

Chesapeake Beach Civic League Working Meeting Minutes of 18 June 2009

- 1) The meeting was **called to order** at 7:02 p.m.
- 2) The following officers and committee chairs were in **attendance** at the meeting:
President & Neighborhood Park and Lakes Committee Chair – Heidi Janicki
Vice President – Brad Sike
Secretary & Webmaster – Bob Costello
Treasurer – Pat Costello
Business Liaisons – Kim Schmidt
Meeting Coordinator – Jackie Robertson
Merchandising Committee Chair – Kathy Damon
Newsletter Editor – Jean Robinson
Shore Drive Community Coalition Liaison & Safety & Neighborhood Watch Committee Tri-Chair – Steve Kohler
- 3) **Vice President’s Report:** After receiving one of many letters mailed to residents living adjacent to a city lake, Vice President Sike attended a Lynnhaven Basin Ecosystem Restoration Project meeting conducted by the City and the Army Corps of Engineers. This project started six years ago. The city and Army Corps of Engineers have a plan to restore the Lynnhaven River to the way it was in the early 20th century. To do this, they are proposing removing the man-made dams & barriers that established most of the lakes in the city of Virginia Beach. The goal is to restore at least one lake per year for the next few years. This is being supported by Lynnhaven Now. Follow-up public comment meetings will be held at the Great Neck Recreation Center and the Bayside Recreation Center. A lot of the dams are now on private property. The Army Corps of Engineers will only work on public property. The city might declare imminent domain in order to obtain access to some of the dams.
- 4) **Reading and approval of Minutes:** Secretary Costello read the minutes from the May 21, 2009 Working Meeting. Several amendments were made. The minutes were approved as amended for the record.
- 5) **Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Costello reviewed the Treasurer’s report, which is attached below.
- 6) **New Business:**
 - a) Virginia Beach Comprehensive Plan: President Janicki received word that the SDCC has scheduled the city planner, Mr. Pauls, who is working the Comprehensive Plan, to speak at their July meeting. A question has been raised about whether the city’s Comprehensive Plan will designate the Shore Drive Corridor as a Strategic Area. A letter was sent in March 2008 from the BAC President to City Council requesting that the Shore Drive area from South Oliver to North Hampton Blvd be designated a Strategic Growth Area. The BAC President did not address this issue with the CBCL. A second letter drafted by the BAC President recommends that the Bayfront area be designated a Strategic Growth Area. Both the Shore Drive area from South Oliver to North Hampton Blvd and the Bayfront area are currently Primary Residential Areas. Strategic Growth Areas are areas designated to absorb most of the city’s future growth with higher density and mixed-use land (residential and commercial). The CBCL is encouraging members to attend at the SDCC meeting.
 - b) CXB: Kim Schmidt reported seeing a “C “Crab” B” sticker, with a crab looking like an “X”, and the woman with the sticker said that she got the sticker from Walgreens. She called Walgreens, and the shift manager said that they did not have any stickers like that, but later Kim received a call from a corporate attorney from Walgreens, who asked her questions and told her that in his opinion

we did not have a trademark on “CXB” but that she could have the CBCL attorney contact him and discuss the matter with him. Kim solicited an opinion from her brother-in-law who thought that the CBCL had a good position for defending the trademark. Kim was offered 15 free minutes with an attorney, but after that he will charge \$375/hour. Lots of discussion ensued. No decision was made.

- c) **Swimming Advisory:** The city tests the water weekly along city beaches, including two spots near our neighborhood. They got a high reading of bacteria levels between Morton’s Rd and LCRK Base on Wednesday, June 17th, and issued an advisory closing the beach to swimmers. The water is retested daily after a high reading, and today, June 18th, the bacteria levels had dropped down to safe levels and the swimming advisory was rescinded.
- d) **Campaign to stop people from throwing cigarette butts on the beach.** It was suggested the CBCL conduct a campaign to stop people from throwing cigarette butts on Chesapeake Beach. Some discussion ensued, but no action was taken.
- e) **CBCL Facebook Page.** Kim Schmidt suggested that the CBCL maintain a Facebook page in order to obtain up-to-date e-mail addresses of those who are “friends” of ours on that social networking web site. It was agreed that this was not a bad idea, but that we have no one who has volunteered to do this. No action was taken.

7) **Old Business:**

- a) **Pound Nets — Update:** On May 27, 2009, the USCG were conducting a nighttime test of a boat with an experimental hull in Chesapeake Bay. The boat ran into the unlighted pound net poles and totaled the experimental hull. We are not aware of reports of civilian boats running into the pound net poles.

8) **Committee Reports:**

a) *CBCL Operational Committees:*

- i) **Block Captains Committee:** Not present.
- ii) **Business Liaisons:** We have three businesses which have paid to join the Civic Booster Program. Our sponsors and advertisers who have paid us in full have been given complimentary membership in the Civic Booster Program.
- iii) **Meeting Coordinator:** Nothing to report.
- iv) **Membership Committee:** Position Vacant.
- v) **Newsletter Editor:** Jean Robinson solicited articles for the next Soundings.
- vi) **Webmaster:** Nothing to report.

b) *Special Focus Committees:*

- i) **Adopt-A-Street/Waterway:** Not present.
- ii) **Architectural Preservation & Zoning:** Not present.
- iii) **Historian:** Not present.
- iv) **Merchandising Committee:** Kathy Damon asked whether we want to obtain short-sleeved CBCL t-shirts for sale this summer. It was agreed that this should be done.

- v) Neighborhood Park and Lakes Committee: Heidi Janicki reported the following:
 - (1) In May and early June, the first round of water quality testing was done by our committee. Nothing significant was noted, and data is being submitted to the city. Further testing is ongoing by the committee members.
 - (2) The city awarded a contract for a wooden guard rail vice a split-rail fence to be installed along Pleasure House Lake on Lauderdale Ave. west of the Bay Bridge Tunnel. Installation will begin after the 4th of July.
- vi) Pride-In-Community Committee: Not present.
- vii) Safety & Neighborhood Watch Committee: Committee Tri-Chair Steve Kohler reported the following:
 - (1) Parking problems near the beach—The 10am – 6pm parking restriction and specific signs are helping with the problem.
 - (2) Police have been writing tickets for having either glass containers or open containers of alcohol on the beach. The number of citations has been declining.
 - (3) According to a couple committee chairs, enforcement has not been so strict on the prohibition of dogs on the beach from 10am – 6pm.
 - (4) One ATV patrolling the beach does not appear to be sufficient. The CBCL will broach the subject with the city of getting a second ATV patrol along our beach.
- c) *Partnering Organizations:*
 - i) Bayfront Advisory Committee (BAC) Liaison: Not present.
 - ii) CCO Representative: Position Vacant.
 - iii) Shore Drive Community Coalition Liaison: Please see the notes on the Virginia Beach Comprehensive Plan under *New Business*.

9) The **meeting adjourned** at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Costello,
CBCL Secretary