

Northampton Civic League Minutes 10/04/2005

The October meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by NHCL President Bernice Jackson. There were 9 people present.

The President opened with a pledge to the flag.

Secretary Matt Asay summarized the minutes for the September meeting. The minutes were approved with no changes.

Treasurer Butch Heath provided a summary of the league's finances for September. The starting balance was 118.73. There were 3 membership renewals for a total of 27.00 and disbursements. The ending balance was 145.73. The treasurer's report was approved with one minor correction.

Mr. Heath then made a motion that we offer to refund the membership dues for any member who serves as an elected official (in this case applying to Delegate Mamyé BaCote). The motion was approved 5 to 1.

Mr. Heath then presented proposed amendments to the bylaws intended to more clearly spell out the duties of the Secretary and Treasurer.

The old paragraph in bylaws reads:

The secretary and treasurer shall be responsible for all records and financial matters and perform such other duties as usually pertain to those officers. The bank statements shall be addressed to the secretary.

The new section for the Secretary reads:

The Secretary shall keep minutes and records of all meetings of the NHCL and forward a copy of the monthly meeting minutes to the Executive Committee of the NHCL not later than 20 calendar days after each meeting; keeps the roster of current membership; provide a quarterly report of members and their dues status; receives all monies and records the amount received in the minutes; provides all monies received to the Treasurer. Send out meeting notices at the direction of the President.

This section was approved unanimously by the members attending.

The new section for the Treasurer reads:

The Treasurer receives funds from the Secretary; deposits all monies in the name of the Organization in such depositories selected by the Executive Board. Prepares and distributes a monthly report of receipts and expenses; prepares and distributes annual Treasurer's reports at the meeting prior to the Annual Election of Officers. The Treasurer shall make the financial books and records of the NHCL available for examination and audit by the Executive Board and bonafide member(s) or others when approved by the Executive Board.

This section was approved unanimously by the members attending.

Since the bylaws require that amendments be presented at one meeting and then approved by a 2/3 majority of the members present at the following meeting, the final vote for approval will be held at our November meeting.

A guest speaker, Mary Fugere of the Hampton Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), gave a presentation on the status of the new Convention Center and on the city's efforts to visitors and events to Hampton.

- The Convention Center is a separate department within the city that is marketed by her bureau. Her bureau has 8 sales managers who travel the country promoting Hampton as a convention site and tourist destination.

- In addition to the Convention Center, they market the area hotels, Sandy Bottom park, the Coliseum, and the American Theater. Along with the visits to organizations and promotional events, they use brochures, magazine ads and articles and even radio.
- There are special promotional packages such as the Hampton Day Pass that gets discounts at participating area retailers and an Attractions Ticket that is a combo admission to the Imax Theater, the Hampton History Museum, the Carousel, the Miss Hampton Tour, and the rock climbing wall at Bass Pro.
- We also saw a video that the CVB produces to tout the benefits of Hampton as a destination.
- The bookings for the Convention Center are running ahead of the projections made before it was built. They try to book events that will attract overnight attendees (rather than Hampton citizens or area residents) since most of the projected revenue is from room taxes and dining taxes.
- There are two programs they have for Hampton residents. The “Hometown Heroes” program recognizes citizens who are able to help bring events to Hampton, perhaps through businesses, clubs, or family organizations they are part of. The “Hometown Ambassadors” program trains volunteers to welcome visitors for conventions and special events. The city provides training and special activities to keep them familiar with Hampton’s amenities. The next training tour will be offered on November 9th

The membership enthusiastically thanked Ms. Fugere for her presentation.

The President also presented information about upcoming sessions for information and feedback on Hampton’s Community Plan. Informational sessions will be offered at several meetings:

- October 13, 7:00 pm Northampton Community Center
- October 15, 9:30 am Ruppert Sargent Building, Veteran’s conference room
- October 17, 7:00 pm Hampton Roads Convention Center, Room 101
- October 18, 7:00 pm Jones Middle School

More information is available at Hampton’s web site: <http://www.hampton.gov/community-plan>

There followed some discussion of recent events and issues including the Walmart proposal, the Day Spa proposal and the drainage and flooding problems last year. We talked about when and how the league should take positions on issues like these. We also discussed whether the league should take a more proactive position opposing all future development on the Sandy Bottom properties and if future league memberships should be constrained by votes taken by the league in the past. No conclusion was reached, although several members felt we needed to look at each issue on its own merits rather than taking some blanket position.

Mr. Midkiff also offered his opinion that development in the area (such as Hampton Woods and the AMC Theaters) had greatly worsened the drainage and flooding situation in the Northampton Area. he expressed concern that the city was not doing enough to address the situation.

It was also suggested that the President send out welcomes to new people who attend our meetings to encourage them to return and to become members. She agreed that this was a good idea. The Secretary will forward contact information from the signup sheets for her to send out letters to them.

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:55 pm. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 1st.

Memberships: 1 Renewal (Darryl Krauch), no new members. \$9.00 total

Matt Asay, NHCL Secretary