

BELLAMY WOODS CIVIC LEAGUE



GENERAL MEETING

February 21, 2012

MINUTES

Bellamy Woods Civic League President Walter Camp called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, in the Library of Providence Road Elementary School. 40 persons were present, including 33 BWCL residents and 7 guests.

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Camp then introduced guests in attendance, including the President, Past President and other leaders and members from neighboring Bellamy Manor Estates Civic League, a representative from the Stratford Chase Civic League, and the two guest speakers.

Guest Speakers - Update on The Historic Kempsville District

Mr. Clay Bernick, City of Virginia Beach Environment & Sustainability Administrator, provided a detailed presentation on the Historic Kempsville District, located around the intersection of Kempsville and Princess Anne Roads. Through powerpoint slides and discussion he traced the history of the area, how the Historic District was created, and what the City hoped to accomplish within the District. He then described the major roadway relocations and improvements in that area. Finally, he covered the Kempe's Landing development proposal soon to be considered by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Stephen Mannix, Fairfield Civic League Vice President, then spoke to citizen involvement in the Historic Kempsville District. He described how residents from his community served on the original Citizens Advisory Committee that created the Historic District Master Plan. He discussed the subsequent roadway advisory group, and then he described the current Citizens Advisory Committee that includes two representatives from BWCL. Finally, Mr. Mannix offered his perspectives on the Kempe's Landing development and related rezoning proposals.

Following these presentations the floor was opened to questions. Residents and guests in attendance asked many questions of Mssrs. Bernick and Mannix regarding the District, the Master Plan, the roadway relocations, the former school building, and current and future

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development proposals in the area. After approximately one hour of presentations and discussions the program was concluded and the guest speakers were thanked for their time. At this time all of the guests present chose to depart the meeting.

Minutes and Reports from Directors

Draft minutes of the previous General Meeting held on October 26, 2011, were distributed and reviewed. Upon motion and second from the floor, they were unanimously adopted without revision.

Treasurer Cathe Waters prepared a current report of revenues and expenses, presented by Mr. Camp in her absence. Ms. Waters' report noted that over 220 households had joined to date in the current fiscal year. She pointed out the membership renewal invoice had cost slightly more than budgeted, but it had also returned more than the expected revenues from additional memberships. She also reported that the Halloween Party had cost less than half of its budget, and that advertising revenue was running ahead of projections. From the start of the fiscal year on July 1 through February 18 the Civic League's cash bank balance increased from \$8,622 to \$11,253, including receipts of \$7,773 and expenses of \$5,142.

Mr. Camp then announced that the Bellamy Woods Civic League's application for exemption from Virginia Sales Taxes had been granted effective January 3, 2012. Reaching this point had taken over 8 months of work on other filings that were prerequisites. It is anticipated that the exemption will save the civic league in excess of \$150 per year, or the equivalent of the annual membership dues from five households.

Mr. Camp then reported on the continued vacancy of the Secretary/Director's position, as well as the need for a Block Captain to cover 1101-1137 Birks Lane.

Greg Turpin, Neighborhood Watch Director, reported that the frequency of reported crimes in the neighborhood remained very low. He did note a recent breaking & entering incident in the 4600 block of Berrywood Road, as well as an ongoing pattern of occasional larcenies from unlocked vehicles.

Vice President Kyle Bullard reported on the success of the annual Halloween Party last October. The children's costume contest, games, pinatas, and the cupcakes were enjoyed by all who

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came, as were some of the costumes (and wigs) worn by parents. The very "sturdy" pinatas offered much merriment, and it was clear that many of the parents were hoping to participate in future years. Mr. Bullard offered particular thanks to Kay and Mike Baigert for their work in organizing this very happy, fun event.

Mr. Bullard then reported on upcoming plans for the Landscaping Committee at our neighborhood entrances and park. He is especially seeking additional help to maintain the Selwood Drive entrance.

Mr. Camp reported on Bellamy Woods' selection of Isabelle Rader and Marcia Curtis as 2011 recipients of the Neighborhood Service Awards sponsored by the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations. He detailed their long records of accomplishments on behalf of the community, and reported that they would be honored at the annual City-wide awards banquet in March.

Old Business

Special Projects Director Frank Gewet provided an update on the Birks Lane entrance sign project. He reported that Bob and Lynn Tate, owners of the brick pediment at 4621 Gilling Court (at the intersection of Birks Lane), were enthusiastic about the Civic League's proposal authorized at the prior General Meeting. A motion, properly seconded, was made to proceed with the project. Discussion was held, a color illustration of the proposed new sign was distributed, and after questions were answered it was unanimously resolved that the BWCL Officers were authorized to proceed to enter into an Agreement with the Tates that provides permission and ongoing rights & responsibilities; to clean and repair their brick pediment; to remove the existing "BELLAMY" letters; to obtain a sign permit from the City; to commission and mount a new sign face reading "Bellamy Woods/Bellamy Manor East" on the pediment; and to work with the Tates on appropriate landscaping enhancements.

Mr. Camp gave a progress report on development of the BWCL website. He described writing and delivering over 75 documents and photos to the webmaster, and working on the structure and appearance of the site. He anticipated completion within the current fiscal year.

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New Business

Mr. Camp introduced resident Stephanie Emerson, who shared her concerns regarding speeding on her home street of Birks Lane. Ms. Emerson had previously written the BWCL Board about this matter. Mr. Camp explained how the City's Traffic Calming Program worked, and noted that the first step was for the community to prioritize a single location with the most concern. The Membership discussed the subject, and residents of Berrywood Road and Selwood Drive also nominated their streets as having speeding problems. Upon vote, it was determined that while problems were recognized in all three areas they were deemed to be most severe along Birks Lane. Mr. Camp then explained that upon request the City would conduct a speed study to determine the facts. The speed study would involve a passive counting device that tracks the direction, speed, and time of every vehicle passing over a given point for a week. The City would then report back to the Civic League, and depending on the results, offer alternatives for subsequent steps. The speed study was not a police enforcement request. By motion, properly seconded and following discussion, unanimous consent was given to authorize the BWCL officers to contact Traffic Engineering, request the speed study on Birks Lane, and take appropriate subsequent steps to address the problem.

Mr. Kai Armstrong of Berrywood Road then rose and addressed the membership regarding concerns of homeowners whose properties back up to Ferrell Parkway. He described their fear of a vehicle leaving the roadway and entering a back yard, as well as the noise from vehicles. Mr. Armstrong discussed his desire to see a masonry sound and vehicle barrier built along Ferrell Parkway and to have the speed limit lowered. He described his personal correspondence with City elected and staff officials on this subject. It was suggested that Mr. Armstrong bring his concerns to the Fourth Precinct CAC meeting to see if police enforcement or Traffic Engineering may be able to provide some assistance.

Mr. Camp then briefly mentioned upcoming BWCL events. With no further business, he adjourned the meeting at 8:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Walter Camp, Acting Secretary