

Princess Anne Plaza Civic League
Bow Creek Recreational Center
January 9, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Betty Warren at 7:04 p.m. and she thanked everyone present for braving the weather to attend. Betty also gave the invocation and moment of silence while VP Bob Elms lead the body in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Fran Sansone made a motion to suspend reading the minutes and to make copies available for members to read, seconded by Phyllis Elms. PASSED

Officer Crawford said overall crimes in both the 1st and 4th Precincts were down. A stolen vehicle was recovered, there were several Hit and Runs; all of which were solved, narcotics violations were up in both precincts due to increased policing. While car larcenies were substantially down, Officer Crawford reminded those present to “Beep It and Keep It.” During the Q & A, it was noted: traffic calming procedures began in December and will start again when weather clear, overall shootings were down in the PAPCL area, and there are four copies to a summons.

Code Enforcement: Inspector Howard introduced Inspector Tammy Bowie who is the new Plaza area inspector. Inspector Howard also thanked Officer Crawford for his work on a placarded property.

City Engineer: Mike Mundy reviewed the progress of the various dredging projects in Windsor Woods/Oaks and Princess Anne Plaza: Windsor Woods Canal – *started, WOW1 – completed, WOW2 – first section complete, second expected to be finished in February, WOW3 – anticipated start in early February, PAP Ditches – South ditch done, West and North ditches being worked on, review of how to procedure being done for the East ditch.* The contractor will put out door hangers to notify residents of the start up and will contain a point of contact. During the Q & A: Mundy will check why the ditch behind 749 Forest Trail wasn’t done, and State grant money didn’t push forward but the City will do the project regardless.

Secretary’s note: the following is the City’s Public Works/Stormwater webpage

<https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/public-works/storm-water>

Speaker: Andrew Friedman, City of Virginia Beach, Director, Housing and Preservation provided an overview of the housing study and strategy/needs assessment and market analysis, which can be seen in full at the department’s website: <https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/housing-neighborhood-preservation/Page/housing-study.aspx> Highlights noted that from 1970 to 1990, fifty thousand houses were built, and houses need reinvestment and upgrading. Friedman said three major points in summary are 1) Millenials (20-35 years of age) are 25 percent of the City’s population 2) The age and vulnerability of housing stock, avoiding blight and City loss of tax revenues 3) Between 2000 and 2014, there is a lot of employment in the city where income doesn’t support buying a house, people making less than \$20K increased while rent hasn’t decreased. The study group is looking at ways to ensure areas stay vital. Also, there is an increase in land values and we need to attract the next generation of buyers and renters. H&P’s schedule for the development of proposals that address different issues is:

- 1) *Pending Jan. 2018* - The City has offered home repair finance options (loans, sometimes grants) beyond existing federal programs, and it may be expanded to moderate income residents under certain circumstances (such as installing flood vents or raising HVAC equipment.) Homeowner repair financing programs can be seen at: www.vbgov.com/home-rehab
- 2) *Feb. 2018* – Zoning, land use and housing design options/guidelines that make sense for H&P’s goals
- 30 *April 2018* – Neighborhood enhancement options (which include identifying neighborhoods with signs, traffic calming, streetscaping and code enforcement)
- 3) *July 2018* - Work with developers on housing designs options and incentives for mixed use/multi-generational living, and attractive to millenials.

During Q&A, a resident said he thought City Council would balk at a lot of the program and asked if H&P could get this through Council. Friedman replied it is H&P’s job to provide Council with information and they would proceed as they saw fit, although some changes were so minor that Council didn’t need to approve the changes. Something like land use needs public comment. It was stated that Virginia Beach has affordable housing until remodeling is needed, and future housing needs to fit in with the goals of the City for buyers and renters. Regarding code violations, some areas had higher violations involving property maintenance, junk cars, gutter and fencing (usually minor issues). Friedman was asked if H&P had any influence regarding underground wiring and its deteriorating cladding, and he replied he would have to find out who does have oversight.

In closing his presentation, Friedman noted Council governs land use regulations and the protection of existing neighborhoods. The SGA (strategic growth area) is where this will take place, and that road and stormwater projects are the exception because we aren’t part of an SGA.

Real Estate: Pete Abreu provided a real estate market report as well as the median sales price for homes with the PAPCL. He noted that many homes in Virginia Beach are old and don’t meet the needs of many buyers (such as having skinny doors, halls, etcetera).

Flood Committee: Bob Jennings is still working with the ODU scientist. A major issue mentioned was it is difficult to market a house because of exorbitant flood insurance premiums. Bob encouraged members to attend the upcoming sea level rise forums being held throughout January which are expected to run from 6-8 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
FRAN SANSONE
Secretary