

BAYCLIFF CIVIC LEAGUE MINUTES

September 15, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Claire Polley at 7:00 P.M.

The Honorable William D.Sessoms Mayor of Virginia Beach was introduced to speak for the initial part of the program. He addressed three major items:

The Budget: When he took over the budget was constrained. He and the council over saw budget cuts. The average family has paid \$340 less a year in taxes while improvements have been made in the city for example the animal shelter in the process of being built, a necessity to avoid \$1000. a month fine due to inadequacy of present facility..

Transportation: The state leadership in the region has failed the 1.7 million people in this area. From the state the cities in Hampton Roads area used to receive \$40 million a year; now we receive zero for transportation. In the past each city in the region submitted to the state their individual projects and the amount required; nothing was awarded. Now the region is coming together to present a list/process of transportation needs area-wide. We will have higher speed rail in the next three years. Last night the council voted unanimously to purchase the light rail line right of way from Newtown to the beach.. To questions regarding the limitations of the light rail line as presently envisioned, the mayor indicated it was a start and would grow. The state is funding not roads but rail.

Impact of Military on the region/on the commonwealth: The military has indicated there will be no more expansion until we have improved transportation. Though the military and government are spending dollars in our area but we need to look for jobs or industry for our city/region. The city, through its purchase of the Lake Ridge, has provided land for the amphitheater, the new hospitals and other medical facilities, educational expansion. Leaders now need to look towards research areas, alternative energy opportunities. City leaders are now exploring research and development and alternative energy opportunities as new industries to expand the city of Virginia Beach's economic base.

The Mill Dam Creek Update was lead by Steve McLaughlin, project manager, accompanied by the following engineers from The VB Dept. of Public Works: William McLaughlin, Rich Nettleton, Brad Law, Darren Williams and Tom Leahy. Steve McLaughlin stated that the city is now working in partnership with the Corps of Engineers and The Lynnhaven River Now project. The entirety of his remarks can be accessed on the Baycliff website. Highlights of the discussion follows:

- Hampton Roads is one of the few areas to have instituted a "No Discharge Zone".
- The Dept. of Public Utilities is in the process of developing advanced technologies in order to obtain real time bacterial testing results from MDC and other water ways.
- The state recommends limiting the use of phosphorous and is considering a new law to eliminate its use. Virginia Beach has changed to fertilizer containing no phosphorous though nitrogen remains an ingredient. Local soils are rich in phosphorus and excessive amounts washing into our watershed contribute to pollution/algae blooms.

- Big emphasis in the commonwealth and the nation to address storm water runoff.
- A large amount of pollution in the Lynnhaven Watershed is caused by animal excrement mainly from geese and dogs. Lawn and landscape fertilization also play a significant role.
- Customer service number for problems with storm drainage, 385-1470. In response to a complaint from Inez Belbusti, who had received no answer when calling this number, Mr. McLaughlin said he will look into the cause.
- Investigation of complaints of a stench in the area of Mill Dam Creek revealed a break-down which had caused corrosion in the pipes feeding into the pump station. Hydrogen sulfide gas was being released. This problem is to be corrected by cleaning the pipes and lining them with fiberglass.
- Response to complaints received of unpleasant smell of the creek: mainly caused by the normal composition of creek life. Hydrogen sulfide was found in the area of the pump station and it will be addressed. On October 18th the sanitary sewer pipe will be cleaned and lined with fiber glass.

The Business Meeting:

- The minutes of the May 17th meeting were read by Priscilla Kinley and approved by the 40 members in attendance.
- The treasurer's report was read and approved.
- Frank Cunningham stated that letters had been sent to previous/current advertisers requesting renewal of their ads. He, also, announced a change in the date and location of the November meeting: **Tuesday, November 16th at the Volunteer Rescue Station** on Bayne Street. The change was necessary due to the schedule conflicts with both Alanton Elementary School and the Rescue Station.
- Claire Polley reminded those in attendance of the **Chili Cook-Off and Fall Festival** on Saturday, October 23rd, 3:30 to 5:30pm.
- Christine Westendorf asked members to send in their updates for the directory.
- Rosalie Haight reported that a number of homes are now vacant in Baycliff (unsold or not yet rented), while others have been purchased but are still unoccupied because they are under construction. Several new households have moved into the area.

New Business:

Chris Flint of Flint Marine Construction was introduced. He presented a request from Claudia Puopolo, 1433 Water Mill Circle, to build a walkway, pier and lift to access the creek from her property. The structure would be over Baycliff property to Mill Dam Creek. After heated discussion the following proposal was made by Phil Pasqualino and seconded by John Wallace with unanimous consent of members attending.

“The Baycliff Civic League will **not** consider or accept any proposal to build any pier or other structure to access Mill Dam Creek from any location across the creek from this time forth.”

Upon a motion made by John Hogan and seconded by Frank Cunningham, the meeting was adjourned at 8: 30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla M. Kinley