

Northern Henrico Civic Association

Community Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by President Dr. Delta Bowers. Welcome was extended to new residents.

COMMUNITY: Attendees repeated the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 05/10/2022: Copies of the minutes were provided and were read silently. *Motioned by Bill Schmidt to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Lisa Walker. Motion carried.*

NHCA BUSINESS: President Bowers introduced a panel of Henrico County officials who presented on County/Community Initiatives. Residents raised questions or commented with response from each presenter.

TRANSPORTATION – Michael Aust, Assist. Division Director, Transportation Development Division

Mr. Aust addressed ongoing residents' concern regarding pedestrian safety on St. Charles and the need to install sidewalks especially for the safety of children walking to and from the local school. Mr. Aust reported that priority for sidewalk installation is given to major roadways with smaller streets connected later. The cost is approximately \$6-7 million per mile. Funding partners are federal, state and regional resources. Pedestrian crossings have been installed at the Wilkinson and Diane Lane corners. He recommended that we contact elected officials to advocate for our community's needs. In response to suggestion that the Education Department help fund the sidewalks, Mr. Aust replied that Education funds may not be spent on non-education projects.

Mr. Aust provided an overview of the original residential focus and the new mindset more open to sidewalks, street lights, widening and bicycle trails.

TRAFFIC CALMING: Lamont Johnson, Assistant Traffic Engineer

Mr. Johnson reported that his responsibility objective is to make roads safer by evaluating the need to reduce speed limits to 35 mph or less; traffic volume; how fast vehicles are traveling; the kind of vehicles; and determining pattern of time that issues are posed. The Police Department is contacted to monitor infractions. Problems may be remediated with speed bumps, lowering speed limit and roundabouts. Observation shows 85% of drivers go 32 mph or less under these conditions. Stop signs are not always the most efficient as the driver will speed up in between to make up for loss time.

Mr. Johnson further reported that it takes only one letter to file complaint and begin an evaluation process. Dr. Bowers committed to following up in writing re St. Charles.

STORMWATER DRAINAGE: Paul Smith, Assistant Director, Department of Public Works

Mr. Smith reported that \$50 million is requested to address drainage. Seven thousand (7,000) drainage issues are in progress. One thousand two hundred (1,200) homes are in flood area. As of 2014, new regulations on drainage allows drainage to go into Creek; this has to be slowed. Funding will be used to increase pipe size, regrading and cleaning out.

EDUCATION/SCHOOLS: Susan Moore, Director, Henrico County Public Schools Department of Facilities

Ms. Moore reported that the County has seventy-two (72) schools occupying 7.5 million square feet. A bond referendum is proposed for \$340.5 million. The referendum appears on different areas of the ballot. Approval of funding does not raise taxes.

Some of the proposals include education living building (environmental science satellite that supports itself with natural resources); onsite rebuilds (demolish old and build new with learning environment changes more cost effective); and new elementary schools (e.g. 3 in Green City area). Ms. Moore referred residents to website at Henrico.US for further information.

FIRE STATION REFERENDUM: Susan Moore (in absence of representation)

An \$83.8 million bond is proposed to address a 5-year plan. The following Fire Stations will be impacted: Fire Stations 1, 6 and 11, rebuild and relocate. Fire Stations 14, 15 and 16, refresh. More women are now firefighters and facilities need to be more accommodating. As well, firefighters are working 24-hour shifts and require relevant accommodations.

The Training Center at Woodman Road needs to be modernized. Propose to build a new animal adoption center (a no-kill facility). This is a \$15 million project in partnership with the Humane Society.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Paul Smith (in absence of representation)

\$37 million is proposed for improvements.

COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE: Paul Johnson, Community Maintenance Manager

Mr. Johnson gave an overview of community maintenance violations and reviewed a 6-month report on maintenance code violations on personal property. An update is provided to complainant after a follow-up is conducted – either by email or response to call in. Residents raised the following concerns with response accordingly: *Q. Do we have a Neighborhood Clean-up Program?* A. Handled by Public Utilities *Q. What is code for trucks parked on street impeding 2-way traffic?* A. Not in violation if less than 10,000 lbs. *Q. School buses parked on street?* A. Flexible; call Transportation Office. *Q. Trees that affect visibility at intersection?* A. Call in complaint. *Q. Why is so much space paved at Chamberlayne Farms Shopping Center?* A. Carry over from previous years when merchant growth was anticipated.

Mr. Johnson further reported that a new carwash and a convenience store are under construction at the Parham and Brook Road Shopping Center. Lowe's will be redoing it's parking lot.

SECURITY: Officer Hearn, Community Officer, Henrico Police Department

Officer Hearn announced welcoming the birth of his third daughter was his reason for not attending National Night Out (NNO) in August. Congratulations were extended.

Officer Hearn reported that there is a spike in the homeless population notably activity behind Dollar Tree. Resources have been offered. Old Days Inn property fencing is falling and there is also the matter of homeless increase on the site. Officer Hearn is working with the property owner. A newsletter was distributed addressing wrong-way parking on residential streets. As a result, violations are down. The 911 Center is short staffed; callers may get someone or a message.

Residents raised questions and concerns as noted and Officer Hearn responded accordingly.

Residents' questions/concerns: Double parking on street at Khler Field event. Driveway in a curve; inability to safely exit driveway because of parked car. Panhandlers at 95 and Chamberlayne danger to public. Safety concern at new 7-11 and Family Dollar stores. What lawbreaking charges are given to the homeless? What right does resident have to know what is going on when there is frequent police activity at a residence or on the street? Increased drop off from a van of young people canvassing the neighborhood.

Officer Hearn's responses: Call and report parking concerns at the time of the incident. Panhandlers and homeless are offered resources for personal assistance. They may be charged with trespassing, given a ticket if failure to cease act or taken into custody on reports of drugs or sexual assault. Call Police Department records for concern re frequent police activity. However, specific information may not be shared regarding the nature of the call. Re canvassing, Ring Star cameras are a good resource to monitor door and street activity. Some activity are scams and some are legitimate. Suggest putting up signs to avoid solicitation.

MARKETING: Dr. Bowers referred attendees to NHCA website for updates on current community information. Ms. Cathy Wysong, resident/member, distributed a flier re Cat & Company Jazz Brunch on BoomtownRichmond.com and radio 101.7 FM & 92.9 FM. Ms. Wysong is the host and singing artist on the program's Sunday Brunch, 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon. Further, NHCA is advertised during the broadcast.

NHCA MEMBERSHIP: Carmen Daugherty, VP Membership

Ms. Daugherty reported that membership is 30 less than the previous year. She will follow up. Thirty-five (35) new households have joined.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Philip Kirby, Treasurer

Mr. Kirby distributed and reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the period ending August 31, 2022.

Beginning Balance as of June 1, 2022	\$18,088.61
Income	<u>\$14,790.12</u>
Sub-Total	\$32,878.73
Less Expenses	<u>\$11,524.81</u>
Account Balance as of 08/31/2022	\$21,353.92*

*The account balance is inclusive of Capital Campaign Funds of \$7,815.50 raised FY 16-FY23

Mr. Kirby announced that SwimRVA rented our facility for Summer use. Our new parking lot rental fee is \$1,000 per month. Landscaping cost increased due to weeding and seeding services.

50/50 DRAWING: Thank you to member Rolanda Burns for donation of gifts for the drawing.

(\$72 raised/ \$36 drawing)	Jackie Grant
"Trust in the Lord" inscribed plate	Pat Taylor
Daily Planner	Lisa Walker

ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Phyllis M. Washington, Assistant Secretary