

## **Larchmont-Edgewater Civic League**

Civic Meeting: Summer 2004, June 17, 2004, Thursday, 7:30pm

Attendance (approximate): 80

Location: Larchmont United Methodist Church

### Synopsis of Meeting:

- Announcements from President, Dave O'Dell
  - Introduction of James Williams with Edward Jones. Ad was put in the newsletter without his picture.
  - Agenda:
    - Recent Crime in the neighborhood
    - Neighborhood Watch
    - PACE
    - Elizabeth River Trail
    - Playground at Rockbridge and Magnolia
- Richmond Crescent assault and robbery investigation – Paul Gallagan, Norfolk Police
  - Active investigation. Suspect not a resident of the community. Awaiting results of DNA evidence recovered at the scene.
  - Other recent robberies: 900 block of Jamestown Crescent in May and 1000 block of Cambridge in April. Happened at night when residents were home, removed purses, etc. from first floor.
  - 2 dedicated officers to roam the neighborhood at night.
  - Solicitation permit is required for selling books, etc. Does not apply to children.
- Neighborhood Watch – Laurie Chapman.
  - Crime statistics posted on the civic league website.
  - More block captains needed. Not all areas covered.
  - Communication is key.
- PACE (Police Assisted Community Enforcement) - Officer Routon provides comments and answers questions from group:
  - Alarm systems only work when they are on.
  - If you find someone in your house, call 911, stay on the line.
  - Call 911 – better to be safe than sorry.
  - Crime goes up in the summer.
  - Last month there were 7 auto break-ins – “crime of opportunity” – remember to lock doors, remove valuables including purses, computers, cell phones, etc.
  - Police Dept offers free security inspection of houses.
  - Crew ordinance is from 11pm-6am for 17 yrs old and under.
  - Smaller dogs are better since they typically make more noise.
- Elizabeth River Trail
  - Map of proposed routing handed out.
  - ODU responded favorably to off road trail.
  - Larchmont/Edgewater does not have off road areas. Will be on streets with small signs posted at directional changes and every ¼ mile.

- Pedestrian improvements needed along Hampton Blvd at Lexan, Bolling and Magnolia. Considered a spur to trail for east section connection. Approximately \$100k using Federal T21 funds.
- Routing needs approval of civic league.
- Considered scenic factor, wetland impacts, etc.
- Concerns from group include risk behind library with children, wetlands, increased traffic, and litter. Concern over routing on Richmond Crescent due to recent crime.
- “Pro” statement from group want individuals/families out on their bikes and walking. Less crime when people are out. Bike riders are ecologically minded, not littering, stopping, and causing trouble.
- VOTE: Motion to reject the plan?
  - Dave O’Dell reminds group that there is one vote per household for paid members of the Civic League. Counting on honesty of people voting.
  - Yes – 15
  - No – 22
  - Motion failed to reject the plan.
- Referred back to committee to inform/discuss with effected residents.
- Playground at Rockbridge and Magnolia – Mary O’Donald.
  - Proposes a playground for the green space area since there is no playground on the west side of the neighborhood. Fence will be needed.
  - Cost is approximately \$20k and will be collected through donations and fund raisers.
  - Opposing view – Mike Shumate.
    - Unsafe due to current traffic pattern. Creates more congestion. Historic significance of area. Recent vehicle accidents and injuries. Area doesn’t need a fence or apparatus. Already a play areas and the Brickyard.
    - Both sides have petitions. Need to combine together for a community center for all residents.
  - Other concerns from the group include: aesthetics - object to plastic/metal structures vs. green space and trees; conflicts with proposed routing of bike trail; concern over upkeep and maintenance of equipment and area. Several residents bordering property object to playground.
  - VOTE: Motion to support the park at this location?
    - 10 – Yes.
    - 28 – No.
    - Civic League will not support.
- Newsletter concerns:
  - Some residents did not get newsletter. Group tries as hard as they can to get out. Rely on volunteers to deliver. Too costly to mail. Also posted on the civic league website and copies left at various locations such as the library and Bazemores.
  - Agenda for the meeting is in the newsletter.