

BELLAMY MANOR ESTATES CIVIC LEAGUE MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 18, 2017 7 PM Place: Kempsville Recreation Center In attendance: 60

* Dan Adams, President of the BMECL called the meeting to order at 7 pm. Those assembled recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

* Officer Jarvis Lynch of the 4th precinct was present again. He characterized the precinct as "extremely crimeless". More concerns with burglar alarms and stray dogs than with crime itself. He acknowledged BMECL's concerns with speeding on Edwin & Timberlake, stating that cut-throughs between major roads are always a problem. There is currently a speeding officer appointed for each of the 3 shifts. In response to a question he stated that there are currently 80 total personnel in the precinct.

* Dan Adams welcomed our speaker for the evening, Jessica Abbott, City Council member from the Kempsville district. He also invited suggestions for future Civic League meetings. Jessica introduced herself, articulated the major issues currently under consideration by the City Council and welcomed questions. She invited Mark Johnson (operations engineer for Public Works) to be present as well. Jessica was elected to her first term on Council last November. She lives in Indian Lakes. Issues that were addressed at the recent City Council Retreat and are being worked on include:

1) The city Arena, which was approved in 2015, but which has been a matter of controversy since. A 60-day extension on financing the loan for the Arena through JPMorgan was recently granted by the Council.

2) City-wide compensation of employees, including what fringe benefits can be provided that may not be offered by other employers, longevity bonuses, and alternative work locations, all with an eye to better retention of employees.

3) Hurricane preparation and flood mitigation. Jessica stated that coastal areas all over the nation face great flooding risks. Trying to prevent hurricane flooding is probably impossible. The city is trying to bring every area up to the same standards for 10-year flooding.

* Mark Johnson took the floor at this point to further address local flooding issues. His department is responsible for many operations including maintaining flood ditches. They are trying to reduce this maintenance from an 18-year cycle to an 8-year cycle. The Providence Road ditch has had no maintenance for 6 years. He announced that this ditch would be cleaned out within the next 4 weeks. He also shared that there are 31 watersheds in Virginia Beach, and water from our subdivision flows into the North Landing River.

* IN Q & A, Jessica spoke further about the idea of citizens "adopting a drain" an idea that originated in San Francisco. This is about citizens taking responsibility for keeping the accesses to drains clear, not about going down into the drains themselves. Another question involved asking about flotation devices provided for every police car. While generally agreed this was a good idea, there is a lot of equipment that goes into police cars already so this may be difficult. Everyone present was encouraged to have flotation devices for themselves.

* After Jessica Abbott and Mark Johnson departed, the regular business of BMECL followed.

* (Treasurer's Report) Rebecca Fenska reported that there is currently a balance of \$ 6964.

* John Baldwin presented the BMECL minutes of 5/15/16, which were accepted as summarized.

* Ynez Peterson reported that the Yard of the Month Committee presented the September's award to the owners of 4817 Admiration Drive.

* Roger Farr (Neighborhood Watch) reported that there have only been 3 reported crimes in BME since the May meeting, all of them on Edwin Drive, including a mailbox destruction and a home larceny in which \$ 22,000 worth of rings were stolen. He also mentioned that there have been reports on NEXTdoor of delivered packages being stolen from front porches, and cautioned vigilance, especially as the holidays approach.

* Heather Brinkerhoff (Outreach Committee) thanked those who put out the American flags for Memorial Day & July 4th weekends, and asked for more volunteers for Veteran's Day. She reported that donations for the Beach Bag program in June were very generous, with over \$ 900 in servings of food and drinks provided to elementary school families in our area over the summer months. The Pack the Backpack initiative in August raised \$ 900 for school supplies for students at Providence Elementary School. November 10-19 there will be a food drive for 3 local food pantries. Judy Schorr commended Heather for her excellent work and those gathered applauded.

* Heather Brinkerhoff also reporting for the (Social Committee) stated that a BME yard sale was held on May 20. CHKD (Children's Hospital) picked up what was left over at the end of the day. A July 2nd community event in Eastwind Court, and an August 1st Night Out were also held. There will be a Halloween Block Party with costumes and a catered BBQ.

* Bonnie Rothschild (Membership Committee) reported that 4 new families had been welcomed to BME since the May meeting. She invited further volunteers.

* Kevin Aviles (Communications Committee) announced that there have been 221 visitors to the BME website. It has now been linked to Facebook. A Newsletter is under development.

* Dan Adams (Historic District) reported that a developer has expressed interest in developing the NE quadrant. Very nice new Historic District signs have recently been posted along Princess Anne Rd.

* Deane Lawless representing the Sign (ad hoc) Committee presented a proposal to purchase 6 "Bellamy Manor Estates" signs for placement at the entrances to Bellamy Manor Estates on both ends of Edwin, Timberlake, and Charlestown. One of the signs was present at the meeting so that everyone would be able to see what they look like. The signs will each cost \$ 583 with additional costs for permits and installation. After a lengthy discussion involving costs, maintenance and installation, those present unanimously approved expending the funds to make this happen.

* The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm. The next meeting of the BMECL will be on November 20th at 7 pm.