

**Southampton Citizens Association
Board Meeting – Minutes
February 16, 2010**

Members Present:

Mary Blanchard, John Cardwell, Brian Hampton, Jean Marie Hay, Bob Scott, Sue Stewart, Bert Waters

Members Absent: Rob Bryden, Greg Garrison, Jeanne Dorman, Jonathan Young, Wendy Inge, Jeff Donahue

Guests:

Kathy Graziano, David Hathcock, Bruce Carney

Approval of January Minutes: Approved with spelling errors corrected.

Treasurers Report – John Cardwell

We have a balance of \$9221.70 not counting several dues checks received in the past week.

Council Report – Kathy Graziano/David Hathcock

The February District meeting at St. Luke Lutheran Church was cancelled because of heavy snow. The Mayor has announced plans to change the organization of Teams, based on police precincts and police sectors. David showed concern that the priorities of our neighborhood may fall behind with this type of reorganization. The Farmer's Market opens May 1. On May 22, there will be a rededication of the lake at Forest Hill Park. Friends of Forest Hill Park plan to name the pedestrian bridge as a memorial for the Harvey family.

The Mayor's budget should be posted for review by March 22. City Council has requested the Mayor to post the budget proposal on-line. One proposal from the Mayor's office is moving to a semi-annual personal property tax payment, rather than an annual payment plan. This would be beneficial both for the city and for property owners who pay their taxes. This would make no difference for property owners who have mortgages and pay monthly. The city would save a few million dollars by not having to borrow as much money on a short term basis as interest is paid out of the budget.

David had a meeting with Public Works concerning their performance in our district. They are moving away from chip sealing roads to repaving completely or adding a slurry application. There is a new cold weather pothole fill, expensive but necessary in this weather. The snow removal was expensive, and the snow impacted leaf removal. This may be the last year we have vacuum leaf collection.

Committee Reports

Schools – Jean Marie Hay

The big news with schools is the budget. The School Board is presenting and voting on budget tonight which includes a 17.8 million shortfall. Another 11 million may have to be cut. There's no good news in it. Jean Marie is trying to fight for music education and athletics because she feels strongly that our kids need those types of programs. Jean Marie also mentioned that the athletic programs at Albert Hill Middle School, where her daughter attends, are already run on a shoe string budget. The Spanish immersion program which is offered at Southampton Elementary may be eliminated.

The Patrick Henry charter school is a public school. It is entitled to public school financing with the understanding that the central administration can hold back to pay for central administration. Patrick Henry is expected to get 80 percent funded per pupil. So far there are 130 slots, and 117 children have applied. Patrick Henry still has significant issues. It is not a foregone conclusion that the school will be open on July 1, 2010.

Communications – Bob Scott/Brian Hampton

No report concerning the web site. The facebook page is up and running. The winter newsletter was recently published. Ad revenue totaled \$200. The deadline for submissions for the May newsletter issue is April 14. Please contact Mary if you are interested in soliciting local businesses for ads.

Area Development

The Area Development Committee sent a letter to Mr. Newcomb in support of the Forest Hill widening project and stressed pedestrian and bicycling access. Willow Oaks Country Club is very supportive of the project. There is road and drainage work planned on the corner of Cherokee and Chellowe because of road erosion. The work has been put on hold because of the recent weather.

New Business

Kathy and David discussed a recent meeting they participated in with Mrs. Jones, the owner of Jones and Jones Adult Home on Forest Hill Avenue, a DSS licensing agent and the Police Sector Lieutenant. There have been complaints from neighbors about panhandling and inappropriate public behavior by residents. The Lieutenant said that the police department can cite for public nuisance on private property. Mrs. Jones took note of the Lieutenant's concerns.

Brian asked about the possibility of SCA offering a flag with the SCA logo for sale. The Forest Hill Park Association has had success with their flag fundraiser. A suggestion to develop a neighborhood yard work, babysitting, and odd job registry was proposed. The Forest Hill Neighborhood Association is going to sponsor (radio control) boat races on the park lake as a fundraiser.