

Fairfield Civic League Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2018

31 attendees

At 7:02 Civic League President, Doug McLiverty welcomed everyone in attendance and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Diane E. Hotaling (dhotalin@vbgov.com), the Volunteer and Community Resource Coordinator presented information about the new Virginia Beach Housing Resource Center at 104 N. Witchduck Road, which is the lot where Kempsville Building Supply was previously located. The Center expects to open in June 2018 and will be a one-stop-shop of essential services for homeless families and individuals. The \$19 million, 60,000 sq. ft. 3 story building will house:

A singles shelter with a total of 49 beds for males, females, LGBT, and ADA

Short-Term Family Housing - 10 motel style units (40 beds)

Permanent Housing - 30 one bedroom efficiency apartments

Day services

Health Clinic

Department of Human Services Office

Cafeteria

Learning Center

Services such as housing crisis management, overnight shelter, shower and laundry facilities, mail service, education and employment programs, job skills training, charitable medical services and social services will be provided by the City of Virginia Beach, nonprofits, the faith based community and volunteers. The request for proposals and bids is currently underway since the city will have contractors provide some of these services. There are volunteer opportunities in reception areas, services coordination, and for drivers.

Several members asked Ms. Hotaling questions about the Center:

1. What would be the selection process for the permanent efficiency apartments and would people who have some income have to pay? Ms. Hotaling recognized that some people do have financial resources (disability payments, low wage jobs) but cannot afford a place to live. She did not know what the policy governing this will be.
2. Would the shelter be a place for those getting out of mental facilities or prison? Ms. Hotaling did not know what the policy will be, but stated there will be contracted security for the Center.
3. Since Center will have a professional kitchen, will organizations providing food be allowed to bring prepared food into the Center or will food have to be prepared onsite.? Ms. Hotaling will check on the City Code.

Ms. Hotaling provided attendees Center brochures, information about the homeless population in Virginia Beach, and business cards with the Emergency Housing Service hotline number. For more information please contact Ruth Hill, Homeless Services Administrator, 757 385 6349 [rdhill@vb.gov.com](mailto:rdhill@vb.gov) Karen Prochilo, Housing Development Administrator, 757 385 -5803, [kprochil@vb.gov.com](mailto:kprochil@vb.gov)

The number for the Regional Housing Crisis Hotline is 757 227 -5932 M - F 8am to 7pm.

Following her presentation, Ms. Hotaling remained to answer any questions.

Treasurer - The current balance in the Civic League account is \$1677.05

Secretary - Civic league meeting minutes are posted online on the Civic League's webpage, fairfieldcivicleague.org. In the future there will be copies available at the meetings.

Traffic Committee - Matt Beers reported that he has not yet received any information from the city for the last traffic count survey done with the destination monitors along Lord Dunmore.

New Business Developer Proposal

Steve Mannix, member of the Historic Kempsville Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Civic League Traffic committee explained the details of the proposal put forth by developer Jack Pope and his partners for the undeveloped land at Lord Dunmore Drive and Oakmears Crescent. The 2013 original agreement with the developer stated the number of apartments at the site was limited to 170 units with at least 5000 sq. ft. of commercial space to be developed. The 7-11 corporation would like purchase the property at the end of Lord Dunmore Drive and Oakmears Crescent for a 7-11 convenience store with gas pumps. Members of the civic league leadership met with Jack Pope and listened to his presentation, Saturday February 24th. Although the building's architectural design would meet the aesthetics of the historic Kempsville area, the members were not in favor a 7-11 with gas pumps at this site for the following reasons:

1. There are options already establish close by including a 7-11 less than a mile south on Kempsville Road.
2. The location requires an additional access lane from Princess Anne Road to enter the 7-11. Also, another access would be necessary onto Oakmears Crescent at Lord Dunmore to accommodate large vendor delivery vehicles.
3. It would attract a steady stream of vehicles into the Fairfield neighborhood, which already has traffic issues on Lord Dunmore that have not yet been resolved with the city.
4. The BK4 zoning does not allow gas pumps, and a 7-11 would not meet the traffic and aesthetic conditions of the zoning. If the zoning is changed to allow the 7-11, it changes the zoning for the entire historic Kempsville area.
5. The store would be open 24 hours a day, increasing cut through traffic on Lord Dunmore, trash in the area, potential for criminal activity, early morning noise from trash dumpster pickup.
6. There is concern that the increased lightening would affect Fairfield residents (especially on Rolleston) already bothered by the exterior lightening of the apartment parking lots shining into their bedroom windows.

7. There is a potential for gas to pollute the water table and the eastern branch of Elizabeth River due to the close proximity to the Fox Run Canal

Members in attendance commented that the city would likely be supportive of this project due to the tax revenue benefit. Unfortunately once this is built, our neighborhood will be stuck with any and all effects.

Steve asked for a vote to determine the level of Fairfield Civic League support for the 7-11 project. He presented three voting options

1. No 7-11 at this site
2. 7-11 without gas pumps
3. Fully support this project.

All members in attendance voted against the proposed 7-11 at this site (option 1).

Steve explained the lengthy process for the approval of this project. The civic league's recommendation will be presented to the CAC. The CAC subcommittee will discuss the proposal and present their findings to the entire CAC for a vote. If the developers and 7-11 want to move this forward, the next step will be the city's planning commission, then the city council. At the planning commission and city council meetings, Fairfield residents would have the opportunity to voice their opinions about this proposed development.

Steve stated that the next CAC meeting is March 26th at 7pm at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, everyone is welcomed to attend.

Civic League Social Activities

Kelly Rippard gave an update on upcoming activities:

Neighborhood Yard Sale - Saturday May 19, 8am - 12 pm; Rain Date June 2 same time

Popsicles and Play at the Park (weather depending) 11am – 1pm. Family get together for free popsicles and fun. April 7, June 23 and August 18.

Fourth of July Party @ the Park Wednesday, July 4th from 11am – 1pm. More Details to come.

These events are an opportunity for our community to get together and get to know each other!

Go to fairfieldcivicleague.org for more information and email Kelly if you would like to help with any of these events!

Fairfield Garden Club will hold their annual plant sale on Saturday, April 14 from 8am - 4pm and on Sunday, April 15 from 10am - 2pm.

The dates of the next civic league meetings are April 9 and May 6.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07.