

Regular Board of Director's Meeting of the Southampton Citizens Association was called to order by Vice President Tim Fite on Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at 7:35 PM.

Board Members Present: Tim Fite, Sue Stewart, Jeff Donahue, Bob Scott, Mary Frances Kastelberg, Jon Young, John Cardwell, Mary Blanchard, Jean Marie Hay, and John McGrann.

Excused: Frank Dorman, Wendy Inge, Mary St. Louis.

Contributors and Guests in Attendance: Approximately 40 neighbors.

Guest Speaker – Katherine Waddell:

Ms. Waddell introduced herself as a candidate for the 68<sup>th</sup> House of Delegate District seat. A Richmond native, she noted that she's been involved with politics for years, having worked in the office of the Attorney General, the Lieutenant Governor's office, and the General Assembly. She considers herself a true conservative, and intends to remain involved in public policy matters. She believes the responsibility of the delegate is to represent everyone in the district. To that end if elected she intends to open a district office to increase accessibility for the constituents. Her platform is one for legislation in support of jobs, healthcare, transportation, and economic development, as opposed to legislation that focuses on personal lives.

Q&A Session Notes:

- Tax increase? Marris opposed the tax increase. Waddell was unable to comment one way or the other as to how she might have voted as she didn't have access to all the information, but that she would have worked towards refining the budget, and would have supported the district's needs in that effort. Noted that she believes that decisions need to be based on good policy.
- Marriage amendment? She supports a proposed amendment to the Virginia Constitution that would define marriage to between a man and woman.
- Marris refusing to meet with constituents? Not normal, and she promises greater accessibility.
- Regarding the concept of being for the same goals as her opponent, but from a radically different point of view, how does one represent all one's constituents? Response was that one has to meet with the "experts", and has to be the leader in building consensus.
- Huguenot Bridge? Noted that she used to live on Abby Road, and promises to follow the project. Urchie Ellis responded that if elected she should be there pushing for it.
- Asked for an example of legislation by Marris that proved divisive. Example provided was a budget floor amendment that would have cut all

funding to Planned Parenthood, but would have also cut funding to many state-supported hospitals as well.

- Abortion, and partial-birth abortion? Waddell stated she supports a woman's reproductive rights, and does not believe this issue should be a part of or determined by the political system.
- Asked what she thought was important to our neighborhood. Schools, and promises to work with Mayor Wilder to improve public schools in the city by seeking funding at state level that will flow more directly to the classroom.
- In the senate budget / tax package was a provision that would have increased transportation funding. Is she willing to support such increases if introduced this year? Need to first discuss possible sources and ideas.
- Transportation vs. education funding – from general fund? Use of the surplus? Need to prioritize and establish policy. Maybe more tolls for supporting transportation – that needs to be discussed in other areas of the state.
- Marriage amendment? Supports, and believes that marriage should be only between a man and woman.
- Property Tax Amendments – What role should state have? State needs to step up to the plate and fund mandates such as SOL's. Opposes higher income taxes, but raising SOL requirements without raising state taxes isn't fair. Nothing is free, and believes the state should pay for mandates.
- Education – Tax break for parents opt out of public schools in favor of home schooling or private schools? Does not support tax credits for parents who elect to opt-out of the public education system.
- Environmental Issues – Position on mandating government conservation? No position, except that she doesn't want to see this in the form of mandates.
- Chesapeake Bay Position? Supports cleaning up the bay, but recognizes it is a huge cost. Needs prioritization with other issues.
- Lobbyists? Will listen, but believes it more important to listen to district.
- Kings Dominion Law? Need to focus on view of educators; not Kings Dominion.
- Car Tax? Supports phase out promise. Recognizes that it will be tough.
- Regulation of Abortion Facilities by Virginia Department of Health? Answered by President of Planned Parenthood who was in attendance. Doctor offices, including those offering abortion services on an outpatient basis, are regulated by licensure. Abortion services are one of the safest procedures offered as outpatient surgery. Laws that pick out one outpatient surgical procedure, not because it is unsafe, but because it is opposed by some for religious or other reasons are inappropriate.
- Parental notification and consent prior to abortion? Already law in Virginia.
- Is abortion equivalent to a shot? If regulations are established for abortion clinics, they should be implemented across the board for all doctor offices offering outpatient procedures.

- Partial birth abortion? Responded again that reproductive rights are a woman's alone, and that decision is between a woman and her doctor.

Following the question and answer period the regular meeting continued.

Approval of Minutes: Discussed suggestion by Tim Fite to modify language appearing in the August 16<sup>th</sup> minutes relating to a discussion of Delegate Brad Marrs' appearance at the association's May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion to amend by Jon Young, Second by Jeff Donahue. Motion failed.

Question from the floor - Ralph White: Who were the identities of certain people asking questions of Katherine Waddell? Apparently they were members of Brad Marrs' campaign or another group. Would like to see them identified as an outside block and establish ground rules for future similar events.

Committee and Officer Reports:

Zoning: Urchie Ellis noted that there are new signs across from Huguenot High School that property is for sale and requested the association monitor any proposed developments. Also noted the 17 acres site is under development (clearing), but there has been no report to the Huguenot Team. Also noted that building permits for the apartments behind Stony Point Fashion Park were reported in the paper.

Legislative Affairs: Urchie Ellis noted that there was an ad in the paper that the Transportation Board is reviewing the 6-year plan.

City Council: Kathy Graziano reported that she had a good meeting with Caitlin and Wendy. Initial timing of lights on Forest Hill has been performed and she promised to stay on top of it as the rest of the center develops. Meeting with Traffic Engineering regarding closing of Riverside Drive on Saturdays. If acceptable to various city departments, then plan is to involve community. Part of the reasoning to pursue this is to cut down on cruising on the weekends. David Halfour is taking information and talking with traffic engineers to determine what traffic calming measures are viable. Enhanced speed limit fines are a possibility.

Question about storm water management facility financing. Looking at setting up with a \$60/year/equivalent residential unit fee on each utility bill. Non-profits are discussing. Kathy is only council member on committee. Currently DPU is short 116 out of 600 positions. Probably January time frame for implementation. Audience member noted that wet catch basins in many parts of the city are problematic for breeding mosquitoes and requiring regular maintenance.

Bike lanes in shopping center? Kathy will look into.

Trails, and gifts of land or easements from residents if City agrees to be a co-defendant? City attorney opposes.

Treasurer: Reported a current bank balance of \$8,336.65 with 386 paid memberships.

Neighborhood Team: Discussed movies at Stony Point and addressed situation.

Membership: No report.

Communications: No report, but request from member in audience to post minutes on web site. McGrann will forward Bob Scott copies of minutes in Adobe format for posting.

Transportation: Good meeting with council representative. Overview and timeline will be printed in the mid-October newsletter. 4-way stops within the Chippenham Forest Square development were discussed. The center is also slated for a Wachovia bank. Will call Tom Kinter to discuss further. .

Police: Frank Dorman spoke to the police and reported through Tim Fite that they had moved coverage of our area from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> precinct. Confirmed that the chief is scheduled to attend the November 16<sup>th</sup> district meeting to discuss community policing.

#### New Business:

Ralph White requested a donation to purchase daffodil bulbs for Southampton Elementary School students to plant in James River Park as a class project. Needs information from principal as to which group of students would be participating. Approved on motion by John Cardwell for an expenditure of between \$75 and \$100 conditional on Ralph obtaining commitment from school.

Sign installation and cleanup at Norma Blaylock tot lot scheduled for Saturday, October 1 at 10:00 AM. Concern expressed about lack of street lighting in area; neighbor reported teens throwing glass bottles into tot lot one night to police.

Urchie Ellis noted that Peter Blake, a past president of the association who attended tonight's meeting, has been named Secretary of Education.

Next meeting on October 18, 2005 is the annual meeting, featuring as speakers Council Representative Kathy Graziano and Times Dispatch Columnist Mark Holmburg.

Adjournment: 9:35 PM.