

BELLAMY WOODS



CIVIC LEAGUE

General Membership Meeting

7:00pm on October 18, 2012
Providence Elementary School Library

MINUTES

[Draft, pending approval at next General Meeting]

Directors Present: Tom Brandl, Greg Turpin, Frank Gewet, Kyle Bullard, Walter Camp, Cathe Waters, John Glenn

Directors Absent: (none)

Board Associates (nonvoting) Present: Long-Quan Pham

Board Associates (nonvoting) Absent: David Kennedy

Opening

Bellamy Woods Civic League President Walter Camp brought the meeting to order at 7PM EDT in the library of Providence Road Elementary school. 15 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, and capital improvement projects were available for pickup at the door. Mr. Camp opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance and introduced the board members present.

Prior Meeting Recap

Mr Camp then called the group's attention to the information packet, in which he presented the draft minutes from the previous meeting held on May 3rd and called for a motion to accept. After review the minutes were unanimously accepted without revision by the present members.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Cathe Waters presented a current report of revenues and expenses. Ms. Waters noted that advertisement revenue in support of the directory was up to \$1600 from previous years, which accounted for much of the overall advertisement revenue. The league has joined three local Parent-Teacher Associations, Kempsville Middle School, Kempsville High School, and Providence Elementary School. Mrs. Waters also reported that the funds from the prior years' outstanding checks that will not be cashed have been returned to ledger.

Board Member Reports

Board Vice President Kyle Bullard recapped the neighborhood Party in the Park held on September 9, 2012, indicating that it had been well received by residents. Over 200 people attended this year. He announced that

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Halloween in the Park is coming up as the next family event. Mr Bullard requested volunteer assistance for both setup and costume judging. He added that glow sticks would be available for children.

Mr Camp then moved to Civic League Engagement Events including the candidate forums held at Kempsville high school, which have raised the visibility of our civic league within the city and moreover the local political universe. In total over 300 people attended the Mayor/Council and School Board nights. Mr. Camp and other leaders in the Kempsville Coalition, a collection of local civic leagues, met with Mayor Will Sessoms to discuss issues of interest to residents including the Violet Bank bike trail. Mr. Sessoms committed to continue periodically meeting with the coalition, as often as quarterly if desired.

Director Tom Brandl reported on the need for someone to take his spot, both as a Board member and as Editor of the newsletter. Mr Brandl will retire from his position on the board at the end of the calendar year. He encouraged board members to solicit advertisements for the newsletter as well as author articles for inclusion. Mr Brandl mentioned that about 75-80 residents have chosen to receive electronic distribution of the newsletter, either in place of or in addition to the mailed print version. A resident stated that residents should not receive a newsletter unless they are members. The board responded that Party in the Park and the Community Directory are available only to members, and that the inclusion of the membership form in the newsletter is a means for residents to obtain civic league membership. The newsletter further serves to educate all residents on activity within the area.

Crime Report. Director Greg Turpin reminded residents to lock their vehicles. A full crime report was not available for review. Mr Camp stated that the last incident for which there is a police report involved the theft of golf clubs from a resident who had left their garage doors open. Mr Bullard volunteered to author a newsletter article on wearing reflective material when walking after dark.

Landscaping Projects. VP Kyle Bullard presented his landscaping report. He expressed an interest in volunteers to assist with Selwood and Birks entrance sign areas. Mr Bullard added that maintenance on the Birks area has been hampered by political signs.

Director Frank Gewet reported on special projects. The boat parked on Heathcliff has been resolved. Mr. Gewet has reached out to city landscaping and expects overgrowth on Providence and Birks to be cut back in the next week. Mr Gewet reminded residents to keep their trimmings out of the gutters until collection day.

President Walter Camp reported on potentially including civic league activities in neighborhood property listings. Mr. Camp has contacted each listing agent to collaborate on ideas to promote the community such as conducting open houses on the day of party in the park. Additionally, Mr Camp advised these agents of deteriorating conditions of some of these homes so that maintenance can be performed. Mr Camp noted that

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all but approximately four homes in our neighborhood have sold. Mr Brandl added that values of homes within the neighborhood appear to be back on the rise.

Mr Camp detailed the Violet Bank Bike Path project. Due to BWCL diligence, the city has surveyed the site, the City's Bikeways and Trails Advisory Committee has toured it, and the project is moving forward. All four local civic leagues have expressed interest and are communicating with staff and elected officials about interest in the project. The Shore Drive project consumed all dollars for 2011, and the expectation is that 2012 will go to smaller projects such as this one. The City will convene a public meeting to assess interest in the project, at a date & location TBD. Mr. Camp encouraged all residents to please come out and support this project.

Student Board Associate's Perspective. Long-Quan Pham presented his observations on his participation within the civic league's Board. He stated that the civic league has presented him with new insight into community involvement.

Mr. Camp then moved to Student Board Associates, skipping ahead briefly to new business. The terms of the two existing student board associates, David Kennedy and Long-Quan Pham, are complete. Mr Camp then presented nominees for the new associates for the 2012-2013 year, Long-Quan Pham and his brother Minh-Quan Pham, both of whom spoke about themselves and what they hoped to accomplish if elected. Long-Quan attends Princess Anne High School and expressed an interest in enriching himself through working with people in local governments and how things are done to help the neighborhood. Minh-Quan attends Ocean Lakes High School and is interested in community contributions. Mr. Camp called for a vote on both Long-Quan and Minh-Quan, and both were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Website Mr. Camp then moved to Old Business and addressed the BWCL web site. Since the last general meeting the website was completed. For the first time membership processing was available online, and more than 25% of members chose that method including many new members. The board is currently using the web site to push out notices to residents. Mr Camp noted that there is an increase in the usage of multiple emails per household to receive community news. Many favorable comments have been received both about the website content and the emailed notices. A resident suggested Facebook fan page as a distribution, which the Board will evaluate.

Neighborhood Directory

Mr. Camp presented the Community Directory as a completed project for 2012. The project is an opportunity to engage the community and he added that this year, over \$1000 in net advertisement revenue (after printing expenses) was added to our treasury. He reported that all but one of the Directories have been delivered.

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One resident expressed that he had not received a directory, but after investigation it turned out his spouse had it.

Revision of BWCL Constitution & Bylaws

Mr. Camp noted that the Membership had previously authorized the Board to draft revised BWCL Constitution and By-Laws documents, and he reported his goal of having the Board complete this task in advance of the spring general meeting.

New Business

Vacant Positions

Mr. Camp then stated that the board is looking to replace Directory Tom Brandl and solicited volunteers or recommendations from the residents for a new appointment. Mr. Camp also indicated that the board needs a new Block Captain for Birks Lane. Mr. Camp then called for recommendations for nominations for VBCCO awards in recognition of community service.

Neighborhood Capital Improvement Projects

Mr. Camp then turned to the Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Foundation's (VBPRF) Parks Plus project, geared toward helping private groups partner with the City to get park projects done sooner than they otherwise would be. He then proceeded to address specific items of concern in our neighborhood park, the Board's recommendations, and responses from the City.

Mr. Camp announced that the horseshoe pit idea previously authorized by the Membership was discouraged by the city for sanitary and maintenance reasons. Mr. Camp then recapped the city's proposal to remove existing materials such as benches, and the board's subsequent walk-through of the park. Following a meeting that day with Parks and Recreation, Mr. Camp was hopeful that the philosophy and thus the direction of this project will change in favor of adding components to the park rather than subtracting them. Mr. Camp stated that the kiosk replacement project had been revisited for inclusion in the larger park project at a reduced cost to residents. If the existing two benches in the northwest corner cannot be retained, they will be replaced with one in order to accommodate that area as a pet area. Maintenance of the volleyball poles including white paint and net would be taken up by the board.

Mr. Camp then described the proposal to add three uncovered picnic benches and replace the deteriorated shelter and table in the southeast corner of the park with an uncovered structure. The total cost of the proposal is approximately \$5518. Mr. Camp then deferred to Mrs. Waters to report on her assessment of BWCL's available cash for such a project. Mrs. Waters stated that after satisfying concerns around required cash on hand and expenses coming early in the year, plus always maintaining a \$2000 insurance deductible reserve, about \$6000 is available for a capital project.

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Mr. Camp then opened the discussion to residents. A resident made a motion authorizing the board to spend up to \$6000 for park improvements within the limitations and guidelines set forth by the city. A second resident seconded the motion. During discussion of fundraising, Treasurer Cathy Waters added that donations by residents could potentially increase the budget, and she stipulated that the \$6000 civil league ceiling remain. The amendment was accepted by the resident proposing the original motion. Additional discussion settled the motion as a \$6000 total spend with donations decreasing the amount required from the league. Mr Camp then called for the vote after verifying that all residents in attendance were active members. The thirteen member households present unanimously accepted the motion by hand vote, where each household was given one vote.

A resident then proposed adding equipment to the playground area, citing that on weekends the existing equipment is crowded. The board reviewed the layout of the current equipment based on the park project and concluded that any expansion would require adjustment of the timber-bounded mulch bed. Due to cost and having just committed nearly all available funds to a major park improvement effort, the board ultimately took this equipment add proposal under advisement as a potential future project.

Closing

Mr. Camp called for any additional business. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 8:30PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,
John Glenn, Secretary