



Northampton Civic League (NHCL) Minutes 04/06/2010

Opening:

The April meeting of the Northampton Civic League (NHCL) was officially called to order at 7:10 PM by Matt Asay, President. There were 9 people in attendance.

The meeting opened with the pledge of Allegiance.

President Asay expressed appreciation to all for a very successful March 2010 Forum, featuring City Council candidates. He also welcomed Mr. John Millette, Codes Compliance Officer.

Flora Randall, Secretary summarized the minutes from the February 2010 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Selvin Walker requested deferment of the treasurer report until next month when the treasurer will return.

Date	Beginning Balance	Credits	Expenses	Ending Balance
April 2010		0.00	0.00	\$302.03

Selvin Walker provided (1) check for \$11.04 for league expenses and received \$10.00 cash for one new member.

Leagues Third Forum – Codes Compliance:

John Millette, Codes Compliance Officer and Zoning Officer spoke and fielded questions about the City of Hampton’s Codes Compliance department. The office enforces Virginia’s state building codes and regulations as administered through the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC). Some of the areas the department covers are zoning ordinances, property maintenance and building ordinances.

Many requirements that most people just do not know:

- Setback requirements from property lines (example: for installing a shed).
- Inoperable vehicle violations.
- Grass no taller than 12” (city) and 10” (state) maximum height before addressing as a violation.
- Parking of recreational vehicles. (vehicle not to exceed 28’).
- Ordinances can only be changed by City Council.
- An approved variance from the city can be lost due to multiple violations.
- Day care for adult and or children requirements. Care of five children does not require a permit. (always check with Codes Compliance).

He concluded that the Codes Compliance department tries to help citizens. Citizens can confer with City Council on certain issues and can also view the ordinances and codes online.



Northampton Civic League (NHCL) Minutes 04/06/2010

Old Business:

City Neighborhood Grants Program:

President Asay, Vice President Duncan and Karen Duncan recently submitted two applications for grants to the City Neighborhood Office. The first is to align with the city's 400th Anniversary. The league will be working on albums with pictures, stories, as well as videos to cover the history of Northampton. The committee has a sign up sheet available for this initiative. Copies of the albums to permanently reside in the City History Museum, Main and Northampton Branch Libraries, league members, interested schools and other parties.

The second initiative is to partner with the Northampton Community Center in providing a large permanent sign that identifies the community center; visibility of the NHCC and other organizations. All is contingent upon permissions for the placement of a sign as approved by the school board, Codes Compliance; as well type of sign (electronic, similar to the school sign or something similar). Recommendations were also made to consider at the same time modifying the current sign in front of the community center.

A representative for the community center was present, and in agreement with the proposal, but would still have to get approval. President Asay is seeking membership to help as well as look into sponsors.

All still contingent pending approval of both grant requests.

New Business:

Discussion began on the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, commonly known as "The Bay Act" in Virginia and how it affects resident homes that are located near the lakes on Lynnhaven Drive and impacts or restricts the placement of buildings in reference to the waterfront. Members concerned that the average citizens does not know or aware of the impacts within the neighborhoods. The concern is that the city should educate or make citizens aware. The league is considering addressing City Council at some point to inform citizens about various impacts of this act.

Membership:

One new member, John Tyree.



Northampton Civic League (NHCL) Minutes 04/06/2010

Adjournment:

President Asay adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM. The next meeting will be on 05/04/2010.

Action Items:

- President Asay and Vice President Duncan have sign up sheets for volunteers to sign up to help with both grants program initiatives. Discussion on many things members can do was discussed and contact President Asay.
- Selvin Walker accepted an action to talk with guidance counselors to find a teen for the NHCL membership gift to the new Hampton Teen Center. (carried over from the 01/05/10 minutes)
- Selvin Walker to look into polo shirts with the league's logo. (carried over from the 01/05/10 minutes)
- President Asay will continue to work on forums. (carried over from the 02/02/10 minutes)
- Address City Council about informing citizens about the Chesapeake Bay Act and impact within our communities.
- Treasurer to bring Treasurer report current at next meeting.

Attendees:

Matt Asay
Carolyn Phaup
and John Millette (guest)

Alonzo Duncan
Cheryl McElraft

Flora Randall
John Tyree

Selvin Walker
Randall Michalos

Flora J. Randall
NHCL Secretary

As corrected and approved at the 5/4/2010 meeting