

Regular Board of Director's Meeting of the Southampton Citizens Association was called to order by President Frank Dorman on Tuesday, April 19, 2005 at 7:21 PM.

Board Members Present: Jeff Donahue, Tim Fite, Bud McQuade, Bob Scott, Sue Stewart, John McGrann, Wendy Inge, Frank Dorman, Mary Francis Kastleberg, Mary St. Louis, and Caitlin Zettl.

Excused: Mary Blanchard, Jean Marie Hay.

Absent: John Cardwell

Contributors and Guests in Attendance: Ralph Hambrick, Urchie Ellis, Jerry Miller, Linda Redmond, Paul Hoelscheir, Mary Scott, bill Scharge, Michael Oglesby, Randy Oglesby, Ed Jewett.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Fite, seconded by Donahue, passed.

Announcements:

Ralph Hambrick represents Southampton Citizens Association on the James River Advisory Council (JRAC), and attended the meeting to hand out brochures containing the schedule for the 2005 James River Days and discuss the purpose of the JRAC. Ralph invited participation by other residents in our community noting that opportunities were available for service on the JRAC board.

Tim Fite passed around an example of a new member packet for review.

Committee and Officer Reports:

Riverfest: Zettl and Inge reported that planning is moving along. 5K run is shaping up and several groups are signed up to demonstrate a variety of activities. Separate flyer will be going out in early May.

Legislative Affairs:

Ellis reported attending the statewide Commonwealth Transportation Board teleconference. The 6-year plan being approved shows renovation/replacement of the Huguenot Bridge by 2011. Project seems definite at this time (assuming money stays put). VDOT will reportedly repaint the rails again this year. Spoke with Richard Worsham, VDOT design engineer, and reported that the design process will begin again soon. Associations will have to pay attention as various schemes are either revisited or developed.

Ellis also alerted the group that legislation to enable the Religious Freedom Restoration Act will likely be back before the General Assembly

this coming session. This federal statute requires state implementation to become effective. As the law would trump local zoning regulations and allow any religious group to locate anywhere SCA has opposed in the past. Noted there was an Op-Ed piece in the Richmond Times Dispatch on 4/15 regarding this issue.

Zoning:

Dorman reported on the “Snake Hill” development and changes in the previously approved community unit plan proposed by Mark Putney. Latest proposal requested gated access to both Cherokee Road and Stony Point Parkway from the Planning Commission. Noted that there are deed restrictions covering approximately 2/3 of the Stony Point development that prohibited Cherokee Road Access, and Jerry Miller reported that Huguenot Team had unanimously opposed the dual Cherokee / Stony Point Parkway dual access. Putney requested and received a 2-week deferral. Staff reported that SCA supported with caveats; that other groups opposed. Inge suggested sending representative from SCA to neighborhood team meeting to discuss further.

Discussed CUP at Chippenham North, asking about berms, green landscaping and irrigation. Supposed to extend west past the SunTrust location.

Middleton project is underway at Stony Point, with clearing underway. Project will consist of 60 acres total, 40 of which will be developed.

Four houses being constructed on Forest Hill between Lansdale and Stratford. Two on each end will face Lansdale and Forest Hill. Two in the middle will front on Forest Hill.

Department of Community Development sent notice that O’Charlies has filed an application for an ABC license.

Discussed list of tenants. Harper apparently still firming up several deals. Word is a Pet Smart will be going in on the currently uncleared parcel to the east of the present development.

A proposal for a multiplex theatre for the parcel across the railroad tracks behind Target/Ukrops may resurface. SCA has opposed in the past based upon traffic and potential nuisance concerns.

Treasurer: Reported a balance of \$6,823.51 plus approximately \$105 of dues collections not yet recorded.

Commercial Properties along Forest Hill west of Chippenham: Kent Sullivan asked about boarded up buildings and what could be done about them. Jerry Miller noted that these properties are currently in the process of being redeveloped by RAMZ Development, with the current proposal being for a Wawa and a steak house. Miller expects that demolition will be underway within 6 months. Discussed trash and general appearance at the Wall-Mart (and to a lesser extent, Lowes) development. Board will look in to ways to hold Wall-mart accountable for cleaning up and maintaining the front of its store.

Membership: Board approved going ahead with the new member packet Tim Fite passed around earlier. Will development a handout for Riverfest.

Communications: Website still going, with new additions every week. Suggestion to make contact with Dan Reams to link to Southampton Recreation Association website and to discuss how SCA can develop an e-mail database of members for better electronic communication.

SRA: Ed Jewett passed out day passes for SRA.

Transportation: No report. No concerns had been expressed regarding traffic in the past month. Longview at Cooper was brought up as a concern for speeding now that the weather is warmer. Dorman will report location to Mike Shamas of the Richmond Police Department for possible enforcement activity. Discussed possibility of installing rumble strips instead of the speed bumps or speed tables opposed by Richmond authorities. Ellis reported that he wrapped the stop sign post at Cherokee and Huguenot with reflective tape purchased at Lowes. Question raised about re-sealing streets, which wasn't completed in several areas last year.

Police/Crime: Ed Jewett reported on a scam that occurred in the Rockfalls Drive / Hill Drive area where a young girl at the door claims to be a niece or relation of a neighbor who isn't home, and asks to use the phone. Asks for a glass of water or otherwise creates a diversion long enough to obtain a wallet or credit cards.

Schools / Education: Mary Blanchard may be taking on this area after Riverfest. Current activity of past board member Connie Edwards and her sorority at Southampton Elementary School was reported.

Other Business:

Noted the passing of Drew Clarke the previous day.

Ralph White: Moved to write letter to Mayor detailing Ralph's continuing good work and dedication, asking consideration to reinstate lost wages from suspension or to give it back to the park in the form of increased funding.

Bradwill - Forest Hill Trail: Adjoining property owner who objected to trail erected a chain blocking access to trail. Reportedly the partnerships that own the property in question authorized him to erect chain and no-trespassing signs. Will look into possibility of getting City to obtain an easement for public access.

Received notice from City that a slope stabilization project along Riverside drive will begin in June, resulting in closure of the street to through traffic for approximately 90 days.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 at 7:15 PM

Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.