

## **FAIRFIELD CIVIC LEAGUE MINUTES**

Civic League President, Matt Maxwell opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. leading everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance with 37 members/residents/guests in attendance.

Matt turned it over to our guest speaker, Rob MacPherson, architect with VA Beach Parks & Recreation who provided a presentation on the Kempsville Community Recreation Center Replacement Project (CIP 4-509). Rob has been working Kempsville Rec center for past 1 ½ years. Several years ago a consultant rated the facility as poor. City decided that the facility needed to be replaced; however, no funds. Original date for replacement was to be 2018; however, based on its age and structural challenges, it has now been moved forward. The City looked at 4 different options:

1. keep the pool but rebuild everything else,
2. keep a portion of the building and demolish everything else,
3. demolish the entire facility and start over with a North entrance
4. all new with same entrance direction.

Most cost effective was to demolish everything with new facility that faces to the North. Reasoning behind the decision: Pool shell leaks, structural issues with the pool and pool electrical system old. If pool was kept it would have to be replaced within 10 years and the cost to maintain until then was too high. Structural maintenance for option 2 was too high as well. Demolishing the entire facility and assuming a minimum 30 year life span, the new building would save \$3 – 4 million.

New building proposal shifts the facility a bit to the South where parking is not being used. Additional parking on west side will be created.

Current facility is 85,000 sq ft. The new proposed facility is one level with a mezzanine and is 75,000 sq ft with more areas: double gym vice one, pool with zero depth/play area, more activity rooms, etc. The park will remain open with all the current activity area (i.e. tennis courts, play area, baseball fields). Estimate 18 months to build.

VA Beach City has a virtual town hall, where they posted a survey on line with the Kempsville Rec center plans, and included public meetings (i.e. Rec Center in December 2013). Currently, an Analyst is collating all responses and the rec center will be modified if deemed necessary from the additional public comments. Most likely in the spring a final decision will be made.

Rob then opened the floor to questions:

Ques: Was there a lead certification?

Ans: Yes and it will be in the construction contract for the facility to be lead certified.

Ques: Why not an 8 lane pool?

Ans: City has 3 facilities for competition already, so city will stay with current 6 lane pool.

Ques: Is there a theater and stage?

Ans: no, city no longer has staff to run the theatrical program. Interest for such a program died out in the 80's.

Ques: is the stage space used much?

Ans: No, activities will be done in the multiuse rooms.

Ques: What does the mezzanine look like?

Ans: Mezzanine area will be open, overlooking the weight room and gym.

Bell Creek Rec facility is under construction and should be completed by the end of 2014. November 2014, Kempsville Rec center will close except for child development programs which will continue until the end of school year. The Kempsville community will be able to use Williams Farm Rec center to the North or Bells Creek Rec facility.

Kempsville Rec center is scheduled for demolition spring 2015; start construction late spring/early summer and complete by end of 2016.

Q: Will they offer more child care programs? Are we loosing anything?

A: Will have the same 3 classrooms. Staff is currently working to see where all the programs will move to under the renovation period.

Q: Are bids being taken?

A: No. Not at this time.

Q: is the \$32M estimate really a true amount?

A: Yes, includes site work for parking access, demolition, construction, equipment, office furniture and contingency (i.e. temporary fencing, lighting, etc).

Q: If you have not had bids, how do you know \$32M is adequate?

A: Bow Creek estimate was \$21-22 M and all bids came in at \$24M. Bow Creek is similar quality; however, had more site work and smaller building.

Q: What was the Rec centers staff's recommendations?

A: All different aspects of Parks and Rec sat down with architects and helped develop the plan. One of the big things was the multipurpose space availability. Zero depth pool entry addresses ADA and more enjoyable for children and families.

Rob's information can be seen at:

<http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/parks-recreation/design-development-projects/current-projects/Pages/default.aspx>

Matt thanked Rob for his informative presentation then continued with the Civic Meeting:

**Flag Program:** Shawn McGinty replaced Dick Knight as the flag program director. Matt thanked Dick for the tremendous effort in running a most successful Flag program. Dick Knight commented that he received 10 times more out of the flag program than what he put into it.

**Hot Chocolate in the park :** A great success, wonderful evening, weather perfect...5 – 7 p.m.. The fire pit was burning, hot chocolate provided and neighbors brought lots of cookies. The hot chocolate was kept hot thanks to a neighbor and a long extension cord. We would like to do something in the spring and would like to solicit for a small committee to come up with some of these fun, easy to do ideas.

**Treasurer report:** We currently have \$1,137.25 in the civic league account with 72 paid members to date. Total expenses year to date have been \$782.16

**Garden Club:** The Civic league has always helped the garden club. The maintenance of the entrance-ways, insurance for the Fairfield signs are all going up and it appears the plant sales have leveled out. Please join the civic league and support the plant sales.

Matt had a copy of the last Civic League Meeting minutes available for anyone to review at the end of the meeting.

**Membership update...**72 paid: Fairfield has 762 plus 44 town homes included in the Civic League. Please encourage your neighbors to join!

**Fairfield Oak** will be out in the spring, open to articles and the Board will be looking to distribution electronically to cut down the cost.

Matt will be scheduling a **Board meeting** before February's Civic League meeting.

Doug McLiverty provided a **traffic update:** yield sign back up, got our city council rep involved with the recent potholes and they were repaired quickly. You can report potholes at <http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/public-works/report-a-problem/pages/default.aspx>.

Another traffic study will be done after intersection construction (estimate this spring).

Q: Fairfield and Kempsville and Lock and Kempsville lights are very long on the weekends. Can the timing be corrected?

A: call city traffic division and they will come out and investigate/correct.

A recommendation was made to put a dip in the road like on Edwin. Sheppard Ave in Norfolk has 8 humps; just something to keep in mind when working with the city on traffic calming after the intersection completion.

**Historic Kempsville:** Steve indicated the committee took a two-month break: Many of the houses have now been bought by the city (except the old Buddhist facility, they moved out; however, owner asking exorbitant amount and city will not pay for that property). Committee will meet two weeks from tonight.

Please plan to attend the civic league meetings. The following are the dates for meetings through May: Feb 10; Mar 10; May 12; Jun 9. Please note we will skip April and take a summer break June through August.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.