

Larchmont–Edgewater Civic League

Meeting: Spring 2005 (2nd), April 21, 2005, 7:30 – 9:30pm

Attendance (approximate): 60

Location: Larchmont United Methodist Church

Synopsis of Meeting:

- Announcements from Dave O'Dell:
 - Poster from City on construction projects passed out to group.
 - Commissioner of Revenue 2004 report passed out to group again.
 - Property tax relief discussion before City Council. Approximately \$22M in additional tax dollars due to increase in assessments. City will hold a discussion on May 4th at Lafayette Winona Middle School. Targeted at fixed income and elderly. This is the residents' opportunity to voice their concerns. Email at front for those interested.
 - Fire Safety presentation rescheduled to this week.
 - Agenda:
 - PACE – Officer Brinkley
 - Fire Safety – Chief E.L. Senter
 - 4 way stop signs at Powhatan & 49th St, Powhatan & Bolling
- PACE
 - Officer Brinkley attending. Business cards available at the front table. Officer Routon on the Police Unity Bike Tour.
 - Handout available for upcoming courses. April-May course include Managing Neighborhood Conflict, Improving Neighborhood Health, Understanding Environmental Codes, Civic Board Development.
 - Crime report was 2 burglaries to residents (1 apt, 1 unlocked), 2 larceny (1 unfounded), 14 auto larceny (arrest made yesterday), 1 vandalism
 - Spring Safety tips:
 - Secure house even when in the yard.
 - Close windows at night on the first floor when sleeping on second floor.
 - Responses to questions from audience:
 - Resident brings up own example of burglar(s) coming in front door and feeding dogs while she was in the back yard.
 - Dave O'Dell reminds group that you do not have to open the door to solicitors. They must have a permit.
 - If you see anything suspicious, always call police.
 - No Trespassing signs must be registered with the city each year. Police can take immediate action. If not registered, police must give a warning first. Registration form available at the front.
 - No Trespassing vs. No Solicitation signs. Will check into differences and bring response back to the next meeting.
 - Resident asked about the definition of illegal parking in driveways. Resident feels he is receiving nuance complaints. Will check into actions and get back to the resident. Illegal to block the sidewalk or another driveway.

- No information about boat burned on Hanover.
 - Skateboarding on streets is illegal (resident response). If traffic is being impeded, then police can approach from that angle.
 - Compliment from resident on fast response by police when burglar seen in garage. On site within 5 minutes. Burglar caught a few streets over.
- Fire Safety – Chief E.L. Senter
 - Presentation on Overview of Recent Fires in Norfolk
 - Leading cause of structure fires in US is cooking, heating, and open flame.
 - Norfolk responds to 40,000 emergencies each year. 70% is emergency medical.
 - 6 fire deaths in Norfolk already this year.
 - Similarities in fires: accidental, smoke detectors not working or not installed.
 - Existing Fire Prevention Activities: free smoke detector program, civic league presentations, fire station tours, school programs, fire safety educational trailer, inspections
 - Immediate Fire Prevention Activities: smoke detector sweeps, enhance media relationships, public service announcements, cultivate corporate partnerships
 - Future: public service announcements, smoke detector sweeps, seek grant funding (school education)
 - Responses to questions from audience:
 - Multiple units are sent since everyone is cross-trained. 4 minutes or less for fire engine to respond. 6-8 minutes for paramedics. Need more than 2 paramedics if in a life threatening situation.
 - Smoke detector units are available for the hearing impaired. Strobe light.
 - The exact cause of electrical fires not known; however, extension cords are a major cause. Overloading outlets with heavy appliances (window air conditioners) is another major cause.
 - One smoke detector should be installed per level. Have in or near bedroom so it can be heard. Have near kitchen and furnace area.
 - CO Detectors also recommended for combustible sources such as natural gas furnace.
 - Don't leave the room with a lit candle or portable heater going. Use candles with a wide base and inside a glass jar. Place on solid surface. Watch children and pets around flame.
 - Make sure fireplace is completely out before leaving room.
 - Check smoke detectors weekly. Change batteries with time change.
 - Program provides and installs smoke detectors for those in need.
- 4 way stop signs at Powhatan & 49th St, Powhatan & Bolling
 - City has asked for the civic league's recommendation on the four way stop signs. Dave O'Dell opens floor for comments.
 - Positive response for signs included:
 - Residents want more. Add one at Powhatan and Magnolia.
 - Multiple concerns over children and pedestrian safety.
 - Need to slow down the traffic due to excessive speeds and distance between stop signs.

- Negative response for signs included:
 - Concerns about drivers knowing right-of-way rules.
 - More police patrol needed. Give tickets for speeding instead of installing signs.
 - Powhatan is the main artery through the neighborhood. When traffic is impeded in one area, it will migrate to another.
 - Shouldn't impede flow of traffic through neighborhood
- Other comments:
 - Some unaware that signs are there. Need to inform neighbors.
 - Need to work with ODU police to promote driver safety, reduce speeding issues.
 - Concern over what effect the new sports complex on Powhatan will have on the neighborhood traffic.
 - Speeding is an issue not matter what the age. Not restricted to the ODU students and young drivers. Personal responsibility to obey the speed limit.
 - Parents need to educate their children on safe play around roads and cars. Don't play in the streets.
- **MOTION:** Vote on each set of stop signs to keep or remove. Second.
- **VOTE:** Powhatan & 49th St. Keep: 20. Against: 9.
 - Recommend to **KEEP** sign.
- **VOTE:** Powhatan & Bolling. Keep: 21. Against: 10.
 - Recommend to **KEEP** sign.
- **VOTE:** Powhatan and Magnolia Keep: 19. Against: 13.
 - Recommend to **INSTALL** signs.
- Dave O'Dell to report results to the city.
- New business:
 - Request made for civic league board to send a letter to the city advising them of vote on proposed playground at Magnolia and Upper Brandon (Virginia Park). Note: Vote took place at the June 17, 2004 meeting; 28 against vs. 10 for, petition for park has been withdrawn.
 - **VOTE:** Report findings of vote to city: 26 Yes, 0 No. Findings will be sent.
 - **NOTE:** Vickie Jones sent an email to Deborah Morton and David Pfiffer with Norfolk's Neighborhood and Leisure Services department on Monday, April 25, 2005. POC's provided by Mike Shumate.
 - Larchmont Historic District status. In final writing stages. Rewrite based on town hall meeting in January 2005. Will not bring to civic league until finalized. Then will have one discussion meeting, followed by one meeting to vote.
 - Asphalt sidewalk replacement update from April 14, 2005 meeting. The city has resolved the issue with the resident. The city will work with other residents on a case-by-case basis.
- Meeting adjourned.
- Notes by Vickie Jones.