

## **Downtown Norfolk Civic League**

### **August 16, 2010**

#### Mission Statement:

To be a collective voice of the residents, dedicated to the quality of life issues unique to Downtown Norfolk.

#### I. Welcome

#### II. Introductions

#### III. Financial Report

- Peter Forti reported a balance of \$1,136.98.
- Current membership: Residential/102, Business/28

#### IV. P.A.C.E. Report – Officer Richard James

- Officer Rick James said thank you for the donations made to the school supply program.
- One aggravated assault was reported at the 600 block of Granby. The victim was stabbed with an unidentified object and sustained a non life-threatening injury.
- An update on the attempted robbery at Chartway ... the suspect is in custody. This is the same person who robbed another Chartway location.
- Robberies to individuals: A young gentleman met two young ladies at Military Circle Mall and invited them back to his room at the Courtyard Marriott. Afterwards the young man reported several personal items missing.
- At the Sheraton Waterside, A girlfriend caught her boy friend with another woman and took his personal items.
- Commercial Burglaries: at Domo Sushi, a perp went up the fire escape and entered the business. Good finger prints were obtained from a pane of broken glass.
- At the Pagoda, entry was gained to the restaurant through an unlocked door. This was likely a homeless person who took a cell phone and some cash.
- There have been 13 larcenies from autos ... three were license plates, one GPS, a wallet, cell phone, iPod and checkbook. One juvenile suspect was caught on camera and was arrested. Another juvenile is being sought.
- From August 9 through 15, 50 attests were made for curfew violations ... for 17 year olds and under this is 11pm to 6am, unless the juvenile has a work permit. On the first violation, the young person is handed over to his/her parents. On the second violation, there are legal repercussions and on the third violation, a court appearance (juvenile and parents) is necessary.

#### V. Downtown Development/Construction Report

- Baxter Simmons has opened the Three Way Café at the old Blue Plate Special location on Plume Street. Catering and delivery services will start in two weeks.
- On City Hall Avenue, utility work will begin again and last for six weeks.
- St. Paul's Blvd. will also be down to one lane in each direction.

## VI. Guest Speaker – Tom Smigiel, (Ward 5 Councilman)

- Tom was active in the East Ocean View civic league for 8 years.
- He is the assistant principle at Lake Taylor High school.
- He is not anti-downtown or anti-light rail. This perception is likely due to an exchange that Tom and Kevin Murphy had in the newspaper.
- He disagrees with the way light rail has been managed and actually spends a lot of time in downtown.
- The ward system was designed to create greater citizen participation in local affairs, but there is often a parochial attitude, especially when it comes to funding.
- Tom advocates looking at the overall scene and identifying projects.
- Ward 5 includes East Beach, Ocean View and Wards Corner.
- From the recent census, this ward comprises 19% of Norfolk's population. 68% is White, 23% Afro-American. 21% of Norfolk households are in the ward. 35% have a child under the age of 5. 65% do not, so this reflects an older mix.
- Tom wants to promote a sense of safety in the ward's neighborhood and access to fresh, healthy food.
- He sees healthy neighborhoods as places where neighbors know and look out for each other, where there is a sense of pride, and where properties are well-kept and maintained.
- Part of Ward 5 is a tale of two cities: East Ocean View vs. East Beach.
- He is keeping his campaign office as a constituent's office.
- The Bay View Motel status is a sore spot ... it is in dilapidated condition and the owner wants the city to buy it.
- In Ocean View, there are many situations that would be considered a code violation.
- Over time, citizen will tend to give up on enforcement and expect the city to step in.
- Successful civic leagues create lists of violations and stay on top of issues.
- Older street lights are being replaced with newer, energy efficient lamps by DVP.
- A change is needed in the attitude that everything should be bull-dozed and torn down.
- Tom supports light rail expansion to other parts of the city.
- One of the biggest criticisms is that the city doesn't create roadways with bicycle and pedestrian lanes.
- Tom suggests a town hall to address flooding issues with local, state and federal representatives in the same room.

## VII. Old Business

- Boush and Freemason work is under way to address vibration issues at 388 Boush Street.

#### VIII. New Business

- The Flat Iron Park site is being butchered by construction. A landscape architect will meet a week from Thursday to discuss the integrity of the site.
- A Light Rail Walk is scheduled to take place along the downtown portion of the route to document all safety and aesthetic concerns.
- Can the D'art Center extend its hours? There is a website for the Center where questions can be posed.

#### IX. Upcoming Speakers/Topics

- Recycling in downtown.
- The new president of Farm Fresh.
- A presentation on making downtown cycling friendly.

#### X. Open Discussion

- Why did the sidewalk art storefront show end when it did?
- Individual artists have until the end of August to remove artwork. It creates more of an event to have the show at a particular time of year.

#### XI. Adjourn

*Please join us for the next DNCL meeting on Monday, September 20, 2010.*

DNCL MTG. - 8/16/10

NAME

E-MAIL

KEVIN R. MURPHY

KRMURPHY@VERIZON.NET

Rob Hughes

Peter Forti

GRANBY@COX.NET

GREG HARRIS

WAH007235@COX.NET

Eileen de Leon

eileen402@aol.com

Eileen Aquino

aquino23510@gmail.com

Rick JAMES (NPD)

Cathy Coleman DUC

Rob Shapiro

Chris O'Hagan

Mike Gross - Virginia Pilot

Jesse Scaccia

Baxter Simmons

TERESA KEAVENY

tekeaveny@me.com

Rob Hughes

Margaret Bloom

LUCAS DOAN

JAMES COLSON

jdc11k@aol.com

Debbi Kaufman

Rick HEAR

JIM AND BERNIE MANNING

Larissa Sutherland, d'ART center

lsutherland@d-artcenter.org

Julie JACKSON

Greg Reck

PRESTON CARRAWAY

Sherry Carraway

Morish Mills

mmills@vantage.com

Trey Hannah

treyhannah@yahoo.com

MANJAH

JAMIE

NICOLE P.

NICOLE L.