

Northampton Civic League Minutes 02/07/2006

The February meeting of the Northampton Civic league was called to order at 7:13 by NHCL Vice President Wendell Midkiff. There were two members and two guests present. Midway through the meeting a 3rd member arrived.

The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

Since there was not a quorum present, the president deferred the reading of the November minutes. Secretary Matt Asay noted two items recently received. The Peninsula Association of Parliamentarians was again offering their parliamentary workshop on Saturday, March 11. The Hampton Elks Lodge was soliciting nominations for Hampton Citizen of the Year for 2005. The winner will get to designate the charity(s) to receive a donation of \$2,500 from the Benevolent Order of Elks. Mr. Midkiff took the information on the workshop to review.

Treasurer Butch Heath provided a summary of the leagues finances. The current balance is 165.83.

The first guest speaker was **Julia Campbell**, the Director of Development and Community Relations for Transitions Family Violence Services. She provided a brief history of her agency and described the services they provide. The agency was previously known as the Virginia Peninsula Council on Family Violence. They provide a 24-hour hotline for people to report or seek help from any type of family violence. They help both men and women, although about 805% of their cases are of male violence on women. They offer 90 shelter beds at three different facilities. They provide Teen Violence Prevention workshops. They offer employment assistance and child care assistance to their clients. They offer field trips, resume assistance, and computer skills to help their clients get jobs. Their assistance for children includes after school programs, counseling for witnesses as well as for victims of violence, tutoring, school supplies, and medical referrals. They also have 3 legal advocates to provide advice to victims and help them navigate the court process.

Last year Transitions provided services to 422 women and children, including 492 shelter nights. Their outreach effort included over 2000 people (but they are always looking for new opportunities to spread the word). They have 16 full-time and 14 part-time staff members and over 150 volunteers.

How can you assist them? Donations are always welcome, either directly to Transitions or through United Way. You can drop off goods and services at their office on Wednesdays from 9 am to 4 pm. They also look for corporate sponsorships.

You can also volunteer in a number of ways. They need volunteers to man their hotline. You can wrap presents donated for their children or help with their child care. There are opportunities for groups to Adopt a Family either for Christmas or year round and provide gifts for the kids. Groups can also sponsor fund raisers. Ms. Campbell mentioned one involving collecting old cell phones that are either refurbished for clients or sold through a clearing house.

Ms. Campbell also provided pamphlets and information sheets with more details of the work that Transitions does. For more information you can email Ms. Campbell at jcampbell@transitionsfvs.org or call her at 728-0025. You can visit the Transitions web site at www.transitionsfvs.org. Their 24-hour hotline is **757-723-7774**.

Our second guest speaker was Jonathan McBride of the Hampton Neighborhood Office. He is the new District 1 liaison. After introducing himself, Mr. McBride talked about his first subject, the City of Hampton's new "Crime and Grime" Initiative. This program is an outgrowth of pilot projects started in a couple of districts that are now being expanded citywide.

Teams are being formed for each district including police, Codes and Compliance representatives and concerned citizens. Once a month they will tour each district looking for blighted properties and sites of repeated drug violations. The basic premise is that blighted properties attract crime and crime leads to blighted properties and that both will reduce property values and the livability of our neighborhoods.

The groups next meeting for District 1 will be on February 13th from 10-11 am at the Northampton Community Center. The groups leaders will hold a strategy meeting with area neighborhood groups on

March 28th at 6:00, also at the Northampton Community Center. The teams will be holding training sessions in March. Information will be available at the February 13th meeting. He provided a folder with more detailed information about the Crime and Grime Initiative.

Mr. McBride's second topic was Neighborhood Month, which is coming up in May. Training on planning events will be offered on February 28th at 6:00 pm at the Rupert Sargent building downtown.

Mr. McBride can be reached at jmcbride@hampton.gov or at 727-6460.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:30 pm. The next meeting will be March 7th at 7:00 pm.

Memberships: no renewals or new members.

Matt Asay, NHCL Secretary