

Suburban Acres Civic League

Minutes for the General Meeting held on: February 14, 2022 (Zoom Conference Call)

Prepared by: Gabriel Sanchez, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Louis Gabriel, President, at 6:30 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Community Resource Officer Report: Officer Toth – 3 larcenies from Harris Teeter parking lot, stolen auto that was left running 2:45AM recovered 11:00AM same day couple miles away. Kenmore Drive – area got hit with 5 incidents from auto 3 laptops broken windows and 2 larcenies auto parts. Catalytic converter theft. 1 violator today on Thole St issued summonses for speeding. Officer explained his tactics for radar enforcement checking traffic on Granby St. and Thole St.

Officer wants to educate Archer's Green apartment complex regarding larcenies from auto vehicles that are left open or unattended.

Treasurer's Report: February 1st 2022, \$7041.72 - 21 members joined.

Speaker: Jose Benitez and Kari Diop, Norfolk Department of Parks & Recreation

DPR will talk about the upcoming public engagement plan for the redesign/reconstruction of the Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center/Library, as well as upcoming recreation programs and activities around the city.

Starting tomorrow – virtual public workshop conducted by VIA and Pros Consultants – preliminary dialogue regarding what's going to happen to recreation and library facility at Norfolk Fitness and Wellness Center and Library.

Karen: people fear libraries would close if new library constructed.

Jose: too soon to determine. Not enough information to answer that.

Louie: very early phase currently for type of design. Tomorrow will do survey with independent facilitator for public input. May we pose questions tonight to provide to City in lieu of going to workshop? Asking to provide to City neighborhood's concerns and input.

Jose: highly suggest attending the workshop, but he may share questions and concerns to City.

Karen: What is timeline for planning, design, and construction? 4 million dollars allocated for design?

Jose: no timeline at this point. Yes 4 mil dollars allocated for design.

Kari: provided PowerPoint presentation regarding Recreation Centers hours of operation and activities schedule, Norfolk Emerging Leaders (youth ages 16-21 summer program paid opportunity), after school program (160 monthly per child), Spring Break Camp (\$50 per child/\$25 Power Up), Youth Summer Camp (June 27 - August 19, 2022 \$150 per child/\$75 Power Up), and other Upcoming Spring Programs. All information can be obtained on Facebook Page: Norfolk Parks and Recreation. She may provide information to Karen.

Scott Guirlinger: \$4M is allocated for current fiscal year, ending June 30

Jose: yes, but it is in multiyear account.

Louie: encouraged to attend the City's workshop to bring up issues regarding swimming pools.

Ben Potts: no senior programs were brought up in Kari's presentation.

Kari: all those senior programs are operated by Prime Plus, a private non-profit.

Ben: are they coming back once facility is redesigned and reopened?

Jose: Prime Plus were invited and that's the idea for them to be included in workshop.

Louie: it's best to voice concerns in tomorrow's workshop regarding swimming pools and Prime Plus, but these are used and enjoyed by our neighborhood.

Karen: walking paths would be nice. Granby High School provides a track after hours, but it'll be nicer to have walking path and beautified area.

Louie: having a beautified walking path would be excellent with Master Gardeners.

Louie: are they looking at taking down entire building or renovations?

Jose: we don't know, but it'll depend on what's requested and what current capacity can provide. Whatever the public requests will determine whether renovations or reconstruction will be needed. Jose took down notes what he determined community wants, what libraries would like and what Parks and Recreation would like.

Scott Guirlinger encouraged residents to visit facilities in other localities to see what works and what doesn't work. "Our Wards Corner Civic League" visited Cuffee Community Center/Library in Chesapeake and Brittingham Midtown Community/Aquatic Center in Newport News.

Nate Kinnison (Larchmont Civic League): belongs to swimming organizations and Parks and Rec Commission, he hears a lot about concerns that region residents want Norfolk to maintain a competitive swimming facility.

Christina: wants fitness rooms reopened; wants saunas that works; programs for children to be preoccupied while parents use gyms; classes for folks for people for below 55 years old.

Ayesha Stewart: wants media classes, movie nights for families, support group for families (coping for stress, grief, etc. during times of Covid)

Louie: do these facilities rent out rooms for families for parties?

Kari: not currently due to Covid, but typically yes.

Announcements:

Encouraged to become member of Nextdoor App.

Task Force Meeting: Speeding is a nationwide problem going up since Covid started. Wards Corner commercial discussion was good, but city seems optimistic that development looks promising. Harris Teeter gas station construction starts soon. DePaul hospital will go up for sale.

Adopt a Spot March 26th at 9AM – Civil League provides letter of volunteer hours and photo to schools for students who volunteer.

Drop off motor oil, electronics, and auto parts at Honda of Norfolk - owner is Dave Hunter.

Little green signs by Metronet will be digging and putting in lines on Thole St.

Next Meeting is March 14th 2022

Old Business: None

New Business: None

MOTIONS PASSED: NONE

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:30 pm