

Northampton Civic League Minutes 09/06/2005

The September meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by NHCL President Bernice Jackson. There were 12 people present.

The President opened with a pledge to the flag.

Secretary Matt Asay summarized the minutes for the August meeting and distributed some additional notes that were circulated after the minutes were posted. He expressed his appreciation for those who took the minutes in his absence in August. The minutes were approved as amended.

Interim Treasurer Butch Heath provided a summary of the league's finances. His total for the cash and checking account is \$118.73. The total from the check register shows \$108.73. He will attempt to use the online bank statements to resolve the difference.

Immediately after his report, the President asked for a vote to confirm Butch as Treasurer until the next elections are held. He was confirmed unanimously by the membership.

A guest speaker, Marlita Fullerton, presented her plans for a picture studio and day spa on the corner of the Sandy Bottom Park property at Big Bethel Road and the Hampton Roads Center Parkway. Mike Hayes from the Hampton Planning Department was also present to observe the presentation and answer any questions relating to the city's position. Ms. Fullerton provided information and answered questions from those attending:

- The lot she is interested is currently owned by Exxon. She is interested in acquiring it and having it rezoned for her planned development, but first she is trying to determine how much community support the project would have and what questions or issues
- There are 3 other lots adjacent to this one that are not part of Sandy Bottom Park. Two are owned by the city. The other one currently has a residence on it.
- The project has not yet been formally submitted to the city as a rezoning request. Ms. Fullerton has just been talking to the Planning Department to understand the process and what questions might need to be answered. She is seeking a Residential Transitional zoning.
- Ms. Fullerton circulated some "concept" drawings of a possible floor plan for the development. The lot is about 1.43 acres (61,000 square feet). The plan is for two buildings totaling 7,000-9,000 sq. ft. One building would be a portrait studio. The other building would be a day spa and beauty salon. The portrait studio would have two main sitting rooms and might also offer outdoor portraits on the grounds (with additional landscaping). The spa might have a total of about 30 rooms. Both buildings would be one story. The plans call for 45-60 parking spaces. The city regulations for a development of this size require a minimum of 45.
- The estimated trips per day for this development (200) exceeds the 125 trips per day allowed by RT zoning for a development of this size.
- Some members expressed concern over the choice of locations, given the league's past opposition to developments. After the discussion, the league decided to take no formal stand on the project at this time.

The President also presented information about a possible future speaker. Mary Figure, the director of Media Operations for the new Convention Center has asked for an opportunity to speak to the league about the Convention Center and the Hampton Hometown Ambassador program. The membership decided to invite her to speak at our October meeting.

Ms. Jackson briefly summarized two rezoning requests for our area that will be heard at a Codes and Compliance hearing in city hall on September 19th at 5:00 pm.

In addition there will be a presentation about the Buckroe Master plan at the Convention Center on October 11th at 7:00 pm.

The President brought up the wording in the bylaws concerning the duties of the Secretary and Treasurer. She felt the wording was confusing since both sets of duties were summarized in the same sentence. Butch Heath offered to provide a suggested alternative wording at the next meeting. A motion to assign him to propose an alternative was approved unanimously.

The Treasurer received membership renewal dues from Karen Duncan for herself and her husband. Delegate Mayme BaCote joined the league and submitted her dues to the Treasurer.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:30 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 4th.

Matt Asay, NHCL Secretary