

The regular meeting of the Northampton Civic League (NHCL) was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Selvin Walker, NHCL President. Seven members and 15 guests were in attendance.

The meeting opened with reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

President Walker welcomed members and guests. He asked each person in attendance to indicate where they lived, how long they had lived in Hampton, and how they heard about the NHCL. Several guests had received fliers from our recruiting campaign. Several others were members of Future Leaders of Hampton and are looking for ways to help the civic league.

President Walker noted that he was deferring some of the standard league business in order to have our guests hear a presentation from the Hampton Planning Department.

Zoning Ordinance Overhaul

Planning Department Director (and Neighborhood Office head) Terry O'Neill introduced the evening's topic, a planned overhaul of the city's zoning ordinances. It is the first major overhaul since the 1960's. He also, wearing his Neighborhood Office hat, gave a plug for neighborhood involvement in Hampton's governance and for citizen involvement in their neighborhoods.

He then turned things over to Senior Planner James Freese for the remainder of the presentation. Mr. Freese covered several topics:

- **What is Zoning?**
 - Why are changes being made? (Want to make easier to use and easier to understand. State mandates need to be incorporated into Hampton's ordinances.)
 - **Trends in zoning** (Current designs incorporate more interconnections and less cul-de-sacs. More mixed usage (businesses and residences.- like Peninsula Town Center). Smaller single family homes. More urban multifamily - clusters facing street rather than inner courtyard. Increased emphasis on "green design". Older population - concept of "aging in place".)
 - **Content changes** (New parking ordinance - some requirements up, some down, concept of shared parking spaces. Residential zoning - small lots, mixed use. New "Village Commercial" designation - changed concept of what's appropriate, corner drugstore then versus large 24-hour CVS Pharmacy now).
 - **Format changes** (Similar to switch from albums to MP3 players. Internet based. Searchable. From text only to more graphics and diagrams.)
 - **Schedule:** (tentative, subject to City Council changes)
10/2008 - 04/2009 Research and preparation

05/2009 - 08/2009 Review draft
09/2009 - 11/2009 Revise draft
12/2009 - 02/2010 Public hearings

Another issue Mr. Freese mentioned is the need to control zoning around Langley AFB to maintain compatible use. We don't want to see the problems Virginia Beach is having with NAS Oceana.

He gave a link on the web: <http://zohampton.com> for a view of the existing versus proposed zonings, including a history of previous drafts. It includes a place to submit your questions for the Department to answer.

In addition he mentioned that there is a Zoning Advisory Committee that residents can join to take a more active role in the zoning revision process.

Mr. Freese then took questions from the attendees, including discussion of provisions for handicap accessible housing, the aging-in-place concept, the revisions to the parking requirements, and the issue of improved public transportation.

School Partnerships:

President Walker gave a summary of a school district meeting that he and Karen Duncan attended . The attendees included Ann Bane, Director of Community & Legislative Relations, Michael Canty, Director of School/Community Investments, and others. The issue was increasing community and parent involvement in the schools. There is concern that there is not enough community involvement. What is it that we can offer the schools? The conclusion was that we need the schools to come to us with what they need, because we don't know. He discussed the possibility of one or more of the Future Leaders of Hampton youth who attended our meeting accepting a youth position to provide an interface to their classmates. He also asked the attendees at our meeting: "From a civic league perspective, what do we want to see happen in our schools?" He encouraged us to consider that question between now and the next meeting.

League Business:

President Walker deferred the review of the July minutes until our next meeting in September. There was no Treasurer's report because the Treasurer was out of town.

Matters from League Officers:

Selvin asked that postcard meeting reminders be sent to the guests tonight who did not have email. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for September 1, 2009.

There were no renewals and 2 new members, Dr. Beverlee Engle and (via Karen Duncan) Gale Hames.

Attendees were:

Selvin Walker

Alonzo Duncan

Flo Randall

Matt Asay

Karen Duncan

Carolyn Phaup

Cheryl McElraft	Beverlee Engle	Jim Harris (guest)
Terry O'Neill (guest)	James Freese (guest)	John Richmond (guest)
Margaret Richmond (guest)	Viv Taylor (guest)	Arthur Ritter (guest)
Randall Michalos (guest)	Alvia Lewis (guest)	Courtney Jenkins (guest)
Natasha Riggsbee (guest)	Jacquina Kearse (guest)	Nebert Williams (guest)
Jesse Williams (guest)		

Action Items:

(Items carried over from previous meetings)

- Karen Duncan to distribute information on the meeting schedules of other civic organizations.
- Karen Duncan to provide information on the new Neighborhood College structure and class schedule.
- Karen Duncan to provide information on the new Neighborhood Commission small grant process.
- Alonzo Duncan to provide update on legislation and local initiatives pertaining to youth violence and crime prevention.
- Selvin Walker to distribute information on the Hampton School questionnaire.

(New items)

- Matt Asay to distribute meeting reminders to all new attendees (by email or postcard)

Matt Asay
NHCL Secretary

As approved at the September 1, 2009 meeting.