

FAIRFIELD CIVIC LEAGUE

MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2015

Matt Maxwell, President Fairfield Civic League, opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with 30 residents/guests in attendance. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Matt provided a quick update:

1. Based on last meeting we will push for increased membership and activities.
2. Approximately 60 people enjoyed Picnic in the Park – well done. We will try to do another event geared for adults.
3. The Princess Anne/Kempsville intersection coming to completion.
4. Recreation Center is completely down, if you have not driven by the area.
5. The 525@Historic Kempsville Apartments should start construction this fall.
6. Head's up for some construction to replace 8" water main on Lord Dunmore. Apparently, the two sections of Fairfield have not been connected. The project construction will last approximately 3 weeks.
7. Matt put a call out for volunteers to fill Civic League positions. Doug McLiverty volunteered to take over Vice President. Still looking for a secretary. If you want to help out with Civic we are always looking for volunteers. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors.
8. Working to get a newsletter out mid August.
9. Upcoming Events:
 - a. Nov 14th - Historical Revolutionary War Reenactment event at Emmanuel Church.
10. Steve Mannix provided a few updates on Historical Kempsville:
 - Nausbaum project next to Emmanuel Church is on hold, not sure the details.
 - Anchor from sister city in Philippines will go on corner.
 - For construction to begin at the 525@Historic Kempsville Apartments, the eagles must not be using the nest for 10 consecutive days before tree comes down.
 - Intersection (road part) will be complete in June. Lighting will be placed later this summer and landscaping in Oct/Nov.
 - Utility boxes will be painted black to blend into the area.
11. Treasurer Betty Virok provided the following report:

Starting balance 8/31/2014:	\$832.84
Current balance:	\$1406.84
Total Year-To-Date income:	\$624.00
Memberships (49):	\$588.00
Donations (Paver):	\$36.00
Total Year-To-Date Expenses:	\$50.00

The Civic League had Frank Wagner, Virginia Senate and Casey Shaw, Grassroots Coordinator, Elisabeth River Project

Matt introduced Senator Frank Wagner.

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Transportation high on people's minds. Sen. Wagner is heavily involved and played a major role in the passing of a comprehensive transportation bill. The bill has several congestion relieving projects:

- Jefferson Ave to FT Eustis – widening of I-64
- I-264/64 interchange...will accomplish Newtown Road changes and extend to Witchduck Rd. This will take at least another year to get approval and acquire land from property owners.
- High Rise Bridge in Chesapeake widening to 8 lanes will cost over \$1B
- Patriot's Crossing (3rd crossing) will cost \$3-4B
- Continue widening of I-64 beyond Williamsburg.
- \$120M from state will help pay for rail to Virginia Beach

Sen Wagner does not endorse the current rail effort in Virginia Beach. His opinion is that it goes nowhere. He would like to see a comprehensive rail plan that includes the Naval Base, airport, Greenbrier, Chesapeake and other critical travel paths that would reduce traffic. He stated that the comprehensive plan with the cost to allow citizens to make a choice. The Tide does not work now, and we are going to add another part that does not work? He recognized that Council has voted, he is just very concerned.

Sen Wagner than indicated that EPA continues to add regulations and that exponentially raises the cost of road construction. For example, the latest round of storm water regulations is called MS4. This regulation requires that the rain from a 1-inch rain event be retained on sight. This not only applies to new constructed lanes but for all lanes; therefore, more land must be procured for storm water management. In addition, the low water table experienced in the Tidewater Area the run off cannot go deep into the soils like with other areas in the Virginia.

264/64 moving forward, 1st part of 64 expansion ongoing, 3rd crossing paperwork has expired, so reissuing (no impact) and in process of paperwork for 2nd expansion effort of 64.

The floor was opened to questions:

Q: Subsidizing mass transit, why are we paying to expand light rail vice just expanding bus?

Sen Wagner, agrees, goes back to his statement about a comprehensive plan (see above).

Q: Witchduck and 264: you need to cross traffic, why can we not turn right and merge?

Sen Wagner: Agrees, but Newtown Road will not include a new clover exchange for Witchduck and 264.

Q: Any projects public private?

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Sen Wagner: No, all publicly funded. Raised regional money.

Statement from a resident: If you compare the bus cost with light rail, no comparison...

Sen Wagner: 17% of transit dollars goes back to state for subsidizing. Norfolk is subsidizing now, if/when it comes into Virginia Beach, the City will start to subsidize this cost.

Q: Do you see tolls coming back like on the old 44?

Sen Wagner: Back in 1996 the Highway 44 was paid for and then some and Sen Wagner led the removal of the toll. However, if we have a necessary road that cannot be built without support than yes, there is a possibility of a User Fee.

Closing statements by Sen Wagner:

We will be dredging out to 55' to allow the largest container ships to enter the Elizabeth Area. Craney Island is gearing for development as this area becomes a major transportation site.

Nov 3rd is Election. If you have any questions please contact Sen Wagner at 757-228-3333, by email: Frank@FrankWagner.us. Website: www.frankwagner.us
Facebook: Facebook.com/senatorfrankwagner

Matt then introduced our second guest speaker from the Elisabeth River Project: Casey Shaw, Grassroots Coordinator at www.Elisabethriver.org.

Casey gave a wonderful power point presentation. Below captures a few highlights:
Before 1620 we were an active waterway
We are the largest coal export
We have the oldest and largest naval shipyard

4 cities surround the Elizabeth River:

We are in the watershed of the Elizabeth River...Kemps River!

Urban River With Urban Issues:

- Down to a fraction of wetlands
- Off limits to shell fishing since 1920
- Toxic run off leads to elevated toxins in the fish

1991 Elizabeth River Project Organization started with mission to restore the river in our backyard.

Right now half of the waterway is at grade C (grade A to F scale). This is a big improvement from 1991.

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Partnering with industry: 114 businesses have made the river star business

Sept 12th – Elizabeth River Project will be at Nauticus in Norfolk.

Become a River Star Home:

1. Scoop the poop
2. Protect storm drains – illegal to blow grass clippings down the drain
3. Help geese migrate...do not feed
4. Do not flush medicines...since the HRSD cannot treat them and they go directly into our water ways.
5. No grease in the sink...clog drains, pipes, and pumps
6. If have a boat with a toilet... pump out the boat sewage at facilities
7. Reduce fertilizers...more is not better. Do a soil test so you only apply what you need; everything else runs off anyway!!!!

Many ways to be involved and activities for children:

Volunteer for the River – oyster reeds, waterland plantings, Oysterberg – making artificial reefs with extra cement; raise oysters for a year, become a member.

An example of how the Organization has helped the waterway:

- 1995 survey....5 osprey pairs
- 2014 survey....63 pair of osprey.
This is important because Ospreys are dependent on fish, a sign that our rivers are rebounding.
- Lafayette River: we have found squid, brown shrimp, red drum and even seahorse.

Q: What is the issue in our part of the river that still has a grade of “D”?

Chris: bacteria and excess nutrients (fertilizer and poop), plus there is not a lot of tidal movement.

Announcement

Bob Powell: Military Aviation pilot stated that on Saturday there would be a night of flying to the symphony. When the planes land the symphony will continue its concert. Sun Trust is handing out tickets...save \$35.

Matt asked for a motion to delay voting on new officers until the fall.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to push voting for officers to next meeting. The Civic League Officers will be working on this schedule.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.