

BELLAMY WOODS



CIVIC LEAGUE

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm at the Providence Road Elementary School on Providence Road. There were nine membership residents in attendance (including the seven Board members), plus two non-member residents, for a total attendance of eleven residents. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest Speaker

Virginia Beach City Council Member Harry Diezel, representative of the Kempsville District, was introduced by BWCL President Walter Camp. Mr. Diezel first described the very difficult economic conditions the City is anticipating in preparation of the 2012-13 budget. The recession and challenges in the housing market will limit growth in revenues from tax receipts. Federal and State support for local government operations will also diminish. The search for spending reductions will be harder because cuts made in prior years have addressed the "low hanging fruit". Recruitment and retention of City employees will continue to provide pressure for wage increases. The recently enacted residential waste collection fee, with no offsetting reduction in real estate taxes, will help when the first payments start coming due in January. Also, the revenue sharing formula between the public school system and all other local government continues to be re-examined. Mr. Diezel stated that in the coming budget services that residents notice will be cut, or taxes will be raised, or both - it will not be an easy year.

Mr. Diezel will be retiring when his term expires in 2012, and he discussed qualities to look for among candidates who may seek to represent Kempsville in the future. Most importantly, he said that the notion of Council service as a part-time job has become antiquated. He felt that to be successful a representative must have significant flexibility and free time in order to attend meetings, events, and communicate with constituents and City staff. Mr. Diezel then discussed development within the Kempsville Historic District. He noted that the street expansion and realignment projects for Witchduck and Princess Anne Roads would improve traffic flow at the intersection, but would also shift problems to the unwidened roads nearby. He disclosed that several nonconforming proposals for development had been rejected, but the City was eager to work on conforming plans. Mr. Diezel responded to questions on several topics, and expressed his support for the Violet Bank multi-use path. At the conclusion of his comments Mr. Diezel

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was thanked by Walter, on behalf of the Bellamy Woods Civic League, for his 35 years of public service to the City.

Minutes and Reports from Directors

Minutes of the previous General Meeting held on May 11, 2011 were distributed and reviewed. Upon motion and second from the floor, they were unanimously adopted without revision.

Treasurer Cathe Waters presented a report of revenues and expenses. She noted that membership dues had been received from approximately 180 homes. The majority had renewed from the mailed invoice, and she credited the strong early response to getting that invoice out early. Cathe reported that Party in the Park, the Civic League's largest event, had come in under budget. She cited the value of in-kind donations that supplemented the Party's cash budget. In-kind donations had also facilitated purchase of the approved electronic records retention equipment below budgeted costs. From the start of the fiscal year on July 1 through September 30 the Civic League's cash bank balanced increased from \$8,622 to \$11,947, including receipts of \$6,341 and expenses of \$3,016.

Walter Camp noted that the Civic League will be celebrating its 25th anniversary year 2011-2012. He reported on the City Council redistricting project during the summer. He and Cathe Waters both spoke before City Council, and by coordinating efforts with many other nearby civic leagues the final boundaries kept Bellamy Woods in Kempsville, and most of the other core Kempsville communities intact as well. He and Cathe Waters then reported on their participation in meetings related to development proposals in the Kempsville Historic District.

Vice President Kyle Bullard reported on the success of Party in the Park. He gave thanks and credit to all who volunteered, and humbly accepting the same for his leadership of the committee. The volunteers were well organized and on time, the equipment arrived in good order, the food was plentiful and delicious, and the games and music were terrific. The event was well attended and built camaraderie and fellowship among neighbors.

Neighborhood Watch Director Greg Turpin reported that Mr. Art Schoner came forward at Party in the Park to fill the vacant Block Captain position for Sotheby Court. We are still seeking a Block Captain for 1101-1137 Birks Lane. There were no significant crime trends to report.

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Old Business

Special Projects Director Frank Gewet provided an update on the Birks Lane entrance sign project. After receiving no response from the Tudors for seven months, despite his repeated requests to speak with them, Frank finally approached Mrs. Tudor in her driveway recently. She stated that she was not willing to permit replacement of the large metal "B" with the community name signs the Civic League had previously shared with her and her husband. The membership discussed the project and how to proceed. By motion properly seconded, and passed unanimously after discussion, it was resolved to terminate efforts at 1101 Birks Lane and to solicit the interest of the Tate family at 4621 Gilling Court in an alternate proposal. The revised project scope would involve making repairs to their existing brick pediment, replacing their metal lettered "Bellamy" sign with two side-by-side uniform neighborhood signs (one for Bellamy Manor East and one for Bellamy Woods), and installing appropriate landscaping. Frank will obtain an illustration of the sign and price estimates before meeting with the Tates. If they agree in concept to the project Frank will obtain the masonry repair quotes. The project, if the Tates commit to proceeding, will be brought back to the membership for final authorization.

Walter Camp reported that he had met with Virginia Beach Bikeways and Trails Planner Wayne Wilcox after the start of the City's new fiscal year. The Violet Bank Drive multi-use trail project of interest to Bellamy Woods is not among the city's top priority projects funded for 2011-2012. He recommended staying in touch with the Bikeways and Trails Advisory Board over the next year regarding the prioritization of this project.

New Business

Walter Camp described the new Board Associate initiative. The Board has created an opportunity for a resident high school student to participate in the Board, General Membership, and Committee work of the Civic League. A Board Associate will serve a one-year term, becoming fully engaged in discussion and programs at all levels except for official Board votes. The Civic League hopes to benefit from the perspective of younger residents, and hopes in return to provide them with exposure to managing a large membership organization. Walter introduced two applicants for the Board Associate position and asked each to speak about themselves.

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Mr. David Kennedy of Larkwood Drive is a sophomore at Kempsville High School with a 4.02 grade point average. He stated that that he interested in pursuing a career in government, and though this could be a great opportunity to get involved and to get experience. Mr. Long-Quan Pham of Brattleboro Arch is a freshman in the IB program at Princess Anne High School. He wrestles, is in the JROTC program, and is involved in chess and other school activities. He feels the Board Associate position would offer him a chance to learn more about our community and to serve. Isabelle Rader, Secretary, moved that both applicants be elected Board Associates for terms beginning November 1, 2011. The motion was seconded, and with unanimous consent it was passed. Both young men were congratulated and thanked by the membership.

Vice President Kyle Bullard reminded everyone about the upcoming annual Halloween in the Park event on Sunday, October 30, at 2:00pm. Costume judging, pinatas, snacks and fun will be enjoyed by all who attend.

With no further urgent business, and in the interest of time, the Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Isabelle Rader, Secretary