

November 18, 2013

## FAIRFIELD CIVIC LEAGUE (FCL) MEETING

Fairfield Civic Meeting started at 7:00 pm with President, Matt Maxwell leading the residents/guests in the Pledge of Allegiance. 45 residents/guests were present. After the Pledge of Allegiance Matt stated that Fairfield townhouses are now part of FCL ☺

Treasurer report: \$519.17 on hand. We currently have 52 paid up members. An example of our outlay is the newsletter. A few years ago it used to be \$250 to produce the newsletter, now it is over \$500. The more people who are active will ensure our continued newsletter, helping the Garden Club and ensures our voice is heard with the city. Please encourage residents to join.

Traffic Calming: Stevie, Matt, Doug and several others had a meeting with the city representatives (traffic engineers) and unfortunately received quite a bit of pushback. The city wants Fairfield to hold off with any traffic calming plans until 2 to 3 months after construction completion. The time allows traffic patterns to be established. If the study shows challenges to the community due to traffic then the city will look at alternatives and ensure affected homes are contacted. The intersection should be completed April 2014, so we are anticipating a study in the summer.

Stevie requested that residents report incidents on FB so she can gather information to take to the city. One resident indicated he waited 15 minutes at the traffic light on Princess Anne turning left onto Oakmeads something is wrong with the light. Another resident asked why there is no "no through street" sign. Street signs are non-enforceable.

Matt introduced Mr. Jack Pope of the Hampton Roads Housing Company who provided an artist's rendering of the planned Kempsville Apartments along with the renovation of the 72-year old Kempsville High School, which has recently been renamed "525 @ Historic Kempsville."

Mr. Pope presented the concept through a question and answer forum. The first question was why 525? Answer: That is the address of the

school: 525 Kempsville Road. Someone else has already used Kempsville Village and the fire dept would be confused if two localities had the same name, so a new name was created. Apartments are targeting young professionals. There will be 168 apartments and 10-15 K sq. ft. of commercial space. Apartments will rent around \$1200 for 1 bedroom, \$1500 for 2 bedroom and \$1800 for 3 bedrooms. The school will be converted to 24 loft apartments. On the north end (where cafeteria was) will be common/social area and leasing office; outside will be a social area and pool.

The 168 apartments will consist of two court yard buildings with tuck under parking as well in the court yard parking, called landings. Buildings to the west are retail, called the cottages and are designed around 12K sq. ft. (two 6K sq. ft. properties). South is a 3 acre green area under Chesapeake Bay protection to restore wetlands.

Construction will take 18 months to 24 months once started.

The city required Mr. Pope to reduce drainage and improve the quality of drainage off Fox Run Canal. Most of the drainage will be sent to the BMP/pond across the street, minimal drainage to the canal. Mr. Pope indicated his arborist is working to ensure the bank of the canal will be stabilized.

The Canal committee made Mr. Pope aware of the canal challenges now, to include trying to get the city to come in and clean up the canal and the downed trees prior to Mr. Pope starting construction. Mr. Pope will look into this with the city.

Last item was to see if anyone was interested in a social event like those in the Charlestown neighborhood. In Charlestown, they set up 4 stations throughout the neighborhood with fire pits and marshmallows and luminaries. The holiday event allows neighbors to come out and socialize together with hot chocolate and marshmallows. Fairfield residents present indicated the Fairfield Park would be a good location. The date is 14 or 15 Dec, if volunteers come forward this event may take place.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.