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*At-Large Rep: Brian Snyder*



**Ocean Park Civic League**

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[www.opcl.org](http://www.opcl.org)

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**March 7, 2019**

**Brock Environmental Center**

**MINUTES**

[Meeting was preceded by the Chili Cook-Off where members sampled and voted on their favorites]

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. and opened with President Broyles leading the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. There were no new items to be added to the agenda by the members present and a quorum was confirmed.
3. Daniel Murphy was nominated to fill the position of Representative-At-Large. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
4. Jenny Neyland was introduced as the newly-appointed Chair of both the Government Affairs and Membership Committees.
5. The Board of Directors was introduced and thanked for their service.
6. President Broyles presented the goals of OPCL for the current term. Those include:
  - a. Increased dialogue with elected official and Public Works to make Ocean Park a priority
  - b. Begin Phase IV
  - c. Repave Shore Drive
  - d. Improve Drainage and repave internal roads within Ocean Park
  - e. Tree trimming on southside of Ocean Park
7. Bill Purcell, Senior Project Manager for the City of Virginia Beach, gave a presentation to the members that included the following topics:
  - a. Roadway project update
  - b. Discussion on phases completed
    - i. Phase 1 completed 2008
    - ii. Phase 2 unfunded
    - iii. Phase 4 in 2020 at a cost of \$14.5 million
  - c. Phase 4 design can start as early as 2020 with funding with construction to start in 2023

- d. Phase 4 2008 design is on hold and is scheduled to restart this summer or next summer. It is currently not funded.
    - i. Safety, lighting, landscaping and need to move fiber optics cable and water lines.
    - ii. Challenges include state regulations, flood and storm water considerations.
  - e. Shore Drive and Stratford Drive project to start this spring and is funded for \$600,000.
  - f. Paving from Lesner to Marlin Bay is funded at \$300,000 and will be completed the same time as intersection work.
8. Phillip Koetter, Public Works Operations, discussed the following:
- a. Project update on the Lesner Bridge Project
  - b. Intersection start pending contract this spring. Underground work and curbing need to be completed. Following up with paving as soon as possible, by end of April/May.
  - c. Other paving projects are pending condition assessment. The last assessment was performed in 2017. There are other projects that also have to be coordinated. The city does its best to ensure safe roads and paves 100-250 lane miles per year.
  - d. President Broyles asked if missing drain basins would impact paving projects. Mr. Koetter responded that it would help to identify those problems. Excessive rain, where we experience a sudden or short-term downpour that is measured in inches, will always result in some flooding. These should not be reported. Otherwise, standing water should be reported to 757-385-1470 or the city website. Reported issues get priority.
  - e. Paving patches in the East Stratford/Chesterfield area have already popped out. City is aware and is scheduling repairs.
  - f. Overgrown vegetation should be reported, especially if signs are covered or have fallen. 757-385-1470 or the city website.
  - g. There is no contingency plan with regard to potential dune collapse due to erosion, and there was no additional information on beach replenishment. Mr. Koetter did commit to having beach operations check the beach "cliff" at Powhatan.
  - h. Shore Drive #2 is in the planning states but is not yet funded. VDOT has a competitive bid process and has maintenance funds that can be used if needed.
9. Questions from membership were addressed as follows:
- a. Asked about proposed easement variance in the area. The reason is to install a handicap ramp and a small light with no major impact on the area.
  - b. Asked to confirm if Phase 3 is fully funded. Upgrading of the area from the Lesner Bridge to the Food Lion at Great Neck Road is scheduled to start December 2019-January 2020. Includes accommodation for future storm drainage. It is a 3.5-year project.
  - c. Asked about how to identify drain issues. The storm inspector will drive around and will also check with President Broyles on areas he has identified.
  - d. Asked if Shore Drive would be completely repaved to eliminate all patches and done to the same quality as Great Neck Road. The key issue is

scheduling. He was not aware of the Great Neck repair. The goal is to have each repaving job endure for 15 years before needing repaving.

10. Office Jeff Wroblewski gave the crime report.
  - a. The crime in the area has seen a reduction in the past few months.
  - b. Officers have been patrolling the neighborhood at night.
  - c. Membership asked about the white van that was seen approaching students getting off the bus. There has been no contact with a specific white van although many stops of white vans have occurred. Patrols are aware to be on the lookout.
  
11. Captain Reo Hatfield provided information on calls and staffing in Virginia Beach.
  - a. The city received 3006 calls for service in February
  - b. There are currently 828 officers on the force and of that, only 680 are available due to new recruits or injuries.
  - c. The volume of calls requires 84-90 officers daily and the force is currently at 66 so issues are prioritized.
  - d. Homelessness issue at the oceanfront was discussed.
  - e. Membership asked about homeless person under the Lesner Bridge. Captain said to call the non-emergency number. A lot of homelessness is related to mental health issues. The focus is on officers' training in mental health and having clinicians available to help as part of a pilot program. Police must transport "identified" mental health persons to whatever facility in Virginia has an open bed, which includes Staunton, VA. It takes two officers to transport.
  
12. President Broyles provided the following updates:
  - a. We now have a full slate of officers and committee chairs
  - b. There is no longer a paper newsletter. Email is sent out every Tuesday and can also be accessed at OPCL.org
  - c. Meeting dates will increase during the summer to assist in pushing the COVB for improvements and to remain current with other challenges.
  - d. Membership dues can be paid via PayPal and using this method is encouraged. Blake maintains a log of receipts.
  - e. The golf cart petitions have a lot of signatures and President Broyles asked for help in getting petitions signed. The goal is to approve the use of golf carts on interior roads. Renters cannot sign the petitions—it must be property owners.
  - f. Discussed the goals and plans for the current year that include paving, improvements and tree trimming.
  
13. President Broyles introduced Aaron Rouse, City Council Member-At-Large, who discussed the following:
  - a. Gave a brief overview of his background.
  - b. Explained the election and the need for our participation and bipartisanship.
  - c. Goals of the city include addressing sea level rise; transportation; public safety; and economy.
  - d. The City needs to improve its infrastructure and develop business while still avoiding tax increases.

- e. He is aware of the Ocean Park issues and is supporting a \$3.2 billion bill to address flooding.
- f. Mr. Rouse thanked teachers and police for supporting him as a child that led to his future success.

14. Blake Norris presented the Treasurer's Report

- a. The report is verified by statements and the February statements had not yet been received.
- b. Dues payments are still coming in and there were no major expenses in January.
- c. Investments are stable and doing well.

15. President Broyles discussed emails and letters to be sent out with regard to the proposed oyster project. A letter was sent to Governor Northam asking for support. Governor Northam's wife is a big supporter of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The same letter was sent to the Mayor and other city officials. President Broyles reiterated that he is not happy that areas of the neighborhood are in disrepair and that the upgrades are going to be pushed out to 2023. A motion was presented to the membership to send a letter restating our concerns. The motion was carried.

16. Lynda Martin provided the Social Committee report:

- a. The Spring Fling is scheduled for April 27, 4-7 pm at Taste Unlimited. Details will follow.
- b. The winners of the Chili Cook-Off were Tessa Cochran and the Kellams.

17. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.