

Bellamy Woods Civic League (BWCL)

General Meeting Minutes

17 October 2019

- **General:** The semi-annual BWCL General Meeting was Called To Order by President John Sokolowski at 7:00PM 17 October 2019 at Providence Elementary School. 8 members of the civic league were present along with the guest speaker, Delegate Kelly Convirs-Fowler representing the Bellamy Woods area as part of the 21st district in the Virginia House of Delegates. A review of the minutes of the 19 May 2019 General Meeting was conducted and the minutes approved with no dissenting votes.
- **Agenda Items:**
 - **Guest Speaker:** John introduced Delegate Fowler representing Virginia's 21st district. Delegate Fowler spoke on the major legislative bills passed in 2018 and 2019 including MEDICAID Expansion, coastal flooding legislation, a major teacher's raise, and the state Tax Plan for 2019. Delegate Fowler also discussed the constituent services her office can offer in assistance to Bellamy Woods residents. The constituent services available through her South Plaza Trail office include working issues with any state agency, e.g., DMV, Veteran's Department, etc; determining health care eligibility; resolving issues with local utility companies; and assistance and referral to any federal and state agency to address a particular issue.
 - **Reports From Civic League Board Members:**
 - **John Sokolowski** led off the Board Member Reports by providing a recap of the 8 September Party In The Park (PIP) which attracted 100 residents and included a new food vendor, Rib City. The new food vendor was well received and provided a quality offering at a significant savings of \$1500 over the past vendor. Several residents commented positively on the activities available to the kids present, particularly the face painter. This year's PIP was viewed as a success and helped lay the groundwork for next year's event. John also spoke on plans for the upcoming Halloween In The Park event on Sunday 27 October from 2:00-4:00 PM. The event will be coordinated by resident Megan Crane with activities to include kid games, a cupcake making event, and a costume contest.
 - **Richard Pearsall** provided an update on the Neighborhood Watch Program to include the status of Block Captain assignments. He reported about a 40% update on the Residents Database from the original copy provided by the Treasurer that was sectioned out to the Block Captains for their specific areas. Additionally he proposed that the BWCL Board consider developing a timely, periodic means to provide resident membership status to the Block Captains to more effectively tailor their efforts to promote increased membership in the civic league.
 - **Frank Gewet** discussed both the Special Projects and Landscaping Programs to enlighten the membership of what the programs entail. Frank reported that the floral plantings at the entrances and park had taken a beating due to prolonged summer heat but were being revitalized. He then appealed for support relative to the issue of yard clippings being left at the curb over the week by some residents thus detracting from the

neighborhood's appearance. He also discussed several street condition issues and relayed his discussion with the City of Virginia Beach on their decision to survey all city streets to ensure public safety is maintained. Frank will monitor this development as it potentially affects our neighborhood. Past President Walter Camp raised the long standing issue of the inoperative street light at the corner of Princess Anne and Brantingham Roads. Several residents stated that the city will not attempt to repair a light if the pole houses birds. Frank stated he would look into the situation.

- **Nan Zhang** presented the Treasurer's Report with a comparative review of the financial challenges the Board has been facing in recent years. Nan reported the civic league was in a more favorable position than in past years due to the cost savings achieved this year in the civic league's Party In The Park. She raised the cost issue of carrying two insurance policies (one permanent and one event driven) to cover Bellamy Woods. Walter Camp explained that there is a City of Virginia Beach issue with a separate liability factor when Bellamy Woods was developed that dictated the need for separate policies.
- **Old Business:** John discussed the status of BWCL Board membership with 5 of the 7 seats currently filled and also reviewed the general duties of board members in an appeal to residents to consider serving on the board.
- **New Business:**
 - John Sokolowski continued discussion of projected BWCL Board membership under the aegis of board member nominations to serve for the new term of office starting in 2020. John reviewed the names of the 6 nominees proposed to serve on the board. The slate was approved without objection. John also informed those present that he will be stepping down as board President after 5 and a half years in office. The residents present thanked John for his unselfish service to the community. John stated that next BWCL Board meeting will be 3 December at which time the new board members will determine which positions they will fill.
 - Walter Camp stated he has been appointed to the Virginia Beach Clean Community Commission and the Parks & Recreation Commission, the later having oversight of the Violet Bank Trail. Walter also mentioned that next year is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and opined that the civic league may want to plan a related event in observance of the anniversary. Walter also stated that the Historic Kempsville Citizens Advisory Committee's efforts to improve the appearance and utility of the Princess Anne/Kempsville Road interchange may soon bear fruit. A developer has proposed plans to develop the Northeast corner of the interchange with a sit down restaurant and other facilities. As plans develop the BWCL Board will keep residents abreast of events through our website.
- There being no further business to discuss the BWCL General Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.