

Fairfield Civic League
June 6, 2016

31 attendees

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, President Matt Maxwell introduced, Mr. Don Weeks, a former City of Virginia Beach Councilman who is a running for mayor in November. He is a local resident who grew up in the area and currently has children attending Kempsville Elementary School. His focus is on making our schools better. He would like to see teaching assistants paid more because they are a valuable classroom asset. He is opposed to light rail and to the arena project at the beach. He believes there are more effective ways to spend tax dollars. He plans to have his website up and running soon.

Our next guest was certified arborist, Mr. Oscar Richardson. He provided a handout and spoke about the importance of trees to homeowners. He pointed out that for most home owners the trees in your yard will remain a part of the landscape well after you have move from your house. They provide shade, clean the air, and enhance the aesthetics of your property and the environment. He strongly urged that anyone wanting tree work should hire a certified arborist. Many common practices such as topping the crown and thinning the canopy actually damage trees. These practices are no longer recommended by tree experts.

Doug McLiverty, chair of the traffic committee provided an update to traffic issues in Fairfield. The City of Virginia Beach asked the committee to provide metrics or benchmarks as a measure of what would be considered a successful solution to the traffic volume and speed along Lord Dunmore. According to the City, the traffic decreased by 17% along Lord Dunmore as a result of the new intersection and the average speed along Lord Dunmore is 31mph. Everyone agrees that there is no simple solution to these issues. Closing Lord Dunmore means that there will be an increase in traffic along Fairfield Boulevard and Locke Lane and decrease the traffic at the north end of Lord Dunmore. Another major concern is the apartments under construction at the end of Lord Dunmore. It is not clear where the entrance and exit will be, but it has the potential to significantly increase traffic through Fairfield. Doug and the traffic committee will send memorandum to the City Engineers and City Councilwoman, Amelia Ross-Hammond pursuing a trial closure at the North end of Lord Dunmore.

Matt stated there will be a Fairfield Community Picnic in the Park on June 12th from 4pm – 7pm. All Fairfield residents are encouraged to come and bring a dish to share. It is a great way to meet your fellow Fairfield residents.

The Fairfield newsletter will be distributed prior to our meeting in October. The proposed civic league meeting dates are October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th, February 6, March 6th, April 3rd, May 1st, and June 5th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.