

Bellamy Woods Civic League (BWCL)

General Meeting Minutes

1 May 2019

- **General:** The semi-annual BWCL General Meeting was Called To Order by BWCL President John Sokolowski at 7:00PM 1 May 2019 at Providence Elementary School. 16 members of the civic league were present along with two guests, Leigh Henderson, Virginia Beach (VB) Treasurer, and Carol Weems, VB School Board member.
- **Agenda Discussion:**
 - **Guest Speaker:** John introduced Leigh Henderson, the current VB Treasurer, who spoke about the duties of the Treasurer's office in a general scope. Topics she touched upon included the typical Treasurer duties including the property taxes and the assessment processes, delinquent tax collection, permit fees, parking citation fees, and managing a 6 M dollar department budget. Less known duties included managing the investment portfolio for the city to insure sufficient reserve cash is available to meet arising cash flow demands. Her presentation was both educational and relevant to the general membership.
 - **Reports From Civic League Board Members:**
 - John led off by providing detail on the 18 May Neighborhood Yard Sale scheduled to run 8:00AM to 2:00PM with Habitat For Humanity scheduled to conduct an after event pickup of left over household items. John the discussed the Party In The Park event scheduled for 8 September and the challenges associated with funding the annual event.
 - Richard Pearsall briefed the group on the Neighborhood Watch program relationship to the City of Virginia Beach program requirements and the rationale for not officially participating. He then discussed the current status of the Block Captain program stating that the program has been revitalized with over 30 volunteers serving in the role of keeping our neighborhood both welcoming and safe. John also discussed relying on the Block Captains to assist the Board in promoting increased membership in the civic league.
 - Frank Gewet spoke on both Special Projects and Landscaping Programs with the purpose of informing the membership of what both programs entail. Frank also touched on several issues such as leaving weekend clippings along the curb over the week that detract from the neighborhood's appearance. He asked the membership to solicit their neighbors support to improve the appearance of Bellamy Woods. Several potential code compliance questions were raised by members present and Frank offered his advice and support to address any issues.
 - Treasurer's Report was presented by Nan Zhang with a comparative review of the financial challenges the Board has been facing in recent years. There were no specific issues with Nan's report but a broad discussion ensued on the status of the league membership as a percentage of the total residences in Bellamy Woods and the need to encourage increased membership to support the positive services provided by the civic league.
 - **Old Business:** John discussed the topic of empty seats on the BWCL Board with 2 of 7 seats currently vacant and with the pending loss of Meghan Gilbert, the Board

will have 3 of 7 seats vacant. John discussed the volunteer time involved in serving on the Board and appealed to the membership present to consider joining.

- **New Business:**
 - The topic of a sound barrier along the neighborhood border to Ferrell Parkway was raised by John and long time BWCL member, Walter Camp. Discussion ensued on the need for an integrated strategy involving bordering neighborhood associations relative to creating a funding method to support the estimated 3M dollar development and installation cost. Walter commented that it is a City of Virginia Beach acknowledged issue of non-compliance with Federal noise standards with all supporting studies completed. Given Ferrell Parkway was developed prior to the implementation of Federal noise standards, no retroactive Federal funding is available. Membership discussion was proactive that development of a funding strategy should be pursued.
 - **Budget Approval:** The proposed budget for the forthcoming fiscal year was presented by Nan Zhang and John for membership approval. One issue developed related to the discussion of the Violet Bank Trail Path that will enter Bellamy Woods at the Sellwood Drive path terminus. John provided the background and current status on the City of Virginia Beach approved and funded project. Walter Camp proposed that the proposed budget under Capital Improvements Line 105 be amended to restore 2K dollars that was originally allocated in past budget years to support a to be determined donation demarking the path terminus in Bellamy Woods. The proposal and the then amended budget were each approved without dissent,
- There being no further business to discuss the BWCL General Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.