

Chesapeake Beach Civic League

General Meeting Minutes of 17 May 2007

- 1) The meeting was **called to order** at 7:04 p.m.
- 2) **In attendance** at the meeting were the following officers and committee chairs:
President – Steve Kohler
Vice-President, Historian and BAC Liaison – Wally Damon
Treasurer – Katherine Dutlinger
Secretary & Webmaster – Bob Costello
Adopt-A-Street/Waterway Committee Chair – Darryl Stubbs
Architectural Preservation & Zoning Committee Co-Chair – Mark Walker
Business Liaison – Jim Schmidt
Pleasure House Lake Committee Chair – Heidi Janicki
Safety and Neighborhood Watch Committee Chair – Doug Barner
Also in attendance were 22 other voting members, for a total of 31 voting members.
- 3) President Kohler **opened** the meeting and **welcomed** the members in attendance.
- 4) The **Pledge of Allegiance** was said.
- 5) **Announcements:**
 - a) President Kohler announced the following:
 - i) Pleasure House Point Development (Indigo Dunes) Hearing by the Wetland Board: It is scheduled for Monday at 9:30am in the City Council Chambers. Several of our officers and chairpersons are speaking in opposition to the development. We welcome support by our members in attending the hearing.
 - ii) The VBCCO and City Police Dept. newsletters were passed around.
 - b) Doug Barner announced the following:
 - i) He introduced Officer J. J. Seamon, our liaison to the Third Precinct.
 - ii) Mentioned that there have been three citations on Greenwell Rd. for traffic violations.
 - c) Officer J. J. Seamon announced the following:
 - i) The ATV beach patrol will be back starting next week.
 - ii) He addressed traffic calming efforts in the neighborhood. The program is currently implemented on Greenwell Rd.
 - iii) In response to a question by Stewart Smokler about what citizens can do to help out the police, Officer Seamon stated that there are groups of children conducting malicious mischief such as spray painting under the bridge. If anyone witnesses them, please call the police.
 - iv) The community service parking patrols run until 5:00pm or 6:00pm during summer months. After hours and during the rest of the year, call the police safety line.
- 6) **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Dutlinger read the latest bank balance of \$19,060.63.
- 7) **Secretary's Report:** Secretary Costello handed out hard copies and reviewed the minutes from the April 19, 2007 Working Meeting. The minutes were approved for the record.
- 8) **Guest Speaker:** Carolyn Weems: President Kohler introduced Ms. Carolyn Weems. She is a candidate for state delegate in the 83rd district on the June 12th ballot. This is the position that has been held by Leo Wardrup, who recently announced his retirement. Ms. Weems stated the following:
 - a) She has a passion for the 83rd district
 - b) She has lived in the district since 1983
 - c) She has local experience, including significant school board experience.
 - d) She runs her own business, a screen printing/embroidery business.
 - e) She believes that the top two resident concerns are:
 - i) Taxes and runaway residential real estate assessments
 - ii) Immigration concerns
 - f) She also is interested in the following issues
 - i) Education, specifically Vocational Training

- ii) Transportation, specifically Shore Drive Safety
- g) She asks that everyone come out and vote and encourage others to vote on June 12th.
- h) Mark Walker mentioned his two biggest concerns:
 - i) He stressed his concerns over the increasing city assessments that often exceed residential appraisals.
 - ii) The city has not funded the projects to improve safety along Shore Drive.

9) **Old Business:**

- a) Budget Presentation & Vote. Pat Costello discussed the proposed budget as detailed in the attached report.

10) **New Business:**

- a) Summer Party:
 - i) Kathy Damon is coordinating it.
 - ii) The date is July 28th.
 - iii) It will be held next to HK by the Bay.
- b) Chairs & Blinds for the Meeting Room.
 - i) The estimates are \$99.70 for nicer blinds or \$59.70 for cheaper blinds. Volunteers will install them. Concerns were raised about installing the blinds in a building that might soon get torn down. It was discussed that the move of the Fire & Rescue Squad will probably not happen for some time. The motion was made and passed to get new blinds in accordance with the price estimates.
 - ii) No price yet for the replacement chairs.
- c) Sewart Smokler mentioned that we need a neighborhood Zone Captain for the Clean the Bay Day, on Saturday June 2nd. It takes about three hours that day and a couple hours of preparation time prior to the event. This was also mentioned in the newsletter. Stewart is too busy to do it this year, but he thinks that the civic league should be involved in this. Charlotte Hall volunteered to be the Zone Captain.

11) **Committee Reports:**

- a) Adopt-A-Street/Waterway: Darryl Stubbs reported the following:
 - i) A clean-up is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 19th. Meet at Lookout Rd. and Pleasure House Rd. Due to the lack of volunteers at the last pick-up not much was picked up.
 - ii) Seven people volunteered to pick-up this Saturday.
 - iii) He is out of Kroger cards, but the Treasurer is supplying him with more.
 - iv) He is experiencing back problems, but he will be there to assist the volunteers.
 - v) Tom Treesh has built the dog poop removal boxes, but the placards that he made have faded already. Darryl will buy metal placards for the boxes. It was noted that people have been using them. Darryl asked that people assist in refilling them with plastic bags if they see them empty.
- b) Architectural Preservation & Zoning: Mark Walker reported the following
 - i) Concerning the variance hearing for the last property to be rebuilt on Ocean View Ave that burned down Dec 2003. Results are still unknown, but Mark expects that the variances will be approved. The height variance will likely be approved since the house slopes down towards the water, and the height is measured from the lowest point. The city has been liberal in granting the variances to the owners who had homes burn down.
 - ii) Concerning proposed changes to R5R zoning, Mark is working with Tidewater Building Association and North End Civic League to make a win-win situation as to design no Big Box construction for lots deeded after 1974 that are non-conforming lots smaller than 50x100ft. The BAR -- building area ratio -- is a concept that was developed for the new proposal. This takes away the 1000 sqft of free space allowed under current rules for garages on a duplex property. The 1000 sqft of free space was arbitrarily added to the current rules just before the rules were accepted by the city. Also, houses that choose to have a side-loaded garage will be allowed to move within 8 ft. of the property line, which is the single family set back requirement, rather than the set back of 10ft for other duplexes, and they would be allowed to extend a deck to within 12 ft of the front property line vice the 20 ft allowed for other duplexes. There are also new guidelines for pitched roofs rather than big boxes. Stewart Smokler reinforced Mark's comments. A resident on Coronet brought up the concerns for safety on her street with these new duplexes, since they park two cars deep, with the second hanging out into the street. Besides having to avoid the parked cars, drivers cannot see potential dangers on the other side of the cars, such as children playing. This issue is being presented Monday night at the SDCC General Meeting, 7:30pm at the Ocean Park Fire Squad building. The opposition was going to be there but

backed out when they heard that it would be a debate format. A motion was made and passed unanimously to support the new R5R Zoning initiative.

iii) Indigo Dunes: This is the proposed development for the Pleasure House Point. The Sandlers have bought the property and are asking to eliminate wetlands and riparian buffers in order to build their 1023 residences. The Wetland Board will hear this issue Monday at 9:30am. The project will add significant traffic density to Shore Drive. This is the same Sandler family who donated the money for the Sandler Performing Arts Center. There is an on-going electronic petition opposing this development available online at the SDCC web site.

c) Bay Front Advisory Committee: Wally Damon reported the following:

i) Mr. Damon gave an update on the phases of Shore Drive improvements. \$25.8 million is the estimated cost for three projects not yet funded. Only \$4.3 million has been allocated for the improvement.

ii) He also noted that a neighborhood home is a constant problem with a dozen sailors living in it. Power has been turned off. The owners are absent, and the property is up for sale by Lynn Hume, but she is not responsive to dealing with problems at the house.

iii) He noted that traffic density on Shore Drive is an ongoing problem

iv) Darryl Stubbs noted that one unit in a duplex 4600 block of Lauderdale has 6 or more vehicles parked in front and across the street from it. He suspects there is a violation of the number of residents allowed.

d) Block Captains: Laura Watrous submitted the following report via President Kohler: 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:

i) Bay Quarter Court Condos

ii) Secure Court

iii) Vantage Point

e) Business Liaisons: Pat Costello mentioned that all advertisers except for one have paid through the end of month. Also, Lynn Hume has paid her newsletter ads through the end of June.

f) CCO Representative: *Position Vacant*

g) Historian: Nothing to report.

h) Meeting Coordinator: Not Present. Debi Layton notified President Kohler that she will not be able to continue in this role due to the illness of her mother-in-law, so we need a new volunteer for this position.

i) Membership: Wally Damon mentioned that Jack Steward, who was not present, is the latest member of the Diamond Club, for ten continuous years as a member of the CBCL.

j) Newsletter: Not Present.

k) Pleasure House Lake: Heidi Janicki reported the following:

i) The city acknowledged receiving the encroachment form and indicated that it would be approved.

ii) After that, the application to install the sign will be submitted to the city.

iii) Lastly, we will need volunteers to install it.

iv) Lake aeration & water quality improvement: Clay Bernick & Steve McLaughlin are going to return calls to Heidi, but have not yet done so.

l) Pride-In-Community: Not present.

m) Safety & Neighborhood Watch: Doug Barner reported the following:

i) He has a detailed report in the newsletter.

ii) The National Night Out is coming up on August 7th, in the HK by the Bay parking lot. When he started doing this, people did not come, but that has begun to change. If you come by, you can meet the Mayor, the Chief of Police, the Police Precinct Captain and officers, Firefighters, Rescue Squad members, and some of your neighbors.

n) Shore Drive Community Coalition: Not present, but President Kohler mentioned that the General Meeting is Monday at 7:30pm

o) Webmaster: Nothing to report.

12) The **meeting adjourned** at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Costello,
CBCL Secretary