

Board of Directors:

President: Ryan Cochran
Vice President: Danny Murphy
Treasurer: Blake Norris
Secretary: Betty Demers
Past President: Andrew Broyles
North Side Rep: Paul Schubert
South Side Rep: Tim Solanic
At-Large Rep: Brian Snyder
At-Large Rep: Don Caskie



Ocean Park Civic League
P.O. Box 55385
Virginia Beach VA 23471
www.opcl.org

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**June 4, 2020****Virtual Meeting - Zoom****7:00 p.m.****MINUTES****1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Cochran at 7:06 p.m. with almost 50 members logged in.

2. Review of Minutes from May 2020 meeting – Betty Demers

The minutes were previously made available on the OPCL website and were presented on the screen during the meeting. Betty provided a brief recap and the minutes were approved as presented.

3. Treasurer's Report - Blake Norris

Blake provided a copy of the treasurer's report for the month ending May 2020. Blake noted that few new memberships have been reported, which is to be expected given the quarantine situation. Some fireworks contributions have been coming in but the bulk is usually contributed in June and July. Blake noted that once the final decision is made on whether fireworks will be held Labor Day or not at all, the Board will need to decide how to handle any contributions that come in.

4. Scholarship Update - Betty Demers

Betty thanked Scholarship Committee members Lauren Harrington and Andrea Lindemann for their time and insight in helping select this year's winner of the George and Louise Lyon Memorial Scholarship. There were 18 applicants, 14 of which met the eligibility requirements. There were no applicants from Ocean Park. This year's winner is Hannah Swickard. She is graduating from the Entrepreneurship and Business Academy at Kempsville High School and will be attending James Madison University in the fall. The winners from the three prior years are providing their transcripts to Betty to verify their continued eligibility. All checks will be issued to the respective schools in July.

5. Marlin Bay Apartment Complex Proposal - Carly Swift

Carly provided an update on the efforts toward the membership's directive to oppose the rezoning of the land at the corner of Marlin Bay and Shore Drive that would allow for

high-density housing. Carly asked for volunteers to contact her if they are willing to assist. Her email is drcsmith@gmail.com. There have been quite a few residents who have emailed City Council, but there needs to be a continued effort in that initiative. The hearing for rezoning will be held with the Planning Commission on August 12th at the earliest.

McCleskey and Browning are the developers and Chris Wood is their contact. The tract of land is 6.3 acres, 4 acres of which are in the proposed development. The zoning change would allow them to build 227 units. Links to the proposal and their website can be found on OPCL.org.

Questions asked by membership regarding this project:

Q: Will the Planning Commission meeting be held in person?

A: If the meeting is held in person, it would have to be less than 50 attendees based on the current quarantine guidelines. It could be held as an in-person and Zoom, but that has not been decided yet to our knowledge.

Q: What is their probability of getting the zoning changed?

A: No one is really sure.

Q: Did the developers ask Ocean Park for input prior to presenting this proposal?

A: No

Q: Has anyone approached the businesses in the area for their input?

A: Ocean Park has not. Volunteers are needed for the committee.

Scott Ayers explained some of the history of zoning and development in the area. Blake Norris suggested that we may need legal representation to ensure that this is adequately addressed on our behalf. Several commented that this development is not what we need to represent us as “The Gateway to Virginia Beach.”

The developer made a presentation to the Board and indicated a desire to make this presentation to the general membership.

Blake Norris moved that we explore the cost of obtaining legal representation to address this project, obtain said representation, and if necessary, have a fund raiser to cover the cost. The motion was seconded and carried with majority approval.

Jonathan Macy had a question about the numbers used in the social media posts as they did not seem to match up with density allowed per acre under the zoning definitions. Ryan indicated that the board would follow up on that and check the math for that information.

6. Fireworks Update - Jill Doczi

Jill announced that fireworks will not be held anywhere in Virginia Beach for the July 4th holiday. Currently the city is scheduled for the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. We could move our fireworks to the Saturday of Labor Day weekend since we need to piggyback off the City’s plans to make ours affordable. If the City decides not to hold fireworks that weekend, we would not be able to either. The other option is not to hold fireworks at all this year and move funds collected to next year’s show. We do not have to decide immediately and will wait to see what the City does as a final decision prompt.

Blake indicated that if we do not have fireworks this year, he can decline all PayPal fireworks payments for this year and return any checks and cash collected.

7. Beach Sand Replenishment Update - Jill Doczi

Jill explained that the dredging bids that would provide the sand replenishment for Ocean Park came in much higher than anticipated and needs to be rebid. While we are aware of the many challenges the City faces with the current loss of revenue due to quarantine, we do not want this critical action to be overlooked. The Board has sent a letter to the Director of Public Works, Mayor and City Council asking that they keep this project in the forefront because of the continued damage/loss to the dunes and potential threat to property.

8. Lynnhaven Boat Ramp Congestion - Andrew Broyles

The Board had previously sent a letter to the Director of Public Works asking that the traffic congestion be addressed at the Lynnhaven Boat Ramp because of the problems it causes to ingress and egress on those adjacent streets. Andy noted that it seems to have been mitigated somewhat and the City is monitoring and posting signs on Shore Drive when parking nears capacity.

9. Other

Paul Schubert asked about the format for the next meeting in July. Ryan indicated that July may be too soon for a face-to-face meeting so we will continue with Zoon. Going forward may see OPCL using a combination of face-to-face and Zoom or streaming meetings.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.