

Minutes from 27 NOV 2017
Presented 18 DEC 2017
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 7:36 by Todd Solomon. 17 attendees

Officer's Reports:

Treasurer's Report- Kathy Pawlak

Balance as of 11/27/2017 \$7,558.05

Special Projects Account \$1,499.55

Total memberships 2017 16

Secretary's minutes from 30 OCT 2017 accepted with 2 minor corrections.

President Todd Solomon opened tonight's meeting by introducing Mr. Chris Wojtowicz, PE, Engineering Construction Manager for the city of VB Public Works Department to provide an update on the Shore Drive Improvement Phase 3 project (from Vista Circle to St. Croix St). Project will include safety improvements, traffic signal upgrades, drainage, and road grade improvements. Project is expected to cost \$23M. Currently, 90% Design Phase has been completed. Construction is expected to begin 8/2019 and end 11/2021. There have been several major changes to increase the width of the sidewalks and bike paths. The traffic lights will have the new blinking yellow arrow feature (instead of the red arrow) to enable left turns when clear of oncoming traffic or pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Mr. Wojtowicz stated that provisions will be made to protect when possible the numerous Live Oaks along Shore Dr. Street lighting will be improved to LED to limit light pollution (Dark Sky Compliant) while allowing sufficient lighting of the road. Light fixtures will be the same as on the Lesner Bridge but will be owned and maintained by the city.

Ms. Penny Brown from Westminster Canterbury expressed her concerns that the medians might be reduced too much by lane widening, which would make it more difficult for cars turning left to enter or leave the complex. Todd Solomon commented that several recently approved Shore Drive area projects (Marina Shores/Lynnhaven Rd., Baylakes assisted living complex, and Phase III) indicated a decreased concern for driver safety, especially for senior drivers. Ms. Brown emphasized that the westbound acceleration lane leaving WMC needed to remain.

Mr. Wojtowicz said his most difficult project requirement will be to maintain 4 lanes of traffic while construction of phase III. City communications staff added the requirement to put in upgraded cable to support fiber optics, part of connecting every traffic signal in the city to the central maintenance center. This would permit better traffic signal light synchronization. He commented that so far, no buildings have been condemned. He said that Shore Drive would be regraded to improve drainage.

Mike Mombaca is the point of contact for the Cape Henry Ditch project which may be started before the SD Phase III project. Project will clean out the ditch which has

become badly silted, and widened. All this will help storm water flow out to Long Creek and reduce the area's flooding potential.

Vice President Wally Damon discussed the recent Bayfront Advisory Commission (BAC) meeting. The Planning Commission will meet 4 DEC to discuss the Air B&B issue. On 13 DEC, the Planning Commission will take public comments on the Air B&B issue.

BAC noted that an ongoing scam is occurring where a business will set up valet parking service on city property. This has been reported in the past. Available spaces for public parking remain at a premium.

Wally commented that with the approval of the Marina Shores apartments project, more accidents at Lynnhaven Rd. and N. Great Neck Rd will happen. He felt that the speed for that northbound section of N. Great Neck Road should be reduced to 35 mph.

President Solomon commented that the traffic light on N. Great Neck Road and Lynnhaven Road was not deemed warranted by city staffers. (ed. note, Because not much traffic currently comes from the eastern side of Lynnhaven Rd, traffic counts to determine the need for a traffic light would be biased).

Ocean Park Civic League wants Phase IV Shore Drive improvements to be funded and moved up in time. Pres. Andy Broyles, Tim Solanic and others plan to meet with Councilmember Jones to discuss.

Todd sent a letter to City Council requesting the purchase of two "Your speed" signs for Shore Drive. He told City Council that he didn't want temporary trailer signs, but permanent signs to be placed in the median. SDCC is awaiting City Council's reply. SDCC is considering buying one sign if the city will procure one.

Empsy Munden, a member of the city's Beaches and Waterways Commission stated that B&WAC had presented their final recommendations on "Event Houses" to City Council on 20 AUG 2016 and that City Council had passed the Commission's recommendations to staff for comments. No comments from staff or City Council have been received by the B&WAC to date. She expressed her concerns. She believes that event houses present a huge threat to public safety as currently regulated.

Todd reminded everyone that the city would be holding a public meeting related to the city's plans for sea-level rise. Meetings will be held 11 DEC at Cook Elementary and Cox HS on 25 JAN 2018. Both meetings will be from 6-8 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

David Williams

Secretary SDCC