

Board of Directors:

*President: Andrew Broyles
Vice President: Ryan Cochran
Treasurer: Blake Norris
Secretary: Betty Demers
North Side Rep: Paul Schubert
South Side Rep: Tim Solanic
At-Large Rep: Brian Snyder
At-Large Rep: Danny Murphy*



Ocean Park Civic League
P.O. Box 55385
Virginia Beach VA 23471
www.opcl.org

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

June 13, 2019

Brock Environmental Center

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. and opened with President Broyles leading the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence in remembrance for the victims of the Municipal Center Building 2 shooting.
2. Crime Report was suspended as Floatopia response plan is the evening's focus. OPCL Business agenda would be addressed after the City's Floatopia enforcement presentation.
3. President Broyles opened the meeting with introductions of City officials, community leaders and OPCL board members in attendance at this heavily attended meeting by the community and local media.
4. President Broyles provided a brief review of the criminal activity witnessed in the Ocean Park neighborhood and beaches by its residents. He continued with a recap of a recent meeting attended by the leaders of Aeries on the Bay, Chesapeake Beach and Baylake Pines, outlining a unified position:
 - a. The Bay Front communities do not support Floatopia, and similar unsanctioned events
 - b. The City and Civic leagues need to have a continual open line of communication
 - c. Existing laws need to be enforced.
 - d. Event permits need to be obtained and enforced.
5. President Broyles turned the meeting over to Dave Hansen, City Manager. Mr. Hansen made his opening remarks, emphasizing the City's commitment to the Bayfront communities and unsanctioned events in the shadow of the shootings at the Municipal Center on 31 May.
6. Captain Reo Hatfield, 3rd Precinct Virginia Beach Police Department, was given the floor and reviewed the crime statistics for the Bayfront on Memorial Day weekend over the last 3 years. He also presented a very comprehensive and aggressive enforcement plan for 4th of July weekend.
7. Mark Johnson, City of Virginia Beach Public Works, presented his department's plan to increase the number of trash receptacles and the addition and servicing of portable toilets at public access points in Ocean Park commencing July 2nd and with removal on July 8th.

8. Mr. Hansen and President Broyles again took the floor for a Question and Answer session. (see attached) The City's presentation was concluded with Mr. Hansen restating the City's commitment for public activities held on the beach to be positive, welcoming, respectful and lawful.
9. Many attendees dispersed following the City's presentation, but a quorum of members did remain.
10. The minutes from the previous General Membership meeting were presented visually by screen projection. The minutes were approved as presented.
11. President Broyles presented the Treasurer's Report. The report was approved as presented.
12. Jill Doczi presented an update on the July 3rd fireworks. As this is a contracted event, she expressed a concern that there will be a financial loss if the event is canceled/postponed due to circumstances beyond our control (i.e. weather). She proposed the purchase of event insurance, estimated at \$1000, with the cost shared across neighborhood communities, proportionally based on neighborhood size.

MOTION: For the OPCL to contribute a proportional share of the cost of event insurance (estimated at \$300). Motion was seconded and approved by a majority show of hands.

13. Jenny Neyland reported briefly on membership and facilitated a drawing for a sponsor gift certificate.
14. Tim Solanic presented an update on the status of Phase IV and indicated that funding has been restored. President Broyles added that the pavement of Shore Drive between Marlin Bay and the Lesner Bridge is set for this year once the crosswalk reaches certain construction milestones at E. Stratford and Shore Drive. The crosswalk completion is delayed due to late delivery of materials coming from Nebraska.
15. President Broyles announced the appointment of a Parliamentarian, Cole Trower, to the Civic League.
16. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Attachment: Q&A notes:

Most of what follows is paraphrased.

Q: Why is the city catering to this event without a related permit?

A: (Hansen) It's the right thing to do with the expected crowds; to be accommodating to residents, taxpayers and visitors. Plan is to be flexible and aggressive in law enforcement.

Q: Why can't the city hold the organizer accountable for written threats expressed on social media to the community?

A: (Hansen) City attorneys are reviewing the public comments for a possible course of action

Q: Why is the organizer not being required to obtain a permit? Response by the city appears to be making it easier for them - encouraging the event by catering to it.

A: (Hansen) Floatopia probably would not be issued a permit

Q: Have the plans been broadcast for attendee awareness?

A: (Hansen) Yes, More of that effort will follow on public website(s)

Q: Can the fine on a parking ticket be increased from \$20 - something more impactful?

A: (Hansen) Legality needs to be researched. Process needs to be followed to change laws.

Q: Towing: Is there a law or a policy preventing police-initiated towing?

A: (Hatfield) City has policy on what conditions a vehicle will be towed as posted on VBGOV. The neighborhood is currently being evaluated by me (VBPD) and Public Works for the placement and replacement of no parking signs.

From VBGOV:

- Parking citations do not result in your vehicle being towed.
- On-street or public property towing is directed by the Virginia Beach Police Department for public safety purposes.
- The following incidents can result in a vehicle being towed:
 - On-street parking as a result of an RPP violation (Residential Parking Permit)
 - Parking in front of a fire hydrant
 - Blocking access to a private driveway

Q: Public works plan addresses the beach more than the neighborhood - what is the plan for the neighborhood?

A: (Johnson) Trash cans can be added on neighborhood streets at beach access paths.

Q: Threats have been issued on social media - why no warrants?

A: (Hansen) Lawyers need to review and determine a way forward.

Q: What happens if the party moves down the beach, east or west?

A: (Hatfield) Police have the mobility to move the resources in response to an event move.

Q: What is the contact info for police?

A: (Hansen) 385-5000 for non-emergency; 911 for emergency. Civic leaders will pass along additional contact info.

Q: Streets are narrow, often restricting emergency vehicles. What will be done?

A: (Hatfield) Streets are being remarked for no parking. (Fire Chief): Fire/ EMS will have smaller resources for medical response. At a minimum walk stretchers down streets if needed.

Q: In regards to beverage cooler inspection without probable cause: how will open containers be enforced?

A: (Hatfield) Explained that possession of open containers with an alcoholic beverage – “including red solo cups” are a violation of the law. Carrying a 12 pack on your shoulder to the beach is not.
– Bottom line: If you are drinking, being uncivil and acting out - you will be approached by law enforcement.

Q: What are the rules for crossing property lines while parking? How many wheels need to be over property lines to be considered parked on private property?

A: (Hatfield) Parking will be enforced by the measure of posted signs, not invisible property lines . Residents can have cars towed if they are parked on private party. Additionally, having no trespassing signs posted on the property can be enforceable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Q: How will authorities enforce alcohol being brought onto the beach from boaters on the water?

A: (Hatfield) Marine units will be on site from several agencies for law enforcement (Coast Guard response to support request is pending) to enforcement. Open Container rules are harder to enforce when at anchor. Marine safety issues will be actively enforced.

Additionally there will parking enforcement by bicycled officers patrolling the neighborhood.