

## Larchmont–Edgewater Civic League

Meeting: Spring 2006 (2<sup>nd</sup>), April 20, 2006, 7:30-9:00pm

Attendance (approximate): 115 (at 7:30 meeting, held in Sanctuary)

Location: Larchmont United Methodist Church

Civic League website: <http://www.larchmontedgewater.org/>

### Synopsis of Meeting:

- Announcements from Dave O’Dell:
  - Introduction of Mayor Paul Fraim, council members, and candidates in attendance.
  - Agenda. Mayor Fraim will discuss the west side recreational opportunities and ODU sports fields.
- Presentation by Mayor Fraim entitled West Side Recreational Space Opportunities, Presentation to the West Side Neighborhoods.
  - 3 different issues, interrelated:
    - Creation of Lamberts Point Recreational Center (24,000 sq ft)
    - Creation of open and recreational space opportunities
    - ODU football which includes additions/upgrades to Title IX sports such as softball, women’s volleyball, and field hockey
  - Negotiations began with ODU some time ago. Agreement has been reached. Combines with other city projects. Outcome:
    - Development of Bluestone Park. Abandoned farmhouse at the corner of Bluestone and Longwood, behind Foreman Field. City currently negotiating with owner to buy. Use part or all to create a park including area for tots. 1.235 acres.
    - “Brick Yard” is ODU property. ODU agrees to keep as open space.
    - Recreational Facility to be built behind the Old Dominion Inn, almost 3 acres. Facilities to include meeting rooms, fitness center, computer lab, game room, basketball court, kitchen, showers, outside play area, picnic area, and parking. Similar to Norview Rec Center. Will serve west side of town. Open to suggestions on other activities the residents would like to see.
    - Development of Powhatan Field area that is in front of the Maury/Granby football stadium. ODU received a long-term lease from the city. All development to be paid for by ODU. To include: football offensive and defense practice fields, combined field hockey and lacrosse fields, women’s softball field, and supporting buildings.
    - The high school stadium will not be taken over. Good neighbor policy.
    - ODU football will be played at Foreman Field.
    - No net loss of green space with ODU negotiations. City is netting more space than it is giving up.
  - Study is currently looking at the overall use of the Hampton Blvd corridor. By Goody Clancy and Partners.

- No changes to Larchmont athletic field behind the Larchmont Elementary School. (Applause from the audience)
- Lamberts Point Civic League agrees with the placement of the recreational center.
- Questions/comments from the audience:
  - Additional lighting is needed at the Larchmont athletic field area.
    - Fraim agrees to look into. Money available for improvements.
  - Do most colleges have a separate offensive and defensive practice fields?
    - Yes (answer provided by others in the audience)
  - Traffic issues/congestion on Hampton Blvd near 43<sup>rd</sup> St due to tunnel.
    - Fraim: 43<sup>rd</sup> St will be the avenue of choice for Powhatan access. Improvements being made here and to 38<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - Quality of life is great at the west end. Need for intramural sports and practice areas.
    - Fraim: Demolition of ODU field house will create a new student athletic center, more green space, and new dorms. Dorms going up in old parking lot area already.
  - Parking for ODU football?
    - Fraim: Much more structured parking than when Norfolk State played at Foreman Field. 2300 spaces. 1800 more to be constructed. Only about 6 games/year. Don't want to stamp out altogether since some residents near the college will want to have tailgating at their house.
  - Some are should be left at the Larchmont Field for unorganized, structured play.
    - Fraim asks civic league to form committee for Larchmont Field and Tot lot.
  - Look at saving the house at the Bluestone Park area. Use for activities. Lots of history with that house, Lambert (of Lamberts Point) was owner.
    - Fraim: City would not want to maintain. Look at using a portion for tot lot.
  - Skateboard park needed in our area. Would be used by ODU students and public school students at Lamberts Point Rec Center.
    - Fraim: Request it be added to discussion for committee(s).
  - Status of ODU football?
    - A number of conditions have been met. Expect announcement shortly. On behalf of the university, we have liked working on the challenges and how it is working out. (Answer from ODU representative)
- Announcements from Dave O'Dell:
  - Thanks to the City and ODU. The City and ODU have worked hard to resolve issues. ODU is a good neighbor. We should respond by also being a good neighbor.
  - Car thefts escalating in the neighborhood. Lock car. Do not leave valuables inside.
- Meeting Adjourned.
- Notes by Vickie Jones.