

Northampton Civic League

Minutes 02/05/2008

The February meeting of the Northampton Civic league was called to order at 7:02 PM by NHCL President Selvin Walker with 9 members and 1 guest present.

The meeting opened with the introduction of our guest: Ruthann Kellum, a member of the Hampton School board who is running for City Council. She shared that she had read the NHCL announcement in the Daily Press. Her attendance was due to her interest in the flooding issues that would be a topic of discussion at this meeting.

The introduction was followed by a pledge to the flag.

Secretary Matt Asay distributed draft copies of the minutes from the January meeting. The minutes were approved with no corrections.

Treasurer Samara Walker provided a summary of the League finances. Our bank account shows a balance of \$420.23 with no activity for the month. The treasurer's report was also approved unanimously.

VOTING ACTIONS

President Walker led a discussion of two proposed amendments to the league bylaws. The Secretary noted that, according to the current bylaws, amendments to the bylaws are proposed at one meeting, publicized to all members prior to the next meeting, and voted on at that next meeting. Therefore the amendments discussed tonight would be voted on at the March meeting.

Dues

The Treasurer suggested that we raise the dues from the current \$9 to an even \$10 to increase the cash available for the newsletter distribution and other league activities. The intent is to make the new amount payable on each member's anniversary date. A motion was made and seconded to "Revise the bylaws to increase the membership dues from \$9.00 to \$10.00 and that the appropriate changes to the bylaws be publicized before the March meeting." The motion was approved unanimously. The Secretary and Treasurer were asked to draft appropriate changes

Illness and Bereavement Policy

A second change to add an illness and bereavement policy to the bylaws was proposed. Recent examples of illnesses and deaths of league members and relatives were cited, noting that there was currently no guidance in the bylaws as to what sort of acknowledgment (cards, flowers, etc.) from the membership might be appropriate. After some discussion it was generally agreed that the appropriate recognition can and should be made on a case-by-case basis by the officers or someone appointed by the president with approval of the expense by a vote via email or at the next meeting. The proposal was tabled indefinitely

LEAGUE REPORTS

Youth Engagement

Matt Asay provided an update on the plans for a "Focus on Youth" theme at our March meeting. He is still working on getting information about the workshop to be presented by Alternatives and the Neighborhood Youth Advisory Board. He reminded everyone to try to bring at least one area youth to participate in the process in March.

Publications

Tanis Mowery distributed the latest draft of the newsletter she had designed for comments and suggestions. A few minor corrections were suggested. She will incorporate them and then, as voted at the last meeting, 200 color copies (at a cost not to exceed \$50) will be made and provided to all members for distribution in their immediate neighborhoods. The newsletter will also be posted on the NHCL web site.

Civic

The bulk of the meeting consisted of a briefing by President Walker about the recent flooding and drainage studies (both already presented to City Council and still in progress) and Hampton's current and planned responses to them.

He showed a series of slides which highlighted some of the issues under discussion and maps that showed where the various watersheds were located.

He encouraged members of the league to get involved in the Big Bethel study which is still in progress. He noted that our active participation is needed to assure that issues in our area get sufficient attention, given that much time and money has been committed to other areas of the city.

Area Public Property Issues

Flo Randall provided an update on the two problematic utility poles she reported on at the last meeting. The one at Hunt Club and Todds Lane has been repaired. The other one is still awaiting action.

She also noted that William Paul, the volunteer coordinator at Sandy Bottom had contacted her looking for maintenance volunteers for the new park going in at the end of the Hampton Roads Center Parkway at Armistead. She inquired if this was within our league boundaries. It is not, so the members suggested she pass on the request via Jonathan McBride to District 2.

Organizational Development

Since our time was almost up, President Walker only briefly discussed the "I expect..." and "Civic-Effort Needs Assessment" worksheets that had been distributed at the last meeting and by email. He encouraged anyone who had not yet filled them out to take one of the copies available at the meeting and complete it.

The meeting adjourned at about 8:45 PM. The next meeting will be on March 4th.

Memberships: There were 2 renewals (Wendell Midkiff and Samara Walker) and no new members.

**Matt Asay,
NHCL Secretary**

As approved at the March 4, 2008 meeting.