

Fairfield Civic League Meeting
March 6, 2017

26 attendees

Prior to the start of the meeting, representatives of several potential candidates who wish to run for office in 2017 circulated petitions in order to get their candidates on the ballot. Petitions were circulated for Mr. Rocky Holcomb and Ms. Cheryl Turpin, who both want to run for the representative of the 85th District of the House of Delegates. A petition to get Mr. Justin Fairfax on the ballot for the Lieutenant Governor position was also circulated. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Steve Mannix, introduced Mr. Rocky Holcomb who won the special election in January for the seat in the Virginia House of Delegates, District 85 which represents Virginia Beach. He is a Republican and is currently Captain in the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office where he heads the department's Criminal Intelligence Unit. He was previously in the United States Marine Corps. Mr. Holcomb who has two teenagers was accompanied by his wife of 22 years, Mrs. Tracie Holcomb and his legislative aide, Ms. Heather Guillot.

The day after he was sworn in Mr. Holcomb started his work in Richmond as a House Delegate. He was able to propose a bill which would allow licensed radio operators to have and use emergency lights on their vehicles during the time they are working an emergency situation. Mr. Holcomb also discussed how the House of Delegates was able to work around a 1 billion dollar budget shortfall by basically "moving money around." Although no detail was given he did say no programs were cut. During the question and answer period with meeting attendees he stated 20 million dollars was allocated for education, some of which will go to Virginia State and Norfolk State University. When asked about school vouchers that could be used by parents to send their children to private schools, Mr. Holcomb stated he did not yet have an opinion. He pointed out the Virginia Beach does have a public charter school, Green Run Collegiate, which will have their first graduating class this year. He feels we (Virginia) need more mental health services. When asked about gun control legislation or the need to limit the ability of people with mental health issues from buying guns, he stated was opposed to any legislation that would limit second amendment rights.

Following the presentation by Mr. Holcomb, Civic League Treasurer, Betty Virok gave the financial report. Fairfield Civic League currently has 80 members and the treasury balance is \$1829.44.

Steve gave an update of the Fairfield traffic issue, the Historic Kempsville Planning Commission concerns, and the process of working through these issues with the City. Clay Bernick, city planner who came to several Civic League meetings and discussed the Historic Kempsville Plan with us has retired. Barry Frankenfield, Strategic Growth Area Manager at City of Virginia Beach will cover those areas now. Traffic Engineering is working with Civic League to review measures of effectiveness regarding closing the north end of Lord Dunmore. We are waiting on the petition map and petitions. This has been a slow process. Fairfield is the only community that has worked diligently over many years with the city through each prescribed step of the city's traffic calming plan. Regarding historic Kempsville: there will be brick edging around the sidewalks, and gateway and street signs will be fabricated to have the historic look. The shopping center on Princess Anne Road with the Food Lion (Kempsville Plaza) is considering being designated part of the Historic Kempsville district. Their commitment would have to include a facelift of the entire shopping center. Progress on the wetlands permit, kayak launch and any possibility of trail and bike paths continues to be slow.

Steve reminded everyone that the Fairfield Garden Club plant sale will be April 29th and 30th. April 3rd will be the next Civic League meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.