

BELLAMY WOODS



CIVIC LEAGUE

**General Membership Meeting
7:00pm on February 21, 2013
Providence Elementary School Library**

MINUTES

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

Directors Absent: (none)

Board Associates (nonvoting) Present: Long-Quan Pham, Minh-Quan Pham

Board Associates (nonvoting) Absent: (none)

Opening

Bellamy Woods Civic League President Walter Camp brought the meeting to order at 7:04PM EDT in the library of Providence Road Elementary school. 16 persons were present, each of which indicated current membership in the league. The meeting agenda and an information packet containing the prior meeting minutes, Treasurer's report, and 2013 calendar were available for pickup at the door. Mr. Camp opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest Speaker

Mr. Camp then moved to the first agenda item. Dr. Amelia Ross-Hammond, our new City Council Member representing Kempsville, was scheduled to attend the meeting as a guest speaker. A few days prior to the meeting, Dr Ross-Hammond notified Mr. Camp that she had been moved up from alternate to Delegate on a team from Norfolk State University going on a mission out of the country on the Wednesday prior to our meeting. She expressed her apologies for the short notice cancellation and asked to meet briefly with Mr. Camp before her departure. Mr. Camp said he would report on that meeting later in the evening, and he hopes to have Dr Ross-Hammond attend a future civic league community meeting.

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 October 18 and called for a motion to accept. After review, the minutes were unanimously accepted without revision by the present members.

Treasurer's Report

Board Treasurer Cathe Waters presented a current report of revenues and expenses. Mrs. Waters noted that membership dues have exceeded expectations for the year. Actual advertising revenue has more than doubled the budgeted expectation for the year. Mrs. Waters reported that expense line 28, Entrance Sign Repair, exceeded its budget allocation due to the materials purchase for the creation of standard reusable

plaques for the neighborhood entrance signs. Mrs. Waters noted that we are well under our \$6K budget for the capital park improvement project. A resident asked Mrs. Waters to clarify the definition of advertising revenue. Mrs. Waters explained that advertisement revenue stems from our sales of advertisements for both the newsletter and neighborhood directory. President Walter Camp noted that it appears we may need to pay a small amount of unrelated business income tax on our revenue from advertisements.

Volunteer Appreciation & Opportunities

Recognition of Tom Brandl

President Walter Camp then called up former BWCL President Tom Brandl, reviewed his contributions to the community, and presented Tom with a card and a hand-crafted pen constructed from African King Wood as a gift in recognition of his many years of service. The membership gave Tom a hearty round of applause and their thanks.

Other Position Transitions

Mr. Camp reported that Mary Bingham will transition from her current duties. Mrs. Bingham has been a long time contributor to the community, maintaining content on the park bulletin board, managing our youth employment listings including babysitting and lawn care services, and volunteering to work on our Party in the Park and Halloween parties. Mrs. Bingham could not be present for the meeting, and on behalf of the Board, Mr. Camp voiced his appreciation for her service in her absence. Board Vice President Kyle Bullard added that Mrs. Bingham has found a successor, J.T. Haste of Berrywood Road.

Mr. Camp then mentioned that in addition to the vacancy left by Tom Brandl, there will be another upcoming Board vacancy, and requested that residents consider service to the community through participation on the board.

Block Captain Social

Neighborhood Watch Director Greg Turpin discussed the upcoming Block Captain social, to be held on April 21st at Mr. Turpin's home. The community is currently in need of additional block captains, and Mr. Camp encouraged the members to participate in this easy but important activity.

VBCCO Service Award Nominations

Board Vice President Kyle Bullard announced that the Board has nominated Jane Lina of Berrywood Road to receive a service award from the Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations. Mrs. Lina is a professional horticulturist who served on the BWCL Board for about five years. She took on responsibility for beautification and landscaping, created the park entrance garden, and has continued upkeep of the park entrance area following her departure from the board. Her sustained service to the community has lasted more than ten years. The VBCCO ceremony banquet will be held on March 29th, and is open to all citizens of Virginia Beach.

Board Member Reports

Halloween Party

Board Vice President Kyle Bullard reported that the Halloween Party in the Park, 2012 was rained out by Superstorm Sandy. Due to the limited time window between the party and Halloween night, no rain date

for the party was planned. Mr. Bullard then announced that the Board purchased glow sticks, which he distributed on Halloween night instead of at the party as he had originally planned.

Landscaping Programs

Mr. Bullard announced that Tammy and Jeff Brocaille, residents of Selwood Drive, have volunteered to maintain the neighborhood entrance signs. The Brocailles own a landscaping business, but will take on this responsibility outside of their business. The Brocailles will buy materials as needed and submit receipts to the board for reimbursement. Mr. Bullard announced that conversations are ongoing with the property owner on Birks Lane for landscaping around our new entrance sign there.

Communications

President Walter Camp reported that following Tom Brandl's departure, he has temporarily taken on responsibilities for the newsletter. Mr. Camp also announced that the BWCL web site is receiving over 70 unique visitors per day. Mr. Camp then mentioned eBlasts, noting that the Board is still working to find the proper balance between limiting use of resident email addresses and leveraging this effective mechanism of pushing information out quickly. Mr. Camp then introduced Berrywood Road resident Michael Stanley, owner of a dog named Duncan. In the week prior to this meeting, Mr. Stanley had reached out to the civic league requesting assistance with locating Duncan, who had wandered off. Mr. Camp had sent an eBlast, and after numerous resident responses, Duncan was located. Mr. Stanley expressed gratitude to the Board for the eBlast and the subsequent support of the community.

Neighborhood Watch

Director Greg Turpin reported that no major crimes had occurred in the neighborhood. He reiterated his advice that residents lock their doors to deter would-be opportunistic thieves who are trying doors for easy access to homes and vehicles. Director Frank Gewet added that many of the thieves are kids looking for GPS devices.

Special Projects

Special Projects Director Frank Gewet reported that he has been working with City Code Enforcement to get burned out street lights on Providence Road addressed. He expressed concern with City and Virginia Power turnaround times on these types of problems. Mr. Gewet reminded the membership about the City's standard for overgrown grass, and he reported that the Selwood signs are in need of paint. Vice President Kyle Bullard added that the lights are out at the Salem road exit from Ferrell parkway. Mr. Gewet stated that residents can Call Code Enforcement for problems within or without the neighborhood. He added that he was able to get the city to brush-hog the overgrown area across Providence road from Birks.

Development

President Walter Camp reported on the Spence Crossing development, consisting of approximately 130 acres near the intersection of South Independence and Princess Anne. The current work effort aims to construct apartments east of Independence boulevard; these have changed to a higher quality and lower density unit distribution than originally planned, both in recognition of an improving economy and in the interests of placing less of a burden on road infrastructure and other shared services. Subsequently the area behind Home Depot will be turned into a mix of residential and commercial parcels. The plan for this area is to build approximately 800 new homes, including houses priced above \$300k, and a 26 acre commercial center.

The Commercial Center will likely have a food service anchor, possibly Whole Foods. The builder is billing the Spence Crossing Commercial Center as a premium shopping destination, potentially including a health club. Mr. Camp solicited ideas from residents for potential business desires in this area.

Mr. Camp then mentioned the Kempsville and Princess Anne historic area. The Citizens Advisory Council meets monthly to discuss and potentially influence decisions on what will be built in this area. Walter Camp and Cathe Waters attend this meeting on behalf of Bellamy Woods Civic League residents.

Mr. Camp announced that the Kempsville Rec Center is about to have a major renovation valued at \$20M. The entire interior will be modernized, and citizen involvement is encouraged.

Mr. Camp also announced that the Virginia Beach City Police 4th Precinct building will be replaced with an \$8m new station over the next two years. The current facility is significantly over capacity; police parking is spilling over into the adjacent Kempsville Library parking lot and public streets.

Student Board Associate's Perspective

Student Board Associate Long-Quan Pham presented his perspective on his tenure on the Board. He stated that he has gained a better understanding and thus appreciation for community upkeep and projects. New Student Board Associate Minh-Quan Pham, brother to Long-Quan, stated that he had been impressed by the 2012 candidates forum and the Board effort to coordinate the event.

Before closing out Board member reports, President Walter Camp returned to the topic of the guest speaker. Dr. Ross-Hammond asked to hear concerns from BWCL and our residents. Mr. Camp listed several items for her consideration including community interests in the Violet Bank Bike Path and exploring options for the residents of the twenty-five homes along Ferrell parkway, who have expressed safety concerns due to their proximity to this high speed traffic corridor. He also stated the desire to have a close working relationship with her so that our community can stay informed on local issues, and offer our thoughts to assist her in policy decisions. Dr. Ross-Hammond was appreciative of the written materials he provided and said she looked forward to working with our community and rescheduling a time to speak with residents.

Old Business

Neighborhood Park Capital Improvements

Secretary John Glenn reported on the two efforts currently underway in our neighborhood park. The first of these involves the removal and replacement of trees damaged over the years by severe storms. The league has purchased three trees, one Live Oak and two Yoshino Cherries, which the City will place near the entrance, replacing the three recently removed Bradford Pears. Each of these trees will have a placard placed at the base with statements authored by the Board. In discussions with Randy Wales, the arborist responsible for planting in our park, Mr. Wales asked if the neighborhood would be interested in two to three additional trees, which he already has in inventory. These trees will be planted along Berrywood at no additional cost to the neighborhood. Mr. Glenn then moved to the park improvement project, highlighting the improvements included with this larger effort. Mr. Camp added that he had been contacted by the city regarding a pre-construction site walk-through on Monday, February 25th. Mr. Glenn and Mr. Camp together described the

various aspects of the project, as previously reported in the newsletter, and how the cost was negotiated within the budget approved by the Membership.

Violet Bank Drive Bikepath Update

President Walter Camp then reported on the current state of the Violet Bank Bike Path project. This project addresses the winding dirt path running on City right-of-way from the end of Violet Bank Drive through several streets, ending on Selwood Drive. The proposal is to pave this path and bring it under city maintenance. On September 18th city representatives and the Virginia Beach Bikeways and Trails Advisory Committee conducted a site walk-through. Mr. Camp expressed hope that 2013 city funds would be available for residential projects such as this one, since 2012 money was entirely spent on Shore Drive due to numerous incidents at that location. A community interest meeting is upcoming, and Mr. Camp encouraged residents to attend. BWCL has not yet been advised of the date for this meeting.

Revision of BWCL Constitution & Bylaws

Mr. Camp reported that the Board is in the process of proposing revisions to the BWCL Constitution and By-Laws documents. The creation of our 2013-2014 budget is also an upcoming task. The Board will complete the majority of the work on both of these items at our next Director's meeting and bring draft proposals before the membership at a future general meeting.

New Business

Credit Card

Treasurer Cathe Waters announced that BWCL is investigating obtaining a no-fee credit card with a maximum balance of \$1,000. A credit card is needed for the BWCL website, and a Board member currently has their personal credit card exposed for this purpose. The use of a BWCL card will also alleviate Board members using their own funds and applying for reimbursement. Mrs. Waters also noted that Paypal takes credit cards, and leveraging this option for league memberships may reduce the number of checks for the league Treasurer. President Walter Camp stated that it was unclear whether the Board had the authority to obtain a credit card, so after investigation the proposal would be brought back to the Membership for approval. The membership in attendance raised no objections.

Calendar

Secretary John Glenn reported that the Board had met in January and planned the civic league's activities for all of 2013. He presented the updated Bellamy Woods Civic League activity calendar and, with Mr. Camp, read through the upcoming events through April.

Closing

Mr. Camp called for any additional business. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 8:07PM EST.

Respectfully submitted,

John Glenn, Secretary, Bellamy Woods Civic League