

BAYCLIFF CIVIC LEAGUE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 7 p.m.
Alanton Elementary School Cafetorium
Minutes taken by Christine Westendorf, Corresponding Secretary

14 residents attended this meeting, and there was no quorum to conduct business. A list of those in attendance is attached.

President John Hogan opened the meeting at 7:12 p.m. and introduced the program speaker, Dwayne Cook, Hampton Bridge tunnel Facility Manager and Eastern Region Director of Operations for VDOT. Mr. Cook provided an interesting and comprehensive overview of the Virginia Department of Transportation services, including traffic operations, tunnels, ferries, hurricane evacuation, and state and regional VDOT challenges. At the conclusion of his program, he answered questions from the audience. Following are some of the main points of his program:

- VDOT has received many awards and takes great pride in the fact that nearly 90% of their projects are finished on time and within budget.
- Go to dashboard.virginiadot.org for a VDOT "transparency" report card and Virginiadot.org for comprehensive information.
- The average age of Virginia's transportation system roads and structures is now 50 years old, and our aging infrastructure needs costly repairs and in many cases, structural replacement.
- Since 2008, VDOT has had a \$4.6 billion decline in state and federal revenues. The major source of VDOT funding is the gas tax, the rate of which has not changed since 1986. Today, with more fuel efficient vehicles and less road travel due to the economy, VDOT revenue has been dramatically reduced and is inadequate.
- This has resulted in a 72% reduction in recent construction projects and overall cuts in services. For example, ferry routes have been eliminated, highway rest stops closed, safety service patrols ended, and roadway mowing and vegetation control reduced.
- Maintenance needs come before construction, and high volume roads get priority for repairs.
- Legislature has mandated that after July 1st, all interstate maintenance will be done by contracted services, with an overall move to public-private partnerships. VDOT employees over the past 5 years have been reduced from 10,500 to 7,500.
- In the case of a major hurricane, 1.6 million people in the Hampton Roads area will need to be evacuated within 72 hours. We currently have inadequate road capacity and a sheltering deficiency in the areas to which the evacuees will travel.
- In a category 3 storm, using lane reversal, it will take 15 hours for a car to get to Richmond. In contrast, without lane reversal, it will take a car 27 hours to reach Richmond.
- In a hurricane evacuation, all tolls will be lifted and the National Guard will be mobilized.
- Blockages and traffic delays largely occur in the Hampton Roads Tunnel due to over-height vehicles and in the Monitor Merriman Tunnel due to oversize

escort vehicles. It is hoped to reduce such occurrences though fines and 3 point penalties added to violators' licenses.

- Delays in the Downtown Tunnel are primarily caused by unscheduled demand Berkley Bridge lifts. The Coast Guard is working with VDOT to institute a predictable time schedule for bridge lifts, which is now being used on a trial basis for six months, ending in March 9, 2010. The Coast Guard requested public commentary through December 8, 2009 and has also distributed a public survey, which attendees at this civic league meeting received and were encouraged to return.

Following the meeting program, President John Hogan commenced the civic league business meeting. Meeting minutes for the September 2009 meeting were read by Corresponding Secretary Christine Westendorf, as Recording Secretary Phyllis Cox was unable to attend. Minutes were approved. Copies of the Treasurer Paul Rist's financial report were distributed and after questions regarding the Fall Festival budget and expenses were answered, the treasury report was approved. First Vice President Claire Polley announced a Christmas card project to bring cheer to servicemen during the holidays and asked for participation. She also declared that the January meeting speaker would be the Hampton Roads Director of the FBI.

New business was then discussed. Chairman Susannah Uroskie announced the Baycliff Santa visit on Saturday afternoon, December 19th and passed a volunteer list asking for help with baking cookies and serving food. Announcements were also made regarding the Baycliff Luminary Lighting event on Saturday, December 12th at 6 p.m. and the Baycliff Adult Holiday Party the following evening of Sunday, December 13th, held this year at the home of Christine and Bill Westendorf, 2028 Sunset Point.

President John Hogan updated attendees on several community issues: the Alanton Elementary School Athletic Field light replacements, damage and planned repairs to the boat ramp walkway from the mid November Nor' Easter, and a new partnership with Cape Henry Collegiate School where CHCS students and staff will be provided access our boat launch area to make observations and conduct environmental science experiments. John Hogan explained that he has investigated and ruled out any liability issues with Baycliff's insurance carrier and also met with the CHCS to determine CHCS insurance, permission and waiver policies.

Additional remarks were also provided by several residents. Marie Fancher noted that during the recent storm, there was less trash deposited in Mill Dam Creek, which she attributed to the tightly closed lids on the shopping center dumpsters so that the area behind the stores is now much cleaner. Questions were raised about street pavement damage made this summer when the city replaced Baycliff sewers, and John Hogan reported he was told the city would make repairs. Christine Westendorf announced pansies would be planted at the Baycliff front entry on Thursday morning, November 19th and that the entry holiday decorations would be installed Saturday, November 21st at 11 a.m. and appealed for volunteers.

President John Hogan dismissed the meeting at 8:25 p.m.