

# Northampton Civic League Minutes 02/06/2007

The February meeting of the Northampton Civic league was called to order at 7:05 by NHCL President Bernice Jackson. There were 14 people present.

The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

Secretary Matt Asay read the January minutes. The minutes were approved with no corrections. After a brief discussion, the members agreed to a new policy concerning distribution: The draft minutes will be emailed to the members, but will not be posted to the web site until they are formally approved at the next meeting.

Treasurer Butch Heath provided a summary of the league finances. The balance (unchanged since the last meeting) is \$273.03.

President Bernice Jackson provided a brief summary of a meeting she attended at Sandy Bottom park where a Mr. Milner made a presentation about the plans of the group he represented to build a Walgreens at the corner of Hampton Roads Center Parkway and Big Bethel Road (on the corner of the block containing Sandy Bottom Park). Mr. Milner has been invited to speak at our March 6th meeting. The topic will be budgeted 30 minutes: 15 for a presentation and 15 for questions and comments from the audience.

The group welcomed new member Carlton Campbell. We also welcomed James Wood, a current member who has not been able to attend for some time. Selvin Walker noted that his wife Samara, who has just joined as well was unable to attend this evening.

Our President noted that a Claudia Pitchee, who lives off Semple Farm Road had been in contact. She is interested in starting a community group in her subdivision. She is hoping to learn about the grant process. She said she would be unable to attend this meeting but might send a representative.

Vice President Wendell Midkiff noted that the city has decided to have an open forum on the flooding issue at the next (February 14th) City Council meeting.

## Neighborhood Organization Registration

We spent the major part of the meeting working on the application for recognition as a Registered Neighborhood. Selvin Walker brought his laptop to collect notes and Wendell Midkiff provided a projector so that we could all see what Selvin was typing.

Jonathan McBride and Sabrina Carr from the Hampton Neighborhood Office were in attendance to assist with our submission. Jonathan is the liason from the office for District 1 and Sabrina is the staff person the Neighborhood Commission's Capacity Committee which reviews the applications. They began with an overview of the process and the purpose of registration. They are able to help us with an organization assessment that looks at the NHCL and helps us identify our strengths as an organization and what areas we might still need help with.

They noted that although the process usually starts with an "Intent to Register" form, we would skip it this evening. The purpose of that form is to alert the Neighborhood Office and our Neighborhood Commissioners that we want to become a registered Neighborhood Organization and we've already accomplished that step.

We started to review the questions in the application. Sabrina noted that as we answer the questions it would be good to "expand on as many things as possible" rather than give brief answers, in order to give the Neighborhood Commissioners reviewing the applications a better picture of the NHCL. She also noted that our last registration was in September of 1997 and that registrations are now renewed every two years.

We spent a fair amount of time discussing the current boundaries of the NHCL (all of District 1 and half of District 2 – almost a quarter of the residences of the city of Hampton) and whether they were reasonable or appropriate. Jonathan and Sabrina noted that this was likely to be a major item of discussion with the Commission when our application is reviewed. Our members were split over whether to retain the current boundaries or opt for smaller ones.

We got part way through the questions and agreed we would continue via email and at future meetings until we finished the application. Selvin offered to email out the notes he had collected and asked us to respond and provide our input on the remaining questions.

### New Business

Several members noted that with the Walgreens rezoning coming up at the next meeting we needed to get the word out to our membership and other interested members of the community. We discussed getting fliers out to the adjacent neighborhoods and to cooperating businesses in the area. It was noted the rezoning request will be heard at the March 12th meeting of the Planning Commission.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:50.

Memberships: There was 1 renewal, 2 new members and a \$1.00 donation to the league.

**Matt Asay, NHCL Secretary**

As approved 03/06/2007