

Board of Directors:

*President: Andrew Broyles
Vice President: Grace Moran
Treasurer: Kristie Zeiler
Secretary: Betty Demers
Past President: Rick Mercadante
North Side Rep: Mike Wills
South Side Rep: Tim Solanic
At-Large Rep: Jim Need
At-Large Rep: Todd Parker*



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

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2018
Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad**

MINUTES

- I. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. and opened by President Broyles leading the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. President Broyles asked for any additional agenda items but there were no recommendations for addition to the agenda.
- III. Officer Wroblewski was not able to attend the meeting so there was no police report update.
- IV. The minutes from the November 2017 meeting were read by Secretary Demers and initially approved as read. A correction was later made when an error was pointed out in a subsequent discussion.
- V. President Broyles announced the appointment of Tim Solanic as Chair of the Phase IV Committee for Ocean Park. Tim will work to coordinate efforts toward ensuring City Council recognizes the importance of planning and funding Phase IV to coincide or closely follow the completion of the Lesner Bridge project. .

President Broyles announced he was now serving as Communications Chair for OPCL. Other chairs wore name tags to identify them so members who would like to volunteer for a specific committee can contact the committee's chair.

President Broyles also announced that OPCL is in need of a Treasurer to fill a recent vacancy. Anyone interested was asked to contact President Broyles or any member of the Board.
- VI. President Broyles presented information on the Board's recommendation to move from a printed newsletter to a digital one that would be distributed by email. He provided the history of this discussion which dates back almost a year. This was first discussed at a general membership meeting in September 2017 at which time the Board agreed to discuss and return to the membership with a recommendation at the next General Membership meeting. At the November 2017 General Membership meeting, this topic was again discussed. The

discussion included the Board's recommendation of additional printed copies to ensure members' awareness of the need to sign up for email delivery, how to handle advertising, and that there would still be two issues printed and distributed prior to July 4th and prior to the Fall Fest. Members participated in an open discussion which included some points both for and against moving to digital. At the November meeting, President Broyles indicated that the formal vote would be moved to the January 2018 meeting.

President Broyles again presented the Board's recommendation and included points that support moving to the digital newsletter: lower cost; easier distribution; more timely notifications to members; more environmentally friendly; reduced liability to OPCL; and fewer demands on volunteers who handle printing and distribution. The Board's Plan was presented to the members as follows:

- Print and distribute two more full-content newsletters encouraging sign up for digital distribution or other access. i.e. Email, Facebook, Nextdoor, OPCL.org
- Create three more using existing format with ads to satisfy advertising contracts to be distributed digitally.
- Print a limited number of newsletters to have available at meetings for pick up or possible hand delivery for unconnected
- Print and distribute two, 2-4 page "flyers" during the year to announce crucial topics and events. i.e. Budget Meeting, Fireworks, GM Block Parties
- Decide on the best future format beyond the next five newsletters. i.e. Ads vs. No Ads., PDF vs. Blog

A motion was made by Paul Schubert to accept the proposal of the Board. The motion was seconded by Mike Wills. President Broyles opened the floor for discussion. Points presented included whether or not older residents would access the newsletter via social media or email, and there were differing opinions on that point. Several members made positive comments about the ease of accessing information online. Rick Mercadante indicated that President Broyles' earlier comment that the Board had unanimously approved the plan was not accurate as he was not present at the Board meeting when the plan was developed. Secretary Demers indicated that this reflected an error in the meeting minutes from November that were read and approved and that she would make that correction in the minutes. (Upon further review, there was no reference to a unanimous Board vote in the November minutes, but President Broyles had stated that the Board had unanimously approved the plan. The correct statement should be that the Board members present at the Board meeting unanimously approved the plan.)

Mike Wills objected to Rick Mercadante speaking on the topic of changes to the newsletter as he is an advertiser and also writes a health column, which could constitute a conflict of interest. President Broyles attempted to read from Robert's Rules of Order (RRO) to address this but Mr. Mercadante abruptly left the meeting, along with several other members. Another member then asked for the excerpt to be read and President Broyles complied. "Under the rules in RRO, no member can be compelled to refrain from voting simply because it is perceived that he or she may have some "conflict of interest" with respect to the motion under consideration. If a member has a direct personal or pecuniary (monetary) interest in a motion under consideration not common to other

members, the rule in RRO is that he *should not* vote on such a motion, but even then he or she cannot be *compelled* to refrain from voting.” [RRO (11th ed.), p. 407, ll. 21-31.]

The discussion continued regarding the Board’s newsletter plan. One suggestion was that a “Welcome to OPCL” be included in the two printed newsletters/flyers each year so new residents would know to sign up for digital news. President Broyles reiterated that information would be included “front and center” on the next two printed newsletters telling members how to sign up to receive the digital newsletters going forward. President Broyles’ name and cell phone number would also be included for anyone to contact him for delivery of a printed newsletter if they are not able to receive or access email.

It was determined that a quorum was still present, and a vote was taken on the motion put forth by Mr. Schubert. The motion passed by majority vote.

- VII. The 2018 Budget was presented that included two options: one with a printed newsletter and one without. It was determined that the budget projections shown that reflected the digital newsletter with minimal printing may not reflect accurate printing and distribution costs. Vice President Moran moved to defer the budget vote until the March meeting. The motion was seconded and carried by majority vote.
- VIII. President Broyles reported on a recent meeting held with members of the OPCL Board, Chairman Kal Kassir (SDCC) and Vice Mayor Jones regarding the importance of Phase IV. He reported that the meeting was positive, and Jones asked for speakers to attend the City budget meeting on March 6th. Several ideas were discussed by members to accomplish this, including a mass turn-out at the City Council meeting and touching base with City Council members in addition to our representative, Vice Mayor Jones. This then led to a brief discussion on how well the needs of the communities were actually being represented. David Crocker discussed potentially running for City Council on a platform of providing better representation of the community. Margaret Broszek suggested holding a forum for candidates when election time nears. Jill Doczi added that invitations to any forum would need to go out early as candidates’ calendars fill up close to the election. It was also suggested that OPCL might want to coordinate with other area civic leagues to hold a joint forum.
- IX. Committee Reports:
 - a. Membership Committee Chair, Grace Moran, indicated that she would like to see OPCL have more fun. Suggestions included parties at one of the beach access points, community yard sales, packages sent to troops at Christmas, etc. Suggestions should be sent to Ms. Moran at grace@sdcc.info.
 - b. Paul Schubert reported that there appears to be no current movement to develop the property adjacent to the 7-11 on Shore Drive. He moved that monies designated for use in opposing that development be re-designated to

the general operating fund. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous vote.

- c. Jill Doczi reported that she has been filling the necessary applications for the permits needed for the annual fireworks show. The date is set for July 3rd. More information will be provided later, but fund raising for this event takes place throughout the year.

X. Old Business—there were no additional items for discussion

XI. New Business—Everyone was reminded that OPCL dues are renewable each calendar year. If members paid for the 2017 year at the Fall Fest, they will be covered for 2018 because the Fall Fest was so near the end of the year. Payments can be made via PayPal and can be set up to recur. Payments can also be made by cash or check, made payable to OPCL.

Tim Solanic spoke briefly in his capacity as newly appointed chair of the OPCL Phase IV Committee. He gave a brief history of how long OPCL has been without improvements to this corridor, and the city's current focus on tourist-related venues such as parks and arenas while not adequately addressing storm water management and neighborhood safety-related improvements. The improvements to Shore Drive need to gain the backing of the full Council. Tim suggested chartering a bus to take as many members as possible to the meeting for a show of support.

XII. The meeting dates for all scheduled General Membership meetings was displayed and are also available on OPCL.org.

XIII. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.