

Princess Anne Plaza Civic League

February 13, 2024

Bow Creek Recreation Center

President Clint Mills called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. He gave the invocation followed by Cliff Dietz leading the body in the Pledge of Allegiance. New members and visitors were then recognized.

Phyllis Elms/Deanne Donahoe motioned to suspend reading of the previous meeting's minutes and to make them available for reading, in the interest of ensuring our speakers had sufficient time for presentation and Q&A. *Passed* Treasurer Vickie Bright reviewed the bank statement and provided the balance on hand of \$3,175.72. She also explained how the dues were used, to include VBCCO dues, website fees, and support of community organizations. President Mills noted that our past 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, Wayne Mead, passed away. He noted Wayne's spouse took out an ad in our newsletter to sell his mobility scooter, in the event anyone may be in the market for one.

Public Works Engineer Michael Mundy reviewed recent weather conditions such as rainfall and high tidal events in our area. The tide gate is on schedule for the spring of 2025, as are the S Plaza/Presidential and Red Lion projects. Mundy encouraged members to look at the City's media group You Tube short videos on "How It Works," the tide gate and more. The eagles are frequenting the old golf course again and DWR (Dept. of Wildlife Resources) has been notified. A member said eagles have been spotted with more frequency at The Lakes as well. Mundy said the next public meeting on stormwater project updates will likely be in September or October. Street sweeper issues along Presidential were shared with Mundy and he will provide contractor contact info so specifics can be provided to them.

Mills introduced our first speaker, District 10 Councilwoman Jennifer Rouse. In addition to areas within our League boundaries, areas Rouse also represents include Green Run, Chimney Hill, and Buckner Farms. Council has been in a budget retreat the last two days. Major concerns include wages, safety and schools. Following brief remarks, Rouse took questions from the body: Money for the flood referendum is isolated to those projects and no one on Council wants to putt from that pool. All costs are increasing, so the challenges are how do we fund and do we reexamine dedications. The Virginia Trail grant money must be used very specifically for the project, along with \$3.9M from Parks & Rec.

Mills then introduced District 3 Councilman Michael Berlucchi, who said there are similar constituencies in both Districts 3 and 10. His priorities are public safety, our educational system, economic opportunities and mobility, mental health reform and preserving tree canopy and open spaces. He noted there will be a Public Works improvement project on Lynnhaven Parkway from I-264 to the mall, one of the last successful malls in the country. Mt. Trashmore has more than a million visitors a year and there are hopes to one day to

Princess Anne Plaza Civic League

February 13, 2024, Page 2

make a connection from the park to Town Center. Berlucchi noted the joint beautification project with Rouse that resulted in nandinas and daylilies being plants in beds along Holland Road between Rosemont and S. Plaza Trail (which used Parks & Rec funds.) The price tag for the flood referendum increased from approximately \$560M to nearly \$1B the Elbow Road project has increased from \$40M to \$90M and replacement of three schools has now been projected to run \$750M. Berlucchi said the City needs to look at meeting needs and funding, including public/private funding where the City “eats it” if a project fails. We need to shift expenses from homeowners to new economic opportunities to raise revenue vs. raising taxes. He noted the former Lillian Vernon building has been purchased by Stihl, and the property along London Bridge Road and Virginia Beach Boulevard was bought by Bill DeSteph and is currently being used as a staging area for offshore wind turbine materials. Another concern is increasing real estate assessments as area has a lot of seniors/retirees. When asked about the damaged PA Plaza neighborhood sign on S. Plaza Trail, Berlucchi said the does install signs and he will ask about a replacement.

Erica Cooper, our Windsor Woods Area Library manager, invited folks to a program for 3 to 5 year olds at the WWAL this Saturday, from 10 am to noon.

Bob Jennings, Flood Committee Chair, spoke briefly about the Elizabeth River Project in October/November – Catch the King Tide (using your cell phone GPS at the water’s edge to record tides), and his attendance at an ODU Coastal Adaptation Forum.

We hope to have a Membership Appreciation/Membership Drive, tentatively planned for a Saturday in June at St Francis Episcopal Church. Our next meeting is March 12.

At 8:30 p.m., being no further business, motion to adjourn by Phyllis Elms/Betty Warren, *passed*.

Respectfully submitted,

FRAN SANSONE  
PAPCL Recording Secretary