

CHESOPEIAN COLONY CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

March 26, 2009

The meeting was called to order by the President, Bill Thesier, at 7:38 p.m. at the Foundry Methodist Church. 26 residents were present.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Balances as of 3-26-09:

Checking Account	\$1629.25
Savings Account	<u>5668.89</u>
Total	\$7298.14
Scholarship	(1463.22)
Fence	<u>(820.03)</u>
Total Available	\$5014.89

Treasurer's report accepted as presented.

Special Guest – Virginia State Del. Sal Iaquinto

Del. Iaquinto has been our House of Delegates Representative for four years and is up for re-election this year. He discussed various budget issues affecting the Commonwealth as well as issues specific to Hampton Roads. Two years ago, revenue projections were anticipated based on 6.3% growth, however, ended up at 3.7% which created a tremendous shortfall. Del. Iaquinto said Hampton Roads is much better off than the rest of the State during the current recession and our unemployment rate is lower than the rest of the State. The new smoking bill was discussed as well as transportation issues. During the recent legislative session, only one transportation bill was introduced but failed.

Offshore drilling was discussed and Del. Iaquinto said as the federal law is now written, Virginia would not be entitled to any of the proceeds from drilling. He cautioned the audience to pay close attention to the upcoming State elections if you feel off-shore drilling is important. Regarding light rail, Del. Iaquinto feels this is not the right time to be pursuing this project. He feels the ridership is unknown and believes the "jury is still out".

Del. Iaquinto feels the State has done everything they can to deal with illegal immigration. ICE is understaffed which needs to be addressed by the federal government. The State House passed a bill that would require individual businesses to determine if potential employees are illegal immigrants before they are hired but it died in the Senate.

The \$130 million in stimulus money the Federal government is offering the State would affect Virginia unemployment laws. If the State accepts the money, current laws would have to be rewritten. Otherwise, when the stimulus money runs out in two years, what will happen to those who have qualified for the new unemployment benefits under the stimulus package? Who pays for the continuing expanded benefits costs?

Del. Iaquinto discussed the problems with the US Congress and feels the public is not being served well. He feels the representatives have lost sight of what is happening in their communities. Too many bills have attachments that slip through. He encouraged all residents to get involved and to keep in touch with their local representatives.

Reports: Ron Hess, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, said we have 23 Block Captains and all are very active. He urged residents to let their Block Captain know if they will be out of town or if they see any suspicious activity.

4th of July Picnic: This year the picnic will be on Saturday so a good turnout is expected. There will be no major changes to the format this year. The committee still needs volunteers especially with the games. Holly Duffan volunteered to work with the committee.

New Business:

- Rob Wigg is developing a website for the Colony. It should be up and running within the next few weeks.
- The new Directory is almost finished and will be delivered to all homes by mid April.
- Volunteers are still needed for the Colony beautification projects. The street signs need to be painted and repairs need to be made to the entrance and pump houses. Please contact Rob Wigg if you would like to help with these projects.
- Congratulations to BJ Taylor who was honored by the Council of Civic Organizations at their Annual awards banquet. The honor is well deserved.

Old Business:

- Todd Lovelace, newsletter editor, thanked Ron Hess and BJ Taylor for their fine editing. He also thanked Betty Kennedy for her terrific work on the history of the Colony. Todd said anyone can contribute to the newsletter and is especially interested in resident activities within the Colony. If anyone would like to place an ad in the newsletter, the cost is \$30 and children under 18 can place an ad for \$5. Deadline for entry into the next newsletter is June 5th.
- Tom McLaughlin reported on Clean the Bay Day to be held on June 6th. Previous years has shown that 90% of the trash in the Colony waterways appears to come from Farm Fresh Plaza. Tom would like to reach out to Ron Dennis, CEO of Farm Fresh and Wayne McLeskey and invite them to join in our efforts to clean the Bay. A motion to send a letter was passed and Tom will contact both men.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susie Thesier
Secretary