

## Larchmont–Edgewater Civic League

Meeting: Fall 2007, October 25, 2007, 7:30 – 9:05pm

Attendance (approximate): 42

Location: Larchmont United Methodist Church

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

### Synopsis of Meeting:

- Announcements from Dave O'Dell:
  - The agenda for the December meeting may be changed to address the issue of trucks on Hampton Blvd and upcoming City Council action. More information to follow.
  - December meeting is also election of civic league officers. Please let one of the current officers know if you are interested in running or would like to work on a committee.
  - Civic League annually donates to each PTA of the neighborhood schools (Larchmont Elem, Blair, Maury, St Patrick's)
    - Motion from the floor for \$250 donation to each school. Second. Vote by show of hands. None opposed. **Passed.**
  - Pumpkin sale at Larchmont UMC until 31Oct. Open except when raining. Money goes to Mission support.
  - Agenda:
    - PACE, Officer Routon
    - ODU, Anne Gandy to discuss CDC projects
    - Norfolk Department of Recreation, Darryl Crittendon and Dean Bowles to discuss Bluestone Park and Lambert's Point Community Center
- PACE. Officer Routon.
  - New cell phone number is 390-0405.
  - Holidays are coming. Don't leave valuables in our car.
  - Call the non-emergency number, 441-5610, if you see people in the neighborhood that don't belong. Provide as much information as possible including your contact information so the officer may follow up if necessary.
  - Answers to questions from the audience:
    - Tagging (spray painting graffiti) is up. Working.
    - Auto larceny is up but not in Larchmont.
    - Cannot address traffic details (speed traps) as this is covered by another division. Currently working Hampton Blvd at the tunnel end.
    - 15Nov truck ban on Hampton Blvd takes effect. 4pm.
- Community Development Corporation, Anne Grandy from ODU.
  - Community Development Corporation (CDC) is a non-profit organization.
  - Goals are to work with the Norfolk community to develop capital improvements and empower the surrounding neighborhoods.
  - 17 member board which includes ODU President Runte and other committee leaders.
  - 4 projects are planned:

- Workforce Housing. 50 townhouses are planned for property near 43<sup>rd</sup> St. Norfolk is having a difficult time keeping teachers. Most live outside Norfolk. End up finding jobs closer to home. Special program will allow teachers to purchase these townhouses at lower interest rates. Part of existing VHDC program. Additional rules as to resale and early resale are built into the terms of the mortgage. Students will not be giving in these townhouses. Currently working on zoning issues.
    - ODU Academy. Many children do not have anything to do after school. ODU plans to develop programs for kids of the surrounding neighborhoods (Park Place, Lamberts Pt, Larchmont). Ideas include a music program. New band director at ODU due to the addition of the marching band for football. Use existing facilities such as Webb Center. Plan to use ODU students as part of the service learning agreements, but will always look for additional volunteers.
    - Residential Program for Moderately Handicapped Students. Two year program at ODU which will teach life skills and job training, transition persons into the workplace, and then move out into the community. Location for residence not decided yet. Tuition based program.
    - Hampton Roads Ventures. Working with NRHA and Credit Unions to rehab/renovate existing houses and turn into Workforce Housing. Happening throughout region.
- Bluestone Park and Lambert's Point Community Center, Darryl Crittendon and Dean Bowles from Norfolk Department of Recreation.
  - Bluestone Park
    - Not the official name, used for working purposes.
    - Site of the old Lambert House, approximately 1.22 acres. City obtained through the quick-take process due to condition.
    - \$1million budget. Appraised value of \$883,000. Sales price has not been finalized, going to court to settle.
    - Demolition of \$7900. Improvements estimated at \$113,400.
    - Passive open space with some play structures. Contemporary structures for two age groups: 2-5 and 5-12. Perimeter fencing with pedestrian gates. Structures at the front for visibility. Open area in the middle. Low ground cover and naturalized area towards back. Picnic tables, benches, and water fountain planned. Shade trees to be added as needed. No plans for interior park lighting. Will look at additional street lighting and sidewalks.
    - Viewed as neighborhood park. Walk to park. No parking area.
    - Schedule: House demolition occurred in August. Concept Plan complete (shown at this meeting). Construction project approximately 6 months. Start date based on outcome of court case for sales price.
    - Maintenance by City.
    - Looking at upgrades to park adjacent to Larchmont Elementary School
  - Lambert's Point Community Center
    - 24,000 sf facility at 42<sup>nd</sup> St and Bowden's Ferry Rd.

- Amenities to include: gymnasium and basketball court, locker rooms, state-of-the-art outdoor adventure theme (20' high rock climbing wall, repelling, etc.), 15 station computer lab, community rooms, fitness room, art room, full kitchen,
  - Parking for 77 – spaces dictated by Code. Continuing to work on improvements to parking.
  - Limited outdoor playground area due to size of site.
  - Future option for indoor pool if additional property is acquired and funding available.
  - Estimated construction cost: \$7.587 Million
  - Schedule: Start construction in Spring 2008, opening in February 2010.
  - Answers to questions from the audience:
    - Skateboard park will not be at Lambert's Pt due to site limitations. Sites within City still be analyzed.
    - Cannot comment on why the parking lot is on the front/road side with building set back vs. more urban design of building at street.
    - Fees will be assessed based on use. Not determined at this time. Will probably have resident and non-resident rates.
    - Fitness room will have nautilus type equipment, no weights.
    - Norfolk looking at updating recreation center master plan. Next sites to be determined.
- Meeting adjourned.
  - Notes by Vickie Jones.