

Larchmont Edgewater Civic League
Candidates Forum and Meeting
April 26, 2018

The April 26, 2018 meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with a Norfolk Ward 2 Candidates Forum. The forum was organized and moderated by Venessa August, West Ghent Civic League President.

Forum speakers:

- Courtney Doyle, candidate for City Council
- Tom R. Warburton, IV, candidate for City Council
- Donald A. Roby, Jr., candidate for City Council
- Tanya K. Bhasin, candidate for School Board
- Brittany A. Shearer, candidate for School Board
- Nathaniel G. Kinnison, candidate for School Board

Each candidate spoke for five minutes stating her/his background, statement of goals, and summary of strengths vis à vis the position sought. These brief introductions were followed by questions that had been previously submitted to the West Ghent Civic League. Candidates had two minutes to respond to the questions. For the Council candidates, questions included the topics of sea level rise and council members' primary responsibilities. For the School Board candidates, questions included what the School Board is doing well and what needs to be improved, home schooling, the Academy for Discovery at Lakewood and how this model might be expanded or reproduced elsewhere in the city, and strategies to slow or stop the exodus of teachers (and families with elementary and secondary school-age students) to neighboring cities.

II. LECL President Nate Kinnison called the Civic League meeting to order at 8:20 p.m. at the close of the candidate forum. Mr. Kinnison introduced the LECL board members.

III. Minutes of February meeting. Robert Rogers moved that the minutes from the February meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by G.M. Ziller. The minutes were approved as posted.

IV. Reports of standing committees.

A. Neighborhood Watch.

- a. CRO/ODU Crime Stats. An alternate Norfolk police officer reported for Officer White (who was not able to come to the meeting, as he was at Citizen's Police Academy), followed by a representative from the ODU police department. There were several questions about the recent overturned truck at Hampton Blvd and Bolling Avenue. The questions were deferred for a special LECL meeting on May 24th.

- B. Treasurer's report. Treasurer Cornelia Johnson stated that our current balance is \$9683.37. Deposits since the February meeting: \$221.78. Checks: \$133.50. Paid members: 40 families. Membership dues are \$10.00 per year.

VI. Marketing and Web.

- A. ISO newsletter content editor and Facebook page editor.

- B. Community Partnerships.
 - a. New Farm Market at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd – Wednesdays, 3 – 7 p.m., rain or shine.
 - b. Hair of the Dog Eatery.
- C. Sheray Patillo, our Neighborhood Development Specialist, introduced herself and spoke about the Building Neighborhoods program. Sheray.Patillo@norfolk.gov.

V. Unfinished business. Stop signs installed on Bolling at Carillo and Argall. Nate explained the process we must follow to get new stop signs approved by the city.

VI. New Business.

- A. Green Stream Technologies, Inc. An environmental technologies firm based in Norfolk that uses the power of technology to help create smarter, safer, and more resilient communities. Green Stream’s spokeswoman described the “Turn around, don’t drown” program – to reduce loss and improve safety in terms of standing water. The technology is a sensor network that reports flooding automatically. The Green Stream sensor network communicates to the cloud, using autonomous power. The sensors are wireless, can be installed anywhere, and are made in the U.S. Green Stream’s President, Jim Gray, showed us what the new sensor looks like.
- B. Truck overturned on Hampton Blvd on April 21. Special meeting to discuss: May 24th. It’s possible that we could get a multi-civic league meeting to discuss this topic. With the voices of multiple civic leagues, we will have a better chance of influencing City Council.
- C. Request for a stop sign at Powhatan and Walnut Hill (deferred to May 24th meeting).

VII. Announcements:

- A. Future meetings: May 24 (special); June 15, August 16, October 18, December 12.
- B. Bricks are still available from the old Larchmont Elementary School
- C. G.M. Ziller: Larchmont United Methodist Church concert this coming Sunday. On Tuesday, April 24, City Council approved the demolition of the four houses that the church owns (located to the immediate west of the church). An 18 space parking lot and a large greenspace will replace the homes.