

8 September 2014

FAIRFIELD CIVIC LEAGUE MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 2014

Matt Maxwell, President Fairfield Civic League opened the meeting with the pledge of Allegiance. 43 residents and guests were in attendance. Matt introduced the guest speaker: CAPT Gallagher, head 4th Police Precinct.

Capt Gallagher graduated from the Police Academy in 1990 and took over the 4th Precinct Jan 2014. He indicated Kempsville is the 7th largest area in the state and that he was aware of the traffic concerns within Fairfield. Capt Gallagher also stated that property and violent crimes continue to go down compared to last year; although, ID theft continues to rise.

Capt Gallagher indicated through communication and messaging he wants to ensure the community is aware of what the Police are doing:

1. The police are highly trained; standards have never been lowered.
2. The police and station have great technology.
3. The police are connected with the community and there is trust.

A new 4th precinct building site survey has been completed; the new building will be located behind the current building. He estimates the new building will be complete in the 2017 – 2018 time-frame. Capt Gallagher hopes to have a large room that the public could make use of (i.e. Boy Scouts). When they move into the new building another municipal group will take over the old building.

After Capt Gallagher's talk he opened the floor to questions: Several citizens asked about:

1. Stop signs that are lined with flashing lights – he had never seen those, but recommended talking with city traffic engineers.
2. Traffic along Lord Dunmore – need to continue to report and take videos of speeders and that the city will review once construction is complete. Capt Gallagher stated that Kempsville is divided into 9 zones and dispatches police to each zone, although there are times police are out of the zone assisting in other emergencies. He further stated that he tries to keep a 40 to 60 percent balance. If he can maintain 60% of police committed time (i.e. 911 calls, crime, etc) and 40% uncommitted time, then he has more flexibility to make the traffic rounds, etc. If the uncommitted time decreases then he must prioritize the distribution of assets. However, he has ensured patrols will continue to drive through the neighborhood, heightening awareness.

Capt Gallagher concluded stating that emails and phone calls are appreciated. Although the police may not respond (i.e. a speeder down Lord Dunmore) and it will not guarantee more staff, the information is documentation and reaffirms issues and challenges.

Matt Maxwell continued the meeting discussing "Community Support" Matt indicates and is moving Fairfield to a community that supports one another. We do

this through social networking (i.e. Nextdoor neighbor and FACEBOOK), along with Neighborhood Watch. He recommends we get back to knowing our neighbors and being a community of service to each other.

Treasurer's report: We currently have \$832.84. Civic League dues remain \$12.00. Last year we had 88 dues paying members of a neighborhood of over 764 homes. Matt then interjected that the reality of increasing cost (i.e. insurance costs: (\$475 now to meet at the school)) was one of the reasons the Civic League did not produce the spring newsletter. The newsletter costs approximately \$500. Matt asked for a volunteer to take over the newsletter and work to figure out a way to continue communicating with the neighborhood. Dick Knight recommended having the Boy Scouts deliver the newsletter – great idea.

Stephen Mannix, Vice President Civic League gave some updates on various city projects:

1. City has \$2.5M approved funding that will be used as follows: \$1.3M to acquire land and rezone; \$84K allocated for re-designation and \$1M for construction projects of art, historical signs, enhanced sidewalks, etc in the Kempsville Historic District.
2. November 2014 is the new date for Kempsville intersection completion.
3. 525 Historic Kempsville has been delayed due to the eagles nest...this is approx. 45 – 60 day delay.
4. The Princess Anne and Kempsville corner project (Walgreen's) is indefinitely delayed as they work out street closures and environmental issues.

Matt concluded the meeting with the following:

1. The Garden Club will have their fall plant sale **October 4th from 8am to 4 pm**, located at the Fairfield Oak off Locke Lane.
2. If you go to www.pilotonline.com you can see the current traffic volume along Lord Dunmore.
3. Kempsville High School Principle Bill Harris will host a community forum in October to address the declining student enrollment in Kempsville HS. Our civic league need to remain engaged supporting the Kempsville schools since Kempsville is our "hometown".
4. We are looking for a volunteer to lead the "Activities Committee" to plan a fall and December event in the park. Please see Matt if interested.
5. Please encourage neighbors to join the Civic League and we will have a membership drive posted on Nextdoor Fairfield.

Next meeting is October 6th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.