

# Chesapeake Beach Civic League

## General Meeting Minutes of 20 September 2007

- 1) The meeting was **called to order** at 7:08 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  
Secretary & Webmaster – Bob Costello  
Adopt-A-Street/Waterway Committee Chair – Darryl Stubbs  
Architectural Preservation & Zoning – Bruce Johnson & Mark Walker  
Business Liaison – Paula Gregory  
CCO Liaison – Liz Gregory  
Meeting Coordinator – Jackie Robertson  
Membership Chair – Kathy Damon  
Newsletter Editor – Kim Schmidt  
Pleasure House Lake Chair – Heidi Janicki  
Also in attendance were 14 other voting members, for a total of 26 voting members.
- 3) President Kohler **opened** the meeting and **welcomed** the members in attendance.
- 4) The **Pledge of Allegiance** was said.
- 5) **Corporate Sponsors** were acknowledged.
- 6) **Announcements:**
  - a) President Kohler introduced our 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Liaison, Officer Cahill, who made the following remarks:
    - i) Residents are welcome to say hello to him if they see him working in the neighborhood, but do not enter a crime scene in order to speak with him.
    - ii) He will leave business cards in the back.
- 7) **Guest Speaker:** President Kohler introduced Joe Bouchard, who is campaigning for state delegate to fill the position being vacated by Leo Wardrup. He made the following comments:
  - a) He is a candidate for the Democratic Party.
  - b) He is from Montana. He entered the Navy by a commission through the Naval Academy. He has commanded a destroyer and the Naval Station Norfolk and retired in 2003.
  - c) Commanding the naval station was like being in charge of a small city. He received national recognition by reducing costs by \$2 million for three years in a row.
  - d) He wants to bring fiscal responsibility to Richmond.
  - e) Our real estate tax assessment increases are happening in part because the general assembly is shifting more and more of the burden to the city for items such as road maintenance and education.
  - f) He currently works at “IT” integration and port security and sits on regional boards.
  - g) He is adamantly opposed to Indigo Dunes. We don’t need to eat up more environmentally sensitive land along the Lynnhaven River.
  - h) He is secretary of his neighborhood civic organization.
  - i) He wants to solve problems, so please vote for him. Please vote, regardless of who you vote for.
- 8) **Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer’s Assistant, Pat Costello read the latest bank balance of \$18,122.70.
- 9) **Secretary’s Report:** Secretary Costello handed out hard copies and reviewed the minutes from the August 16, 2007 Working Meeting. The minutes were approved for the record.
- 10) **Old Business:**
  - a) Pleasure House Point (Indigo Dunes) Update:
    - i) The VMRC’s decision is being appealed by the city.
    - ii) OPCL and SDCC have retained a lawyer.
    - iii) Mark Walker will provide further details in his committee report.

## 11) New Business:

- a) Sand Replenishment
  - i) The attached FAQ Sheet was distributed with a map of the neighborhood divided into zones.
  - ii) President Kohler and Chairperson Janicki attended several city meetings about this issue. They noted that the city is trying to get Baylake Pines to join in this proposal, but that the Baylake Pines Civic League was not receptive to the idea. They indicated that the CBCL is just distributing information to the residents about the proposal and conducting an informal poll based upon anonymous responses from this meeting's attendees. Please leave your responses in the back.
  - iii) Bruce Johnson made the following comment:
    - (1) The replenished sand will be washed away every year or two by natural forces of wind, currents, and tides.
    - (2) This will require continual taxation of the residents to support the program.
  - iv) Stewart Smokler stated the following:
    - (1) He could go either way on the issue, but since we all chose to live by the beach, he thought that we should fight the fight of getting the sand replenished.
    - (2) He asked whether the Bay Bridge Tunnel is part of the cause and whether the Bay Bridge Tunnel Authority could be asked for help in paying for the replenishment.
  - v) A comment was made that bulkheading is sabotaging the ability to preserve the beach. People are putting them up without permits.
  - vi) A response was made that if we get sand replenishment, then people won't need bulkheading.
  - vii) A final comment was made that we just reduced the city property tax rate, so we should not raise taxes, now, for this. Retirees cannot afford such a raise.
- b) Secretary Costello mentioned that another local organization has been urging the city to force residents to remove unauthorized "NO PARKING" signs that they have illegally placed in front of their homes. The VA-Pilot reported that the city has served notices to residents in the North Beach neighborhood and that Chesapeake Beach would be next.

## 12) Committee Reports:

- a) Adopt-A-Street/Waterway: Chairperson Darryl Stubbs reported the following:
  - i) We only had 4 CBCL members for the last adopt-a-street/waterway cleanup. The low turn-out was probably because it was not done at our routine clean-up time. We did not clean the entire street/lake. Five new grabbers are needed, so he will purchase them and get reimbursed.
  - ii) Let's get a good number to come out and help on Saturday, September 22, at 9:00 AM. Meet at Lookout Rd. and Pleasure House Rd.
  - iii) Poop Bag Boxes—need bags for the box at Alexander's and across from HK's. He is currently out of bags--Help!! We are seeking feedback for whether we need any more boxes placed in the community. There are three built ready for installation. He asked for suggestions on where to put them. A suggestion was made to place one on Lake Drive near Fentress.
  - iv) Adopt-the-Beach ideas—When walking the beach bring a pick-up grabber. You can pick up trash along the beach with the grabber without breaking stride. CBCL could buy pick up grabbers for volunteers that walk the beach and they pick up what they can and give a report once a month on how many times they picked up and how much trash was collected. The grabbers are \$10.00 a piece. This would allow us (Civic League) to formally adopt-the-beach. If anyone is interested in doing this, he will come up with a plan. No motions were made.
- b) Architectural Preservation & Zoning: Mark Walker made the following comments:
  - i) Indigo Dunes
    - (1) It would take a year of continually running dump trucks with fill dirt to PHP to develop the land in accordance with the Sandlers' proposal.
    - (2) The SDCC is considering acquiring an attorney and fighting this as a third party by filing a *Friend of the Court* brief. The SDCC, OPCL, and the CBCL are each putting in \$2500 for the lawyer.
  - ii) The development by Hayden Dubay of the area behind *HK by the Bay* was discussed.
  - iii) A member reported that resident Jan Wingo installed an illegal bulkhead, without a permit and without pile driven supports. Mark Walker responded that he thought it would do no harm and that it will come down in a big storm.

- c) Bayfront Advisory Committee: Wally Damon reported the following:
  - i) City attorney Kay Wilson is handling the appeal of the VMRC decision on Indigo Dunes. The city signed the petition to appeal it yesterday and sent it to the circuit court. The city took this action only because of the inputs from residents via e-mail and phone calls
  - ii) The BAC mailed out a Bayfront Brief to residents.
  - iii) The remaining phases of the Shore Drive Improvement are not funded by the city.
  - iv) There are plans to dredge 5 miles of the Lynnhaven inlet. The city plans to use the marina by the boat ramp as a spoil sight to load dump trucks. This will require 80 dump trucks per day for 2 months. The BAC is opposed to this. If the Lesner Bridge is declared unsafe for them, then they will come west along Shore Drive with their loads.
  - v) There are plans to extend the sidewalk on Shore Drive from the overpass to Pleasure House Road.
- d) Block Captains: Laura Watrous, via a communication to President Kohler, reported that Block Captains are still needed for the following streets:
  - i) Bay Quarter Court Condos
  - ii) Secure Court
  - iii) Vantage Point
- e) Business Liaisons: Nothing to Report
- f) CCO-Representative: Liz Gregory reported the following notes from the 9/12/07 meeting at the Central Library:
  - i) The name for the luminary project is "Share the Light Night".
  - ii) The main program was meeting with State Representatives Stolle, Welch and Iaquinto. All three men were friendly, open and well informed. Congresswoman Thelma Drake also attended as a member of the audience.
  - iii) Offshore drilling, Transportation and Illegal Immigration were the three main topics. Offshore drilling is moot. The federal government has declared a moratorium. There is a new bill in the House that, if passed by the House and Senate, would reinstate offshore drilling. Virginia would receive a large influx of income including 20 million dollars to clean up the Chesapeake Bay.
  - iv) The Transportation Bill hopefully will open the door to solving transportation needs. The Delegates and Senator Stolle invited citizens of Hampton Roads to phone their offices with input regarding this issue.
  - v) Senator Stolle and Delegates Welch and Iaquinto stated illegal immigration is the number one issue on the list of items about which the voters contact them. All called this a federal issue, however, Delegate Welch said there are a few things the state can do, but Governor Kaine refuses to implement them. He suggested citizens interested in this issue call Governor Kaine a 1-804-786-2211 and voice their concerns. This is not a toll free number.
  - vi) Since our City Council tends to blame "the state" whenever citizens question them about issues, and the state tends to blame the federal government, I suggested to the CCO that we have representatives from all three branches of these governments meet with the citizenry to answer questions in which the buck keeps being passed.
- g) Historian: Wally Damon is looking for an old photo of Chic's hot dog stand. It was recommended that he check the Atlas Grill for a photo.
- h) Meeting Coordinator: Jackie Robertson made the following comments:
  - i) She asked everyone to enjoy the food.
  - ii) She needs help decorating for the X-mas party.
  - iii) She wants everyone to vote during this next election. Those residents living on the east side of the Bay Bridge Tunnel go to the Morningstar Baptist Church on Pleasure House Road. Those residents living on the west side of the Bay Bridge Tunnel go to the Bayside Baptist Church on Pleasure House Road.
- i) Membership: Kathy Damon reported the following:
  - i) 214 households
  - ii) 355 members
- j) Newsletter: Kim Schmidt reported that T-shirts, posters and CXB decals are all now available for purchase at the JR Market on Lookout Road.
- k) Pleasure House Lake: Heidi Janicki reported the following:
  - i) CBCL sign update: The final Encroachment Application has been signed by all required parties and is completed. The permit to install the sign has been received, and we are ready to begin the installation process. We are looking at Sunday, September 30th as the installation date.

- ii) Water Quality: A letter has been submitted to the city indicating our civic league's support for partnering with the city in a neighborhood-led water quality testing and monitoring program as was voted on at the July general meeting. As part of this, our civic league supports continuing initiatives to improve water quality in all of our lakes, regular monitoring of the water quality, and reporting results to the city. The response from the city will be shared once it is received.
- iii) *National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Habitat Certification Program*: After voting on the idea at the July general meeting, the application to certify the neighborhood park as a Certified Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) was submitted, along with a supportive letter from the city. We received our approval and certificate from the NWF. There is the option of purchasing aluminum signs (\$25) indicating the area is a Certified Wildlife Habitat. A motion was made and passed to purchase three signs.
- l) Pride-In-Community: Not Present.
- m) Safety & Neighborhood Watch: Not Present.
- n) Shore Drive Community Coalition: Not Present.
- o) Webmaster: Nothing to Report

13) The **meeting adjourned** at 9:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Costello,  
CBCL Secretary