

Kingsborough Civic League

Meeting minutes

January, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7: 0 1 p.m.

Allen Clements read the minutes of the last meeting, they were voted on and accepted. Bob Grady read the treasurer's report, it was voted on and accepted.

Old Business

There was apparently no old business. So Terri launched into her latest Cul du sac project. Terri wants to start a clean up day in the next 6 weeks. she had brought a calendar to pick a weekend day and would like to see if we could get the city to keep a trash can down there and empty it once a week or so. Alan moved that we ask the city to put the trash can in the cul-de-sac, no one seconded the motion. Terri suggested the 20th of February; discussion ensued and February 6th was decided upon. James stated that he would see about getting additional signage, do not litter etc and also the signs for announcing the meeting time of the Civic meeting. As a matter of old business Terri mentions that the group home is now vacant, apparently two months ago (as was recorded in these minutes) someone got hurt or something happened at that location and the Fire Department responded. Apparently (according to her tenant) the Group Home has remained empty since that time. Terri then reported on the previous green space infrastructure meeting at the City Hall chambers that filled the chambers three quarters full. She mentioned Karen Firehawk (who is in charge of presenting the project) talked about connecting trails from downtown and out to the neighborhoods in Suffolk and maybe even to Isle of Wight County. Several City Council members were there to participate in the meeting. James added that the focus of the study is regarding canopy, instead of the runoff going directly into the Nansemond river, the trees would help to absorb some of pollution and prevent straight run off into the river. The trees would help guide the water into the ground. Terri mention that we are under Sanctions from the state because the Nansemond River does not actually flow out of its boundaries, it is tidal and

only goes up and down, so pollutants accumulate in the river. That is part of what this grant is regarding. Terri mentioned that all of the waterfront property, including the new golf course have lawns that run right down to the river; there is no buffer zone. Allen mentioned that since you can't get to the river, it might be difficult to get the community to regard this as a community resource when there is no access to the Nansemond River. James stated that the Hilton Convocation Center used to be a boat ramp.

Continuing under old business, James states that Donnie called him back and said that Lakeside will be one way soon from Nansemond out to Constance.

James jokingly asked Allen "how do you like the traffic on Katherine these days"? Discussion ensued regarding Katherine Street and James happen to mention that Donnie Goldberg had said the city won't do anything until after the work is completed. Allen said well, now is the time to talk about it, Terri agreed and said let's ask Donnie to put stop signs up at the corners. James replied that "that's not going to happen because a retired assistant director had stated that it had something to do with the traffic and that they wouldn't put stop signs up on Katherine Street. Terri continued that now IS the time to get on with getting something done about the traffic because people are already used to not coming down our street, James stated that Pinner Street was once one way because there was a daycare center there that had enough pull or people talking regarding it to get it changed to one way. Allen mentioned that the traffic engineer from Suffolk when it came time to discuss the apartment building had all kinds of solutions that could be done to Main Street but the question remained why didn't he do those things irrespective of the building of the apartment complex. Allen felt it was a lot of double speak and it will be his position to keep cars flowing down Katherine Street to take pressure off of Main Street. Our concerns are the kids that play on the street, we are not a part of the Main Street business district. We should not be a thoroughfare for business traffic. We are a residential community. Terri agreed and stated that we should not be a cut-through, we have greenspace trails, we are one of the oldest neighborhoods in the area, this is a nice area and this should be a nice area to raise our kids. Our neighborhood should NOT be a cut through. James asked when was the last time you saw a

radar on Katherine Street? Allen responded that the concern with the traffic problem on Katherine Street is not excessive speed, so when the city sets up timing devices they don't see people doing 50 miles an hour. The problem is not excessive speed but more that drivers are gunning it from one end to the other. They're not going that fast but they are driving very aggressively. It was decided that we need to put our collective voices to work on this and we should follow up in the near future; this is the time for us to do something. We will just need to agree on what and how and when.

Terri invited everyone again to come to the green space infrastructure meeting at City Hall Thursday night.

There being no further business James called the meeting to adjournment at 8:00

Allen Clements, Secretary