



## Freemason Street Area Association

May 18, 2016  
Blocker YMCA  
General Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order** by Jack Kavanaugh at 7:05 pm

**Roll Call: Board Members Present:** Jack Kavanaugh, Greta Gustavson, Jennifer Cordovana, Michael McCartney, Sarah Whiting, Marie Torrans, Ginger Van deWater, Gerry Roth, Les Friedman, Madeline Sly, Jeff Brown, Buster Wilson, and Shirley Ward.

**New Residents:** Jack opened the meeting with the introduction of our new members to the neighborhood including Jaclyn A Spainhour, Director of the Hunter House Victorian Museum. Jaclyn spoke briefly about her new role as Director and invited residents to come visit the museum.

**Police Report:** Jack introduced Officer Brian Daley, who provided a brief updated on the crime within the neighborhood, as well as the City. Due to the recent increase in crime, additional police officers are out on patrol. Residents questioned noise levels from the Pagoda and the impact of the bars on Granby Street on crime.

**Stop Signs:** Jack advised that new 4-way stop signs have been installed at the intersection of Duke & Freemason Streets and College & Yarmouth Streets. A new stop sign has been installed on Botetourt at its intersection with College. The City has installed “stop lines” and will install an additional one once the weather improves.

**Parking Stickers:** The Norfolk Division of Parking has mailed new letters for Zone 1 stickers to residents; the parking sticker issue impacting River Park has been resolved.

### **Speakers:**

**Karen Scherberger, CEO Festevents:** Karen Scherberger provided an update on the new program to promote the Norfolk Waterfront as a destination. A new website will be developed, which will be managed by the Festevents staff until a volunteer can be found who will manage it. This new program has the full support of the City.

Karen also provided an overview of the upcoming 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Harborfest. This event will kick-off with the arrival of the Libertad on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> and a concert by the Virginia Symphony that evening. Other highlights for the weekend include the Parade of Sail on Friday, fireworks on Saturday night, and a Nathans Hot Dot “Qualifying Eat”. Karen distributed copies of the schedule.

**Elizabeth River Trail:** Kevin Murphy and John Garrett presented a slide show which provided an overview of a plan to establish a new foundation to support the new Elizabeth River Trail. The group is partnering with the Greater Norfolk Corporation to ensure its success. The responsibility of the “Friends of the Elizabeth River Trail” will be to Plan, Fundraise and Market the trail.

**Light Rail:** Paul Filion, Project Manager for Light Rail, provided an update on the status of the expansion of light rail. Discussions have included plans to go to Virginia Beach and the Norfolk Naval Station. Virginia Beach will be voting on a referendum in November. The Norfolk Extension Study has been completed and the results will be presented to City Council. The government provided a \$7 million grant for the study; the City did not have to fund it. Expansion areas include ODU, Norfolk International



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Airport, Ghent/21<sup>st</sup> Street; Wards Corner. An environmental impact study will need to be completed. An extension to the Norfolk Naval Base will most likely take place before 2020-2025. Expansion outside of Norfolk would likely occur in this order: Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and the Peninsula.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **EARNN: Sarah Whiting**

The next big event is the Neighborhood Cleanup and is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Historic Oversight: Gerry Roth**

- Provided comments for the need to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness for any exterior changes if you live in the historic district.
- The Shriver & Holland office has been sold to a couple who intend to convert it back to a house.
- The new owners of the building formerly occupied by Serendip have received approval to add a separate entrance (by Quinton's Tea Shop). It is reportedly going to be leased to Rowena's for a production facility.

#### **Membership Report:**

77 individuals; 6 condos; and 9 businesses.

**Treasurer's Report:** the balance in the account is \$1,907

#### **Pagoda: Madeline Sly**

Madeline introduced Phillip Thomasson who will be the new operator of the restaurant. She also advised that the Pagoda has a number of weddings and other private events scheduled through the end of May.

Upcoming events:

Memorial Day Picnic: May 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 8:30, cash bar, with reservations due May 23<sup>rd</sup>

4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic will be held on Saturday 2 July

July 15<sup>th</sup>: "Frank Sings Frank"

Labor Day Picnic will be held on Sunday 4 September

#### **Other Announcements:**

Gad Brosch announced that he performs in the lobby of Sentara Heart Hospital every other Wednesday from Noon – 1:00 pm. The concert is open to all.

#### **Election of New Board Members:**

Marie Torrans, Chair of the 2016 Nominating Committee, presented the slate of new directors as previously announced as follows:

Two year Term (2016 – 2018): Jack Kavanaugh, Sarah Whiting, Mike McCartney, Buster Wilson; Joe Sherman (Historic District Representative); Terry Scholl (Board Member At Large).

Jack called for additional nominees; hearing none, the slate as presented was elected.

The next General Meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2016 at a location to be determined (either the Pagoda or the Blocker YMCA).



**Freemason Street Area Association**

Following the General Meeting the Board met to elect officers. The following individuals were nominated and elected to the office reflected:

President: Jack Kavanaugh  
Vice President: Ginger Van deWater  
Secretary: Betty O’Garr  
Treasurer: Shirley Ward

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.  
Gerry Roth