

Minutes from 29 AUG 2016
Presented 26 SEP 2016
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 7:33 by Todd Solomon. 22 attendees

Officer's Reports:

Treasurer's Report- Kathy Pawlak

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| Balance as of 29 AUG 2016 | \$7,263.45 |
| Special Projects Account | \$1,499.55 |
| Total memberships 2016 | 20 |

Secretary's report – David Williams

Tonight's meeting was opened with Ms. Michaella Lynch and her sister from Bay Lake Pines Girl Scout Troop 475 leading all assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance. She would discuss her "Community Pride" project following the scheduled presentation.

The Minutes from 25 July 2016 approved with two corrections (spelling of Council candidate Courtney LaLonde name corrected, occupation: banker)

President Todd Solomon introduced tonight's speakers; Captain Michael Ronan, Commanding Officer of the Special Operations Branch of VBPD and LT Jeffery Wilkerson of the Special Operation Branch VBPD. Captain Ronan stated that he has 32 years experience with SWAT, Bomb Squad, Motorcycle Division, Traffic Safety, and Accident Investigation. Shore Drive is situated both in Precinct 3 (West of Lesner Bridge) and Precinct 2 (East of the Lesner Bridge). The city is authorized 816 police officers, but is currently 80+ short (with 25 out for various injuries, sickness, or pregnancy).

Captain Ronan noted to all present that Virginia Beach is consistently one of the safest major cities in this country. His Special Ops Division has been monitoring both the parking issues in the Kendall Street area and speed enforcement along Shore Drive. He has been working with the military authorities to remind military members traveling to and from work to pay particular attention to the 35 mph speed limit on Shore Drive.

Captain Ronan discussed the recent fatal accidents on Shore Drive; 2500 block of Shore Drive in June where the driver fell asleep and hit a tree killing a passenger; Shore Drive and Pleasure House Road on 9 July where a pedestrian was hit. This was an alcohol related death as the pedestrian was intoxicated when struck by a vehicle. A force of 7 officers on DUI enforcement duties arrest approximately 2500 drivers a year in Virginia Beach.

The Accident Division led by Sgt. B.K.Wesseler has 5 investigators who respond to every fatal accident. DUI Enforcement Division is headed by Sgt. C.S. Brandt. Speed enforcement motorcycle units are coordinated by MPO B.K. Ricardo. Selecting the city areas for increased speed enforcement are determined by both the number of resident complaints and police traffic metrics.

Lt. Wilkerson discussed the 35 mph speed limit implemented by City Council (ed. note; assisted by the work completed by SDCC) in 2011. Police traffic units have spent 57 hours in the Kendall St. and the Shore Drive area. To date, of the 106 summons that have been issued, 84 were for speeding (including 3 for reckless driving/speeding), along with 7 warnings. He stated that 10 mph or less over the speed limit is considered

“discretionary” for issuing a ticket, while 20 mph over the speed limit is “reckless driving” which carries a penalty of up to one year in jail. His units are also enforcing the “No text while driving” and the “Seatbelt” laws.

Parking along Shore Drive and in neighborhoods was discussed. Lt. Wilkerson said that there are sufficient “No Parking” signs clearly posted, but enforcement can sometimes be tricky when it involves encroachment on private driveways and public right-of-ways. For a parking complaint or a crosswalk complaint, please call the police **non-emergency number 385-5000**, or LT Wilkerson’s desk at **385-5626**.

He discussed some important crosswalk issues (stopping or not stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks and current police enforcement) and wants to hear your issues. Send him an email at jwilkers@vbgov.com. Both CAPT. Ronan and LT Wilkerson believe that Virginia Beach is moving in the right direction with increased public information and education for related cycling and pedestrian safety programs. He emphasized that the city needs to continue in its public safety information efforts.

When CAPT Ronan was asked about the proposed traffic light at Lynnhaven Rd. and N. Greatneck Rd., he said that it had already been agreed upon long ago and would be installed when demonstrated traffic density numbers indicate the need.

President Todd Solomon then introduced Ms. Michaella Lynch who gave a presentation of her neighborhood beautification project for Bay Lake Pines. A total of 53 volunteers helped repair and paint a community wall, started a neighborhood “mini-library” stand to lend books near the community’s beach entrance. Her group built and painted the hut to house the books for sharing. All gathered applauded her noteworthy civic actions and beautiful community spirit.

Todd discussed the Marina Shores project to construct 261 rental units where the dry storage and parking lot are presently. He said that the project had not gone to the Planning Dept. yet and no date had been set. The city and the developer are ironing out issues with the present sand transfer area (temporary site for depositing clean Long Creek channel dredged material for transfer to beach replenishment areas.

Ms. Empsy Munden from Beaches and Waterways Advisory Commission commented on proposed city code changes regulating “Event Houses”. The commission has sent their recommendations to city staff for Council consideration and approval. If issues remain, the proposals would then go back to the Commission for rewrite.

VP Wally Damon discussed a current list of Public Works Dept. CIP projects. The list would be posted on the SDCC website if available from Public Works. A new residential project called “Ocean Bay Homes” is under consideration for the construction of 8 units of 3 story townhouses at Roanoke St and Shore Drive. Wally also mentioned that on 16 OCT, ALL TRAFFIC would be switched to the new bridge northern segment (2 lanes in each direction) while the current two bridge spans are demolished.

Todd mentioned that the new expanded city bus route between Vista Circle and 19th St via Shore Drive and Atlantic Ave. would start 1 May operating every 30 minutes and run through 31 Sept. The new bus route will include a bus stop in the state park (beach side). The daily start and stop times for the route were still to be determined.

There being no further discussions or new business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

David Williams

SDCC Secretary