurant first and foremost. The bar will be smaller, and there will be no draft beer. There will be live music one day per week, and it will be an "unplugged," acoustic set. Parking will be on Lauderdale. It will be smoke free until 10:00pm each night. They will be taking reservations. For further information and updates go to "HKnorfolk.com" and tab to "HK on the Bay".
- 7) President Kohler made the following **announcements**:
 - a) The Chesapeake Beach Holiday Party is December 7th, from 7:00-9:00pm.
 - b) Yellow Fins is hosting an Indigo Dunes Opposition Petition Signing Party from 9:00am – 2:00pm, this Saturday November 18th.
 - c) The Indigo Dunes project will be reviewed at the Wetlands Board Hearing at 9:30am on December 18th.
- 8) **Vice-President's Report**: Robert Marshall stated that due to his out-of-town business commitments he will no longer be able to act as Vice-President. He requested that his name be removed from consideration in tonight's vote.
- 9) **Secretary's Report**: Bob Costello read the minutes from the October 19, 2006 Working Meeting. The minutes were approved for the record.
- 10) **Old Business**:
 - a) Funds needed for Indigo Dunes opposition: President Kohler stated that the Ocean Park Civic League (OPCL) has spent thousands of dollars in fighting the Indigo Dunes development. The SDCC has donated \$250 to OPCL to help with their costs. A motion was made for us to donate \$250 to OPCL for costs associated with fighting Indigo Dunes. After discussion, the motion was amended to contribute \$500. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
 - b) Update and vote on funds for community sign: Heidi Janicki, Chair of the Pleasure House Lake Committee, reported on the bids received for the survey to install the sign. The minimum bid for the survey plus the paperwork processing fees for the city will total \$1100. A motion was made and seconded to allocate \$1100 for the community sign installation survey and paperwork.

11) **New Business:**

- a) Vote on officers for 2007: With the exception of Vice-President Robert Marshall, all other officers are willing to serve again in 2007. No other nominations were made for the 2007 officers. Steve Kohler (President), Katherine Dutlinger (Treasurer) and Bob Costello (Secretary) were approved by vote for the 2007 year.

12) **Committee Reports:**

- a) Adopt-A-Street/Waterway: Darryl Stubbs solicited volunteers to support the next Pleasure House Road & Pleasure House Lake clean-up at 9:00am on Saturday, Nov. 18th.
- b) Architectural Preservation & Zoning: Mark Walker's report included the following:
 - i) We are currently working with the SDCC in our ongoing opposition of the proposed Indigo Dunes project, which would detrimentally affect quality of life along Shore Drive and subsequently affect our community. The project proposed site plan evaluation by City Planning and Wetlands Board has been deferred until January.
 - ii) We have been contacted by Rick Gregor, who wishes to subdivide the old Grandy property at the west end of Lookout Road and Chubb Lake Avenue, into 4 lots, zoned R- 7.5. Since the road frontage of the property is only 40 feet, he is planning to apply for a subdivision variance to allow a 40-foot road right-of-way instead of the required 50 feet. (See the attachment) It is questionable whether or not the property has enough acreage to support this plan. Jim & Leslie Elfat bought this property earlier this year from the Grandy family. Their plans for development fell through, so they are selling to Rick Gregor. The boundaries on the deed are tied to the "edge of water." Different surveys have identified different limits of the boundaries. Rick Gregor is using a fifty year old survey which adds 1/5 an acre over what current surveys are showing. Until this is resolved, we cannot respond to Mr. Gregor's proposal. I talked to Jim Pierce in the City Planning Dept., and he directed me to Faith Christie. She thought that the existing edge of the water would determine the actual property lines. Therefore, Mr. Gregor does **not** have room to build four properties. Plus, the existing house on lot #1-A would end up facing the back of a new house on Lot #1. Also, Mr. Gregor wants a variance for only a 40ft. road. He, however, has no hardship for this variance, except through his own desire to subdivide it into four parcels.

It was moved and seconded to oppose this development as it currently stands, with the note that we will reconsider the issue if changes are made to the subdivision of the property. The motion passed.

- c) Block Captains: Laura Watrous submitted the following report via President Kohler:
 - i) If you have an extra 30 minutes every other month and would be willing to deliver newsletters to one of the following streets, please contact her at 460-6667:
 - (1) 4600 Block of Ocean View Ave.
 - (2) Hollis Rd
 - (3) Bay Quarter Court Condos
 - (4) Secure Court
 - (5) Vantage Point
 - ii) A big THANK YOU and WELCOME to our newest Block Captain volunteers, Laurel Brooks, Caroline Callahan, and Kim Lohl.
- d) Business Liaisons: Julie Sterzing & Cindy Johnson presented the following report:
 - i) New Business Liaison volunteers are needed for 2007.
 - ii) All accounts for advertisers are paid through 2006.
 - iii) We are steadily moving along on the 2007 corporate sponsors and advertisers. All the corporate sponsors are sold, and we have three ad's remaining to sell, but it should not be a problem.
 - iv) The 2007 corporate sponsors are expecting a bill in the very near future, and we have told the advertisers that they will be billed in January, except for Kroger's.
 - v) We would like to remind everyone to continue to support our supporters! The following corporate sponsors have committed for 2007:
 - (1) Bayside Tire & Auto/Excel
 - (2) HK on the Bay
 - (3) Killer Cuts
 - (4) Karen Bartee Ellis (realtor for Prudential Decker)
 - (5) Dubay Properties
 - (6) Kroger's

- e) CCO Representative: *Position Vacant*
 - f) Historian: Kathy Damon solicited inputs from members for future historical stories and for historical photos.
 - g) Meeting Coordinator: Debi Layton had nothing to report.
 - h) Membership: Wally Damon reported that we have 294 households and 487 total members to date.
 - i) Newsletter: Kim Schmidt reported the following:
 - i) She is in need of at least one committed volunteer to assist in content development, writing, editing and to regularly attend civic league meetings. The individual must have access to e-mail and Microsoft Word. This is a great resume filler for a high school or college student. Anyone interested can contact her at kdesign@cox.net or 464-9575.
 - ii) She, also, needs help generating stories and taking photos.
 - iii) For sale tonight and at the Holiday Party are CXB T-shirts and decals and photo quality posters of a 1937 aerial photo of Chesapeake Beach.
 - j) Pleasure House Lake: Heidi Janicki reported the following:
 - i) The city's neighborhood park sign was installed in October next to the parking area on Beaufort Ave.
 - ii) Progress has been made in selecting a professional to prepare the civic league's encroachment application and required plats for the city to review for approval to place the CBCL's Chesapeake Beach sign at the end of Pleasure House Rd. near the lake on city-owned property. The best quote was \$850 to prepare the paperwork and plats. This is in addition to the \$250 application fee that is paid to the city.
 - k) Pride In Community: Not present.
 - l) Safety & Neighborhood Watch: Not present.
 - m) Shore Drive Advisory Committee: Wally Damon had nothing to report.
 - n) Shore Drive Community Coalition: Not present.
 - o) Webmaster: Bob Costello had nothing to report.
- 13) **Guest Speakers: Robert Dean & John Moss of the Taxpayer Alliance Group:** Mr. Roger Gregory introduced Mr. Dean & Mr. Moss. They stated that in 1986 Real Estate taxes composed 78% of the city's tax base, but, now, it is 89%. The tax assessments have increased drastically relative to the income of residents. They believe that the city needs a new strategy. The commercial tax rate has gone up 3%-4% per year while the residential tax rate has gone up 11%-22%.
- In 2004, the city saw \$263M in tourist generated income. In 2005, this number was down to \$239M, yet the city continues to spend greater and greater tax dollars on improving the infrastructure for tourists. Money spent on tourists is not getting a satisfactory return on the investment. The city of Virginia Beach likes to compare residential real estate taxes with other cities in Hampton Roads. This comparison is based upon a \$200,000 home in each of the cities, and it appears to compare reasonably to the others, except that the median value of a home in Virginia Beach is much higher than in the other cities and much higher than \$200,000. In fact, the real estate taxes being paid by residents in Virginia Beach are much higher than in all of the other cities. Another issue is that food taxes in the city are the third highest in the nation. They maintain that city spending should increase no faster than the average resident's wage increases. They believe that every day people and civic leagues need to take a stand on this. The Virginia Beach Tax Alliance meets on the 4th Saturday every month at 9:00am at the Marion Manor Retirement Center. For further information, go to their web site www.vbtaxpayer.com.
- 14) The **meeting adjourned** at 8:53.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Costello,
CBCL Secretary