

## CHESOPEIAN COLONY CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING

October 19, 2010

President Todd Lovelace called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. There were 45 residents in attendance.

Secretary's report: A motion was passed to waive a public reading of the minutes since all in attendance received a copy. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's report: 201 residents have paid their dues.

Checking Account General fund	\$6325.70
Savings Account Balance:	
Scholarship	\$1318.22
Fence fund	799.71
General	<u>3557.74</u>
TOTAL	\$5675.67

2010 expenditures are budgeted for \$10,015.00 and at mid-year we are on track. Two letter replacements for the front entrance were ordered, and received, at a cost of \$125 per letter.

### Committee Reports:

- Security - Ron Hess said there have been no unusual occurrences and would like a raise. Todd agreed to double his salary. Ron recognized that our 23 block captains are staying vigilant and doing a terrific job.
- Newsletter - Todd said every time a newsletter is published, he receives positive feedback. Bill Thesier, newsletter editor, said he welcomes articles from all residents and ask that they be submitted the week before the quarterly Board of Directors meeting. Those dates are published on the website. He requests all articles be submitted as a Word document. Resident business owners can advertise in the newsletter.
- 4th of July Party - Janet Webster said the event came off flawlessly thanks to our many volunteers. It continues to evolve and improve every year.
- Halloween Party - Kevin Duffan said he was still in need of volunteers and a sign-up sheet was passed around. The event will be held on Sunday, October 31st from 5-6:30. Hotdogs, chips, sodas and adult beverages will be served. Set-up will begin at 3:30. There will be a costume contest for all ages, including adults. A flyer will be published and delivered to all homes the week before the event.
- Website - John Davis is doing a tremendous job maintaining the Colony's website. He welcomes digital pictures from all residents. He would like to have a chronological pictorial history. There are links to previous minutes and newsletters and a new link has been added regarding the dredging. The website is [www.chesopeiancolonycivicleague.org](http://www.chesopeiancolonycivicleague.org).
- Garden Club - BJ Taylor said flowers will soon be purchased by the Garden Club for the front entrance. They would like to leave the brightly colored lantana until after the Halloween party. Pansies will be purchased and the civic league will be responsible for the planting. Volunteers to help plant are welcome! The Garden club held a yard sale that was a big success. Betty Kennedy

thanked the residents for donating items and Annette Thompson for storing and helping to organize the items in her garage.

- Scholarship - Mathew Wheeler was this year's recipient. He is currently attending the United States Military Academy at West Point.
- Colony Beautification - New pump houses have been installed at the entrance thanks to Ron Hess and BJ Taylor. As previously noted, new letters for the brick entrance have been fabricated and will be installed after they are painted. Annette Thompson volunteered to complete the painting task. Tom McLaughlin was recognized for his consistent effort working on the entrance trimming bushes, cleaning up limbs and doing whatever needs to be done. Thank you Tom!
- Clean the Bay Day - Tom McLaughlin said there was a terrific turnout and the event was a success. He is hopeful the event will grow and more people will volunteer to help clean our neighborhood shores.
- Shred Day - BJ Taylor reported the event cost the civic league \$300 this year. He said the Board of Directors feel the event should take a year off and get feedback from the residents to see if it is worth trying again in 2012.

#### Old Business:

- At the last civic league meeting, Tom McLaughlin suggested a boating club / water activity competition for residents. Unfortunately, he was called out of the country for work and unable to follow through with his proposal. He would like to begin working on a plan for late spring during high tide for a water race to include canoes, kayaks and performance drills for motor boats. He also feels there are enough boat owners in the Colony to form a Boating / Yacht club. Jean Palmiter said there was a such a club in the past. Tom will draft a proposal to present to the Board.
- BJ reiterated the need for carefully crossing Virginia Beach Blvd. out of the Colony. He reminded residents that motorists on the Blvd. have the right-of-way. Ron Hess just put an article in the newsletter addressing the subject.

#### New Business:

- Per By-Laws, a nominating committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors in October and shall present a slate of nominees for Officers and Directors at the January meeting. Ron Hess was appointed chairman. If anyone is interested in running for any of the officer or director positions, please contact Ron. He is listed in the Colony directory.
- BJ reminded everyone that November 2nd is election day. The Colony polling place is the Presbyterian Church on N. Lynnhaven Rd. Polls are open from 6 am to 7 pm.
- Dredging - Kevin Duffan explained his role as the Board liaison to the Dredging Company. When Mr. McLeskey was considering quit claiming the canal bottoms to the civic league with approval for future projects the responsibility of the civic league, the Board created a liaison to work with the Dredging Company. When the city began working with the Old Donation group on dredging and the future of dredging projects seemed to be in transition, the environment changed. Kevin turned the floor over to Frank Gurdziel and Steve Merz of the Dredging Company for an update.

Frank said they spent years trying to work with Mr. McLeskey and have not accomplished their goals. The canal bottoms are owned by McLeskey and he will not sign off on the dredging and recently told his attorney to cease negotiations with the Dredging Company. About the same time, information became available regarding the Old Donation dredging project. That will create a Special Service Tax District (a special tax district as in Sandbridge with sand

replenishment and Town Center). In order to create a special service tax district, the state requires 50% of the residents to agree to the tax. Virginia Beach requires 80% agreement. Frank said if you look at the original payments made into the dredging project 5+ years ago, we are over the 80%.

Steve Merz met with the Deputy City Manager, Dave Hansen, to discuss our situation. He shared our list of properties, the dredging map and our joint permit application. Hansen will gather more information and prepare a proposal. At this time, the only information is based on the Old Donation project. In that scenario, a .16 tax per \$100 of assessed value will be assessed the benefiting property owners over a 16 year period. Bruce Benson said those who opt not to sign onto the special tax, but ultimately benefit, will be taxed anyway. The tax is by property value, not water frontage. The area will be dredged three times over the 16 year period. The additional property tax would be included as a tax write-off as other property taxes. The benefit of having the city do the dredging is when they run into problem/issues of real estate, they solve it. This may mean the signature of McLeskey would no longer be an issue.

All of this information is very preliminary and based on the Old Donation project. Links to the dredging as well as the original dredging map for the Colony will be posted on the colony website. Residents should keep checking the website for further information and updates.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Thesier  
Secretary