

Fairfield Civic League Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2016

31 attendees

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Doug McLiverty introduced Jessica Abbott, the newly elected city council member representing Kempsville.

Jessica thanked everyone for their support. 60% of the people in Fairfield who voted supported her. As an Indian Lakes resident she is an ardent supporter of the Kempsville area. She believes there are opportunities in our area for small businesses and plans to work to promote that in City Council. She also believes in greater transparency in our city government. Jessica pointed out that she found it difficult to find information on the city's website and she would also like to make it easier for citizens to express their ideas to City Council. She passed around a clipboard and encouraged each person to list their email address so she can communicate directly if you write to her. Jessica answered several questions from attendees including how the city council actually works, how she can advocate for Kempsville and what are the regulations that govern group homes in Fairfield. She takes office in January and is still in the process of learning how the city council actually functions. She intends to be a strong voice for Kempsville. Jessica said she would find out about the group home regulations and let us know. She received a warm applause at the end of the question session and stated she would be available to answer questions when the meeting had adjourned.

Betty Virok reported that the Civic League had \$1896.74 in its treasury but the newsletter printing fee had not yet been paid. The Civic League currently has 60 dues paying members.

There was a brief discussion about Nextdoor, the neighbor social media network. On Nextdoor there is information about items for sale, recommendations for repairmen as well as information from the City Government. Nextdoor has taken the place of the Neighborhood Watch program. It was very difficult to get volunteers for block captains and most people today have ready access to social media. It is also to most effective way to relay information quickly to everyone in our neighborhood.

Currently more 416 Fairfield residents are members of Nextdoor. The link below provides information about Nextdoor and how to join. Any current member can send an email invitation to join Nextdoor to a neighbor or Fairfield friend.

<https://help.nextdoor.com/customer/portal/articles/805001-joining-nextdoor>

There was a question about getting crime information specifically for our neighborhood. While the police department does post reports on Nextdoor at times, you can get specific crime information for Fairfield or any other Virginia Beach neighborhood from the ePro site at Virginia Beach.gov . Please see the link below.

<https://eprodmz.vbgov.com/MainUI/Crimes/CrimeSearch.aspx>

Doug then thanked all those volunteers who put out the American flags on Veterans Day and thanked Sean McGinty for organizing and managing this program for our neighborhood.

Doug provided an update on the work of the traffic committee regarding the volume and speed of traffic on Lord Dunmore Drive. After a continuous stream of emails with the City, there has yet to be any progress. Doug has proposed a series of three face to face meetings with the City officials and Jessica Abbott starting in January. He suggests the 1st meeting should make sure the problem is clarified and understood. The second meeting to detail all possible solutions. The 3rd meeting would be the approval and finalization by all parties on the solutions that will be put into place.

Doug gave the dates for the 2017 Civic League Meetings : February 6th, March 6th, April 3rd, May 1st, and June 5th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.