

FAIRFIELD CIVIC LEAGUE

MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2015

Matt Maxwell, President Fairfield Civic League, opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with 38 residents/guests in attendance. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Matt introduced the first guest speaker. Mathew Coneys and Richard Haddock from Virginia Beach Code Enforcement.

In a nutshell, Matthew gave a brief statement of what Code Enforcement does, *“To create quality solutions to promote vibrant well-maintained neighborhoods.”*

Their division’s statement is “Housing & Neighborhood Preservation's Code Enforcement Division maintains the safety and appearance of the city's existing structures and properties through routine inspections throughout the city. Code Enforcement inspectors respond to complaints about housing and property maintenance code violations. The inspectors patrol their assigned areas for violations, conduct systematic exterior inspections of neighborhoods on an as-needed basis, notify property owners of violations and take appropriate legal action to obtain compliance.”

Housing and Neighborhood Preservation is divided into four divisions: housing development, rental housing, strategy and policy, and resource development and code enforcement. Matthew’s division (Resource Development and Code Enforcement) is the largest division with 23 inspectors and 3 rental inspectors in 4 precincts.

Matthew provided a power point presentation. Below are excerpts from the presentation:

- Protect the health, safety and welfare of Virginia Beach residents.
- Conduct patrol inspection on all existing structures review for violations
- I.e. deteriorating soffit, painting, rotting soffit/trim, soffit losing its aluminum (dropping down), fencing, illegal external wiring and sheds.
- If there is fire damage their division receives the reports from fire dept. to follow through until repairs are done.
- Interior inspections (rental inspections/tenant complaints): plumbing, drywall falling, mold (water damage) – note: mold testing must be done by resident/tenant; illegal wiring, improper ducting, etc.
- They will respond to life safety concerns within 24-48 hrs.
- Minor interior and exterior code violations have 30 days to repair. If the resident works with the division, it is pretty easy to get an extension. The division normally grants another 60 days.

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- Swimming pools: If the property is vacant the division will conduct mosquito control every 30 days and treat pools. If someone is in the house, the division will take action to take the resident to court (summer only).
- Inoperable vehicles: Resident must have current license and city inspection displayed on the vehicle. Must repair/move within 7 days,
- Grass enforcement is only conducted in the summer.
- Commercial and recreational vehicles – must be up on side of house
- Grass/junk – 7 days to comply, then a city contractor will be sent to the site; unless the residence is occupied, then they must start paperwork to take them to court.
- They partner with sheriffs work force and provide free service for citizens who are victims of vandalism. However, they do ask property owners to repair themselves.
- Waste management violations: yard waste not in 4x4 piles, setting out too early, not putting away, construction materials must be removed by the contractor or the resident within 7 days.
- Unsafe buildings: in danger of collapse (not too many in Virginia Beach), if open and vacant they will board up within 48 hrs. If they lack proper utilities/smoke detector then residents/tenants must leave within 48 hrs.
- Rental inspections: Must have certificate of compliance every 4 yrs.; temporary is granted for 30 days
- Hotel/motel inspection taskforce inspect 10% of all rooms.
- Their division also includes a hoarding team.
- Voluntary compliance and court action: most violations are corrected through voluntary compliance. Criminal complaints are issued in most non-compliant cases with convictions that could come in the form of fines (up to \$5000) and jail time. Please note, court proceedings in a lengthy process.
- Latest statistics for Virginia Beach: 27,219 violations

A question was asked about overgrown bushes that create a visibility issue for drivers. For visibility along the roadways contact City Traffic Engineering at 385-4131.

Matthew passed around “Maintenance Requirements” brochure. If interested in more detail, please go to www.vbgov.com/Housing and select Code Enforcement in left column. You can reach the division through email at: HOUSENP@VBGOV.COM or phone: 757-385-4421.

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Matt introduced Gary McCollum, Democratic candidate running for 7th District Senate Seat, who provided a quick biography and explanation on why he is running for office.

Gary grew up in a Richmond housing project. As an adult he has resided in Roanoke, Fairfax and VA BCH. He is a former Army Ranger (8 yrs.) and a JMU graduate. He is a successful businessman with Cox channel 11, a company who cared about the community it served. For example, Cox 11 gave \$500,000 to CHKD. Cox is a company who believes “we are all in this together.”

Gary believes that most politicians are more concerned about next election than what is right for the people. In addition, having a child in his later years, he was worried about her question “Dad, what did you do to help our future?” He thought all he would say is that he was successful in business; that just wasn’t enough. Gary’s top concerns are that the state wasted \$360M on route 460. Secondly (and his first passion), the state is spending millions of dollars on children repeating Kindergarten and 3rd grade, because 1/3 of the state’s children are not ready for Kindergarten.

Gary was asked, “What is your second passion?” His response was that we needed to connect education with economic growth – education is the great equalizer. Diversify our economy, keep our graduates here and encourage entrepreneurship.

Old Business:

1. On behalf of Treasurer Betty Virok, Doug McLiverty provided the following report:

Starting balance 8/31/2014:	\$832.84
Current balance:	\$1314.84
Total Year-To-Date income:	\$532.00
Memberships (42):	\$504.00
Donations (Paver):	\$28.00
Total Year-To-Date Expenses:	\$50.00

Doug also had a list of current membership status and forms for those who needed to pay membership dues.

2. Minutes from last meeting were available. Those in attendance approved the February minutes and treasurer report.
3. Intersection work and what needs to be done: Matt requested residents concerns at this point in the intersection work. Several examples he sited were the canal drainage (volume that the culverts can deal with); the fencing that just abruptly stops; and the entranceway into Fairfield (the city will correct this one).
4. Kempsville High School #3 community forum was postponed.
5. Traffic committee will be talking with traffic engineers – more to come

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6. Garden Club – sale Apr 26th, please support

New Business:

1. Spring activity (something like Pancakes in the Park): Leya Macchi is the lead and we are looking for volunteers. Please contact Leya at 407-967-6214 or leya.macchi@gmail.com.
2. Newsletter – We would like to start this back up and are seeking volunteers. Dick Knight will assist looking for an editor and we will be asking for advertisements to help cover cost.
3. Next meetings are: Apr 13, May 11 and Jun 8.
4. Meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.