

Minutes from March 30, 2015
Presented April 27, 2015
Shore Drive Community Coalition General Meeting
Submitted by David Williams

Meeting Location: Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad Meeting Hall
Meeting Start: Called to order at 7:35 pm by Todd Solomon. 26 attendees.

Special Guests: Mr. Clay Bernick, and Ms. Whitney McNamara, from the Virginia Beach Environment and Sustainability Office, and Ms. Shannon Hulst Jarbeau from Wetlands Watch.

Special Presentations:

Community Rating System (CRS). Mr. Clay Bernick, Ms. Whitney McNamara and Ms. Shannon Holtz Jarbeau discussed the Community Rating System (CRS) program, a component of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). FEMA Region III (Philadelphia) coordinates the CRS program for our state. NFIP premiums will begin increasing measurably this April 2015 as some residents in potential flood areas have experienced. When cities elect to participate in the CRS program, flood insurance premiums can be reduced annually from 5-45% for policy holders. Previously, Virginia Beach has chosen to not participate in the CRS program for several reasons but the City Manager has directed that position be reviewed by various city departments. A Policy Report will be presented to the City Council shortly for a vote to determine if the city should participate. Mr. Bernick stated that the city is moving towards participating. He believes that with the city's flood mitigation programs already in place, residents in the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA/100 year flood zone) could qualify for up to a 10% premium discount. Residents outside of the SFHA in the Preferred zone (not requiring Flood Insurance) will not qualify for premium discounts as they pay the lowest premiums presently. Mr. Bernick recommended that residents in potential flood areas get an Elevation Certificate for their property. A certificate can be obtained for about \$300-500, but could save the property owner a considerable amount if mitigation measures can be implemented. If any part of the property's structure (patio, porch, air conditioning unit, etc) falls within a lower flood area (greater chance to be flooded), the insurance premium for the entire property would be at the more expensive rate. Conversely, if measures are taken to eliminate the flood threat to the property, lower NFIP rates could result. Currently, Virginia Beach has the highest number (27,000) of flood insurance policies in effect in Virginia. The city has about 600 properties that have experienced repetitive flood loss damages (\$1,000 +). Current city building codes require a minimum of 2 feet elevation above the SFHA (100 year flood zone) for all new structures. Recently Norfolk has set 3 feet as the minimum above the SFHA for new construction. While the cost at time of construction to elevate to the required level is minimal, once a structure has been completed, it would cost \$100,000 to \$150,000 to raise a structure even just a few feet above the SFHA flood plain.

Officers' Reports:

Treasurer Kathy Pawlak - Submitted an ending balance as of 3/30/15, Checking \$6,833.75, Special projects \$1,527.55. Currently 10 associations have submitted dues.
Secretary David Williams - Minutes from February 2015 approved with no corrections.

Vice President Wally Damon – Commented on the March Bayfront Advisory Commission meeting. BAC was asked to consider asking the city to include the Brock Center (Pleasure House Point/Chesapeake Bay Fund Headquarters/Lynnhaven River Now Headquarters) on the city's proposed new Trolley route. BAC is reviewing.

President Todd Solomon – Discussed the methods used for the naming of the new Lesner bridge. Mr. Solomon recognized Ms. Michelle Zimmerman who presented the potential flaws in the manner in which BAC completed the calculations on the voter count for the bridge naming.

Old Business: President Solomon commented that BAC did not discuss the method for counting votes before voting took place for the naming of the new bridge, but has now amended the totals. The final name will be selected by the Commonwealth's House of Delegates.

Information on multiple opportunities for community involvement was presented.

New Business – no new business was presented.

Next SDCC General Meeting – Monday, April 27, 2015 at 7:30 pm in the Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad Hall.

Meeting Adjourned – 9:10 pm Motion to adjourn was made by Mark Walker, and 2nd by Empsy Munden. The Motion passed unanimously.