

MINUTES – FOLO MEETING – MARCH 25, 2013, 3:30 PM

Nonprofit status –

We are incorporated with the State Corporation Commission as of March 8, 2013. The initial registration cost \$75, but in the future the annual registration fee will only cost \$25.00. We have a bank account with Townebank! It will be no service charge when we get IRS nonprofit status. We have a 3-month grace period to obtain the nonprofit status. If we don't make it by July 1 there will be a \$15/month service charge starting that month. Penny has a contact in the Friends of Indian River who may be willing to advise us on obtaining nonprofit status.

Loss of live oaks on Shore Drive and Dupont Circle –

Many unhappy citizens called the city planning department to protest the clearing of 4-5 live oaks on this lot in Ocean Park. As a result, Faith Christie, planning department liaison to the Bayfront Advisory Committee (BAC), issued an invitation for FOLO to present at the BAC meeting on Thursday, April 18 at 3:30 pm at the Virginia Beach Resort and Conference Center on Shore Drive. The BAC is composed of Planning Dept. staff, a couple of Shore Drive area City Councilmen and Planning Commissioners and Shore Drive businessmen. The presentation will consist of Jarrod, who will give his power point program, followed by Bob, who will discuss our desire to be part of the planning process when a building project involves cutting down live oaks. If possible, please plan to attend this meeting to see Jarrod's great presentation and show your support for FOLO!

Clay advised that we also make a presentation to the Resort Advisory Committee at the ocean front.

FOLO involvement in the planning process –

We are now the go-to group for many citizens who are very concerned and emotional about live oaks. By learning about projects that involve cutting down trees in the very early stages, the process will be more transparent and open.

Clay said that FOLO will receive copies of plans for building projects that involve cutting down live oaks during the preliminary Conditional Use Permit process. This will enable us to comment on the plan. Jarrod offered to assist builders/developers by suggesting modifications to provisional site plans that would accomplish the owner's goals and save the trees.

Sites where live oaks are at risk –

Members have heard of the following potential threats to live oaks:

1. the intersection of Cape Henry Towers and Shore Drive in conjunction with new Lesner Bridge;
 2. rumor of activity at the Wm. E. Wood office on Shore Drive;
 3. sale of the red cottage next to Chix Cycles at 3739 Shore Drive
- Clay will arrange a meeting for FOLO with a city Public Works staffer to discuss these issues.

Inventory of live oaks in Virginia Beach –

We discussed the need for an inventory of live oaks in the city. Susan volunteered to give us technical help on this – primarily a database she has used. Clay said a ranger at First Landing State Park did a paper map inventory of live oaks along Shore Drive a while back. He will try to find it for us. He suggested his office may be able to employ an intern to assist in this project (possibly with grant money). He will check to see if the Live Oak Trust Fund money can be used to purchase the necessary GPS equipment and other expenses for the inventory. Susan suggested we start with live oaks on city property and right-of-ways.

Susan also recommended that we compile a list of all the live oaks that have been cut down. She feels the number is high – and we need to track it. Susan also suggested we may want to order some signs that are available through Trees Virginia. They are meant to be placed near a tree to state the dollar value of the many different benefits the tree provides.

- Use of Live Oak Trust Fund Money

We discussed the possibility of another live oak giveaway. The LRNOW fall festival will be at the Ocean Front this year, and Clay does not feel this is a feasible venue for our give away. The group expressed interest in investing the money in live oak trees that Susan could arrange to plant in visible spots on city property. For example, live oaks will be planted to replace all the dead pine trees along Shore Drive.

- T-shirts

Larry volunteered to have an image drawn up for a FOLO T-shirt

- Tea Party

Larry also volunteered to touch basis with his friends at the beach who have a backyard of beautiful live oak trees to see if we could have a get together there.

- Festival Booth

Stephen brought several drawings of the table-top display used by his professional organization at trade shows. He will bring it to our next meeting. It looks good, and this is an item the Live Oak Trust Fund can purchase for us. Is the display waterproof? This is essential.

- Arbor Day

The city will celebrate Arbor Day at the new College Park Elementary School, 1110 Bennington Road, on Friday April 12th at 10 am. A live oak will be planted, for the 2nd Arbor Day in a row. The Council of Garden Clubs is providing the tree, the City tree, as the first tree of 50 to be planted in honor of the city's 50th birthday.

- Next Meeting

We will meet on Monday, April 22nd, at 3:30 pm at Bayside Rec Center.