

# Northampton Civic League Minutes 06/06/2006

The June meeting of the Northampton Civic league was called to order at 7:14 by NHCL Vice-President Wendell Midkiff. There were 6 members present.

The meeting opened with a pledge to the flag.

Mr. Midkiff noted that President Bernice Jackson had indicated she would be unable to attend. Matt Asay noted that an email from Selvin Walker indicated that he might be late due to a family commitment.

Secretary Matt Asay presented the April minutes which were approved with no corrections.

Treasurer Butch Heath distributed copies of the treasurer's report. There were 3 membership renewals and no expenses for an ending balance of 192.83.

The Secretary reviewed recently received mail and email. These included a forum on Buckroe Beach, Web design classes at VecTec, A "Hook a Kid on Golf" program being sponsored by Parks and Red, a "Neighborhood Chat" about schools with the superintendent, and a "Discover Your Neighborhood's History" program sponsored by the Hampton History Museum.

District 1 Neighborhood Commissioner Karen Duncan distributed a compendium of upcoming events and resources for Youth and for Hampton Neighborhoods.

Darryl Krauch reported he had spoken to the new Northampton Community Center manager Cathy Moore and received permission to put up signs next to the NHCC entrance on Todds Lane announcing our meetings. He showed materials he had collected to enhance the current NHCL sign for that purpose.

There was some discussion about an upcoming meeting at the Old Hampton Community Center to get community input on community center operations. The members were unsure if this meeting was about that one center only or all of Hampton's community centers. Karen Duncan offered to investigate and report back.

Another topic of discussion was a recent letter to the Daily Press complaining that Yoga Classes now required a registration fee at NHCC but were being offered for free at the Senior Citizens Center. The member's agreed that that policy and pricing should be uniform across the city. Again Karen Duncan offered to ask about the discrepancy.

Wendell Midkiff reported a recent conversation with Donnie Tuck at a recent city meeting. Mr. Tuck indicated that, despite the fact that his recent bid for a council seat was unsuccessful, he was still interested in pursuing the flooding issue. Mr. Midkiff indicated that he had not yet heard back from Councilwomen Leary on the issue, but that he intended to contact her to see if she had made any progress in getting more information on the issue from the city. He also noted that, so far, he has seen less flooding this year than he had expected.

The members discussed that our next regular meeting date would fall on the 4th of July holiday. Rather than just cancel the meeting as previously planned the group unanimously voted to reschedule the meeting for July 11th. Mr. Midkiff offered to confirm the availability of the date with the community center after the meeting.

The next issue discussed was the possibility of getting additional signs advertising the meeting date to post at strategic locations. Karen Duncan had priced foam board signs (similar to the common election signs) at several sites on the internet. The prices weren't all that bad except that most required a 50-sign minimum order. She had also talked to Ted Henefin about getting signs through the Neighborhood Commission. He had informed her that a matching grant (50% / 50%) might be available, but seemed unsure if the NHCL had to become a registered neighborhood organization before we could apply for a grant. Matt Asay also agreed to bring the current NHCL sign to Darryl Krauch to use as a template for the additional second side "NHCL" sign and the back-to-back "Meeting tonight at 7:00" extensions.

Karen Duncan also reported on recent Crime and Grime patrol activities in the Northampton area. They had been by to view the "poorly maintained" house reported by a neighbor to President Bernice Jackson before our April meeting. Their inspection determined that the condition of the house and property had

improved. She also reported that the Northampton Area has a new inspector in the Codes and Compliance office. She will provide a name and contact information to Wendell Midkiff.

Butch Heath inquired if anyone knew whether the announcement about the NHCL was still being broadcast on the City Channel. No one was sure, but Karen Duncan agreed to find out.

The group noted that the “Gangs” issue we had intended to use as a future meeting topic to draw new members had been covered in a recent forum at Bethel High School. A new topic will need to be selected for now and perhaps we can revisit the “Gangs” topic in some sort of joint presentation with the PTA in the fall.

The group also discussed the pros and cons of seeking paid support from businesses in the form of pages on the NHCL web site. No decision was reached on the issue, but our webmaster Darryl Krauch will explore it further.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:32 pm. The next meeting will be July 11th at 7:00 pm.

Memberships: 2 members renewed. There were no new members.

**Matt Asay, NHCL Secretary**