



Freemason Street Area Association

March 15, 2017
Blocker YMCA
General Meeting Minutes

Call to Order by Jack Kavanaugh at 7:00 pm

Roll Call: members present: Jack Kavanaugh, Betty O’Garr, Greta Gustavson, Jennifer Cordovana, Michael McCartney, Les Freidman, Sarah Whiting, Marie Torrans, and Shirley Ward.

Jack opened the meeting with the introduction of our newest members to the neighborhood.

Jack introduced Officers Brian Daley and Allen Driskell, LT Hackett, and Captain Wallace Driskell, the new commanding Officer for our Sector. Officer Daley presented the latest crime report with emphasis on the following:

- Wells Fargo robbery, male apprehended; 7 Eleven robbery, male apprehended.
- Gunshots on College Place were reported the first of March: no video, no victim, bullet hole found in business wall, no one apprehended.
- Assaults on Granby Street were bar related.
- Car larcenies down since Jan.
- More officers have been added to the area in general and for the opening of The Main and Waterside.
- “Tagging” in the neighborhood is not gang related, male apprehended.

President Announcements:

Speakers: Jack introduced each of the following speakers

- **Erin Quigley, City of Norfolk and Yvette Johnson, J&A Racing:** Debriefing on Norfolk Harbor RACE, Corporate Race and CHKD Run. The course will be the same as last year but feedback from the race last year helped improve traffic patterns and resolve parking issues. Earlier notices in the community and parking signs should eliminate confusion.
- **The Honorable Thelma Drake, Assistant Director of Public Works and Transportation** shared the following:
 - Waterside Drive lane changes are in process to calm flow off I-264 and improve safety.
 - Lafayette Blvd to Chesapeake Blvd. is becoming two lanes.
 - Some HOV lanes are converting to “hot lanes” to allow more traffic flow.
 - Intersection changes are being made to accommodate traffic surrounding new Outlet Mall and IKEA businesses.
 - Buses are now running to the Newport News Amtrak train station for travel to Washington, DC.
 - Studies of the light rail continue for expansion east and west.
 - The City will be offering increased publicity and education for bikers and motorists for safe use of bike lanes and sharing the road.
- **Councilwoman Andria McClellan, Super ward 6** reported:
 - Pokemon Go hours and the number of available virtual creatures have been reduced at the Pagoda. Only two port-a potties will be returned.
 - The “Drug Take Back” Program is scheduled for April 29 in various precincts.
 - The Elizabeth River Trail: a fund-raising campaign is planned to raise funds for the expansion of the trail, posting of new signs and directions, amenities, and a kayak launch to name but a few.



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- Love Locks-on the Hague Bridge are slowly being removed by residents. A structure to hold them in the future is being planned.
- Flooding: the HUD Grants were approved but more state and federal funding is needed.
- Transparency: City Council Meetings are being transmitted for viewing by the public.
- **Glenn Sutch, Pres. of the Waterside District** shared the following:
 - The Grand Opening is May 11, 2017 with a soft opening of the building and coffee shop May 4 at 6am to accommodate ferry riders going into town. Other areas open at 11am, bars close at 2am.
 - “The Market” will have multiple eateries, as well as, coffee and ice cream, WIFI, multiple TVs, and a Big Screen for sports events, movie nights, etc.
 - “The Harbor Club” upstairs is more upscale for private events, lounging, meetings, etc.
 - Outside areas will have games, music, shows.
 - An outside blacktop area has been created for multiple activities.
 - An expansion of the marina is planned. WIFI and electricity are available to boaters.
 - There will be no retail shops.

Membership Report: 74 individuals, 3 condos and 15 businesses have paid dues to date for 2017.

Treasurer’s Report: There is currently \$3,518.00 in the account.

Committee Reports:

EARNN: Sarah Whiting

The next big event is the Neighborhood Cleanup scheduled for late April or early May.

Historic Oversight: no report

Pagoda: Madeline Sly

The Pagoda will be opening May 1, 2017. Ted Papafil, owner of the Norfolk Grill, will be running the restaurant. Various events are planned for Mother’s Day and Memorial Day.

Historic Garden Week: Greta Gustavson

Scheduled for Thurs. April 27, 10am to 5pm. Our area will be participating again this year. Proceeds from the event benefit the restoration of historic gardens and landscapes throughout the state of Virginia.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for April 19, at 7 PM at Freemason Harbour Condominiums.

The next General Meeting is scheduled for May 18 at 7 PM at the Blocker YMCA.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Betty O’Garr, Secretary