

BELLAMY WOODS



CIVIC LEAGUE

General Membership Meeting

7:00pm on May 3, 2012

Providence Elementary School Library

MINUTES

Directors Present: Tom Brandl, Kyle Bullard, Walter Camp, Cathe Waters, John Glenn

Directors Absent: Frank Gewet, Greg Turpin

Board Associates (nonvoting) Present: Long-Quan Pham

Board Associates (nonvoting) Absent: David Kennedy

Opening

Bellamy Woods Civic League Vice President Kyle Bullard brought the meeting to order at 7PM EDT in the library of Providence Road Elementary school. 18 persons were present, each of which indicated current membership in the league. There were no guest speakers this evening. The meeting agenda and information packet containing the prior meeting minutes, budget, capital improvement projects, and boundary change proposal were available for pickup at the door.

Mr. Bullard opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and introduced the board members present.

Prior Meeting Recap

Mr Bullard then called the group's attention to the information packet, in which he presented the draft minutes from the previous meeting held on 2/21 and called for a motion to accept. The minutes were unanimously accepted without revision by the present members.

Board of Directors Vacancy Update

President Walter Camp took the floor and announced that the retirement of Isabelle Rader had created board vacancy in the position of Secretary. John Glenn, a Selwood resident, stepped up to fill the current term. Mr Camp, used his authority as president to accept John as acting secretary until this meeting. Mr Camp then called for a motion and vote to confirm Mr Glenn for the remainder of the term, ending in December 2013. The vote to confirm was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Cathe Waters presented a current report of revenues and expenses. Ms. Waters noted that several costs had increased from her previous report. Specifically, food expenses for the Party in the Park and postage costs for the BWCL newsletter had risen. The membership discussed options for mitigating these expenses including the addition of a surcharge for reading the newsletter online. Mr. Camp countered this proposal

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with the consideration that in general, material available on line to our members should be available free of charge. Mr Camp then called the group's attention to the prior publication of the neighborhood directory. He described the solicitation for advertisements, in which businesses had been eager to claim space in the inside cover and back cover. Mr Camp suggested that in the upcoming publication, the league could ask for an increased fee from businesses to place their advertisements in these high-visibility locations both within the directory and our periodic newsletter.

Mr. Camp then noted that the newsletter is available at the website www.bellamywoodscivicleague.org, and that this on-line version had been stripped of personal information in the Babysitting, Lawn Care, Pet Care section in order to protect personal privacy. The program coordinator's contact information remains visible in order to allow on-line site visitors an avenue to coordinate these services.

Returning to the budget, Mr. Camp asked for a motion to approve the budget. The motion was made, a vote was taken, and the budget was approved unanimously.

Board Member Reports

Neighborhood Capital Improvement Projects

Mr. Camp announced that the civic league has an unallocated balance of approximately \$7,000 in its accounts. In the past, the league has used funds to make improvements in areas of the neighborhood such as entrance signs, lighting, landscaping, the park, the playground, and the website. Mr. Camp suggested that a future capital improvement project is possible using these funds and presented several ideas to the membership, based on solicitation of the board and preliminary research. These proposals include the following:

Replacement of Neighborhood Park Kiosk – Mr. Camp called the group's attention to the information packet, which detailed a proposal to replace the deteriorating park information kiosk. Through a partnership with Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Foundation's (VBPRF) Parks Plus program, the league has an opportunity to replace and update the kiosk at a greatly reduced cost. These cost savings result from the following:

- demolition of the current sign at no cost to the league
- donation of two 6"x6" support posts to support the kiosk
- installation of the kiosk by the league

The kiosk will be of the same recycled lumber matching the new park sign located at the north intersection of Berrywood and Glen Lochen. Mr Camp elaborated on the VBPRF as a tax exempt entity similar to the civic league excepting in matters of donations. As we are not established as a charity, donations made to the civic league are not tax deductible. Donations made to the VBPRF could be deducted from an itemized tax return.

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Replacement and Expansion of Southeast Park Shelter – Mr. Camp then detailed a proposal to address the deteriorating single table shelter in the southeast corner of the neighborhood park. Again, partnering with Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Foundation's (VBPRF) Parks Plus program, the league has an opportunity to replace, update, and expand the existing shelter. The existing picnic table would remain, the concrete pad would be expanded to accommodate up to three additional tables. Mr. Camp noted that based on his conversations with the VBPRF this project could cost between \$5K and \$25K, depending on the shelter size.

Baseball Diamond / Backstop – Mr. Camp announced that he had received a suggestion to build a baseball diamond in the southwest corner of our neighborhood park. The resident asked that it be oriented with the backstop and home plate nearest to the corner with second base extending into the interior of the park. Mr. Camp reported his research into the City's standards for neighborhood parks, finding a full baseball diamond would be precluded. He then stated an acceptable alternative might be to build only the backstop, and he invited discussion from the members present. Immediately there was concern among the membership for foul balls causing home damage and balls hit by larger children endangering younger children playing in the playground areas.

Horseshoe Pit – Mr. Camp then announced another resident's suggestion for horseshoe pits in the southeast corner of the park, near the existing shelter (subject to the shelter replacement described above).

Dog Waste Bag Box Replacement – Mr. Camp then announced the proposal to replace the deteriorating dog waste bag box currently mounted on the fence of the park near the Berrywood entrance.

Soft Surface Walking Area – Mr. Camp relayed a request from a Larkwood member to construct and maintain a soft surface walking path around the perimeter of the park.

Mr Camp then opened the floor to suggestions from the group.

Barbeque Grill – A member proposed that barbeque grills be installed at the neighborhood park.

Mr. Camp then called for additional proposals from the membership and open discussion of the options on the floor. Mr. Camp noted that whatever proposal we deploy into the park becomes city property and that as such the city must approve and maintain whatever amenities we add. There was some concern by the membership regarding misuse of the equipment by older youths and individuals from beyond our neighborhood.

Mr. Camp then called for a motion for a project-in-concept to proceed with the Southeast Park Shelter project. A member then questioned what the next step was and what the vote would commit the league to, at

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the expense of other efforts. Mr. Camp explained that the Southeast Park Shelter project would be explored for cost and feasibility, and that an approval would not financially commit the league to the project at this time. The membership then requested to add the horseshoe pits and an unspecified number of barbecue grills to this project.

Mr. Camp then called for a motion to vote on a Park Shelter Enhancement Project In Concept to include replacement of the shelter, expansion of the concrete pad, addition of up to three tables, a horseshoe pit, and an unspecified number of barbecue grills. The motion was unanimously approved.

A member then asked for clarification on the ability to proceed with the kiosk replacement project. Mr. Camp confirmed that the membership was free to pursue this effort as well and that the funding of the park shelter project would be addressed following the concept stage. Mr. Camp elaborated that as a non-profit organization we are allowed to raise funds and accept donations toward projects and other efforts. Mr. Camp then called for a motion to vote on proceeding with the kiosk project to conclusion as described and depicted in the concept statement located in the information packet. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Camp then called for a motion to vote on the replacement of the dog waste bag box at the neighborhood park. Fellow board member, Tom Brandl, volunteered to construct a replacement box out of spare wood available in his home. Only the purchase of hinges would be required; these can be purchased and reimbursed at the discretion of the Treasurer. A member requested that a second box be constructed and located at the southern Glen Lochen park entrance. Mr. Brandl agreed to this request, indicating that he had sufficient spare material for a second box. Mr. Camp then called for a motion to instead thank Mr. Brandl for volunteering to build the box. The motion was unanimously approved.

Birks Lane Entrance Sign. Mr. Camp recognized Special Projects Director Frank Gewet, in absentia, for his work on the construction of the new entrance sign on Birks Lane.

Crime Report. Communications Director, Tom Brandl, distributed and presented the neighborhood crime report, in place of Neighborhood Watch Director Greg Turpin, who was not able to be present for the meeting. He noted that there had been two recent larcenies and one attempted larceny. Most of these crimes have been opportunistic in nature, involving items taken from unlocked cars. Mr. Brandl described an incident in which a suspect from outside our neighborhood had been seen trying car doors attempting to gain entry.

Neighborhood Directory / Block Captain Changes and Social. In Mr Turpin's absence, Mr. Camp informed the board that a project was underway to publish a new 2012 BWCL Neighborhood Directory. A social gathering was held at Mr. Turpin's house on April 22 as a kick off for this project. Each block captain was given responsibility to visit each house and update information to be published in the directory. Non-members

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would be given an opportunity to join the civic league, and we would respect the privacy of any occupant not wishing information to be published. Mr. Camp also announced several changes in block captains.

Landscaping Projects. Vice President Kyle Bullard updated the group on current landscaping projects. These include replenishing the mulch at the neighborhood entrance sign on Selwood Drive. A member requested clarification on whether the board could address a concern with an evergreen spruce obstructing a view on Brantingham. Mr. Bullard responded that the league attempts to avoid encroaching on private property.

Student Board Associate's Perspective. Mr. Camp called on Board Associate Long-Quan Pham to offer his perspective on serving on the Bellamy Woods Civic League. Mr. Pham stated that his term had offered him a unique opportunity to become more involved in his community.

Nearby Development Projects.

Kempsville/Princess Anne Development– Mr. Camp announced that the Kempsville-Princess Anne highway expansion and development project was approved by City Council, following a last minute revision to slightly lower the unit density of the residential units on the southwest corner. City Manager Jim Spore sent a letter to the league, issuing an apology and containing a promise not to surprise local leagues in future projects. Mr. Spore promised that additional area development projects will be presented to the Citizens Advisory Council on which BWCL has two representatives.

Automotive Service Center – The proposal to build an automotive service center behind the 7/11 on South Plaza Trail is proceeding. The service bays will be hidden from street view.

Secondary Brenneman Farm Structures – In addition to the Dunkin Donuts, a five-slot mini strip center is being actively constructed at Brenneman Farm behind the CVS Pharmacy. Leslie's pools is reportedly close to signing a deal for two of the five slots. The developer is soliciting local civic leagues for ideas as to what they would like in the remaining slots. Suggestions on the table include a florist, light retail such as cell phone/wireless, and a deli. There is also an out parcel, intended for use by a bank, although which bank will occupy this space is unknown.

Renaissance Park – Following the economic downturn, the developer, Dragas, has purchased the land behind Home Depot. This purchase includes both the property and all of the permits and approvals acquired by the previous developer. Dragas is now pursuing the development of the triangular area east of South Independence into a 266 unit residential area. This unit count is substantially lower than the 400 unit proposal under the previous developer. The membership raised concerns over crowding of local roads and schools. Mr. Camp noted BWCL's involvement during the public comment period before the development was approved and permitted by the City. He also noted that the area does not share our school or voting districts.

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Old Business

Website Mr. Camp reported that our website, www.bellamywoodscivicleague.org, is active, yet listed as under construction. He estimated approximately four to six weeks remained until the site would officially be live. Initial functionality would include the ability to report problems to the league and renew or enroll in league membership.

Birks Lane Speed Study Mr. Camp reported on the Birks Lane Speed Study, currently in progress, which the board undertook based on member feedback from our previous meeting. The initial phase of this project involved driver education, during which a speed trailer was placed on Birks Lane for a two week period. The trailer counted over 4600 cars, most of which obeyed the 25MPH speed limit. While there were offenders, in one case extreme, there was insufficient speeding activity no warrant speed bumps or an increased fines sign. The next phase of this project involves enforcement and is currently in progress. A report on this phase is due in to the civic league in approximately two weeks.

Directory Following up on the announcement regarding the Block Captain Social, Mr. Camp repeated that following this event each block captain would be canvassing their respective areas. He stated his hopes that this would be the last instance of a door-to-door canvass, since members and residents should be able to update this information online on the new website once fully live. Mr. Camp also solicited ideas for the cover of the new directory and asked for assistance from the community in soliciting advertisements needed to raise funds in order to offset the publication and distribution costs.

New Business

Civic League Boundary Expansion Mr. Camp called the group's attention to the final page of the information packet. He then presented the proposal to expand the boundary of our civic league to include both the southeast Princess Anne-Providence corner and the southwest corner near Salem-Princess Anne. He noted that the proposal had been published in the community newsletter, and it had been considered and recommended by the Board. Mr. Camp noted that the homes in this area share the same utility infrastructure, voting and school districts as we do, but are not currently represented by a civic league. The membership expressed several concerns. Foremost was the impression that including these homes in Bellamy Woods would negatively impact property values within the current boundaries. Another view was that having a civic league presence on the corner gives this membership visibility and perhaps a measure of influence over what

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becomes of the undeveloped land on the southwest Providence corner. Mr. Camp then noted that the parcel is currently zoned residential. He then called for a motion to vote. The final vote was 16-for, 1-opposed.

Neighborhood Yard Sale (5/19) Mr. Camp announced that the neighborhood yard sale would take place on May 19. Residents are encouraged to set up sale items in their own driveway. CHKD will drive through the neighborhood at the end of the day, collecting leftover items for donation.

Other New Business Mr. Camp asked the group if there were any additional concerns or projects to be brought to the board's attention. A concern for parked cars and traffic flow at Brantingham at Birks and Birks at Dorchester was raised, and a request was made of the board to change the existing yield signs at both of these intersections to a stop. Mr Camp called for a motion to request that the city partner with Traffic Engineering to change the yield to stop in both locations. The vote was unanimously approved.

Closing

Having run well over our allotted time, Mr. Camp closed the meeting at 8:50PM EST.

Respectfully submitted,
John Glenn, Secretary