

You Spoke. We listened.

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Organization: **Olde Wythe Neighborhood Association**

Meeting Date: **April 11, 2011**

in Attendance: 10

- The History Museum: last year, history and arts took the black pen. This year, it is rated low again. We spent a lot of money on the History Museum (building). I know you have to weigh the cultural aspect of Hampton. Is this one of the things that will be cut again?
- Thank you for your committed service to the City. I think you're doing a great job. I want to ask about the library and where that fits in the budget of the City.
- What kind of dollars or savings are you looking at when you eliminate the Book Mobile program?
- In line with what you said earlier, regarding the public outreach efforts of the History Museum... Is there a big focus on public outreach on what Hampton as a City could offer? When we have an activity downtown, we get flooded with people, but after the event, they just leave. What is the city doing to promote itself and things we offer including activities and events?
- With regards to the military, what are you doing to improve your reputation there? One big thing is the reputation of the school systems... People discourage others from living in Hampton because of the schools. Are you working with the public affairs office within the different military installations to improve the perception of Hampton?
- Maybe have something where, newcomers can be welcomed and invited to a tour of the various neighborhoods in Hampton
- Last year, we brought this up... we all know gas is going up. Were there any consideration on garbage trucks and other trucks that go on the side of the road twice? In Virginia Beach, trash bins are all collected from one side of the street. Last Friday, we saw this truck doing loops and that's a lot of gas and time. Have we ever thought about experimenting and trying to collect bins on one side of the street? We can then see how much savings we can get from doing this.
- I have always been curious. What happens when trash (not recyclables) goes into the recycling container? Does it get separated? Will it contaminate the whole load?
- One of the nice things that we have here is the Peninsula Pilots baseball. What's the commitment of the City to the team? How do we or do we promote them?
- It's a great evening and family event. It's very affordable.
- I know we did the Hampton 400 and the City tried to bring people into the Langley racing facility. It would be nice to give something back to the Pilots as well.
- On Langley Speedway... the Southside speedway closed. Langley Speedway is a nice facility and is something that you can promote outside this area. You can also get some more people to Hampton this way.
- I'm an attorney and I do practice in Hampton and Newport News. What's the status on the new courthouse?
- Do you know if there are any plans for preserving the old courthouse?
- So you're looking into "Federal Main Street" program or grants?
- Are there any long term goals to bring hotel chains in the downtown area? Right now, we only have one and during events like Bay Days, they're fully booked.
- I just think there are many hotels in that area (Coliseum), but we don't have enough in the downtown area.

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- Will the shuttle also go over the bridge, by Hampton University? Like during a football game or Homecoming?
- What is going to happen with the old post office downtown? Is there parking?
- Is there anything in the plans for the Wythe elementary school?
- If you build our new fire station, that could be a new precinct/polling station? In Chesapeake, that is what they do (use fire stations as polling stations).
- Does it (Wythe elementary school) revert to the City once it's declared as a surplus?
- Is the City doing anything to try and attract higher paying corporations or companies, which would have higher-paying jobs and increase revenues? It seems like there's a lot of focus on retail. We all need retail but I think to boost the economy of the City, we need higher paying, white-collar jobs.
- Are there any redevelopment plans on Mercury Boulevard, between Jefferson Ave and Powhatan? Can you zone it so there won't be many tattoo parlors in one area? Can you zone based on need?
- Is there a law against regulating the health of these tattoo parlors?
- That area has looked blighted for many years. We should probably do something about it.
- Now that it's been a little over a year... how is the (Peninsula) Town Center doing? Is it meeting expectations?
- I work over at Virginia Beach and some of my co-workers actually come and shop at the Peninsula Town Center. They said that they really like it.
- We always welcome increased police presence.
- When that property (Fort Monroe) converts over, it still goes to the State, right?
- If they (Fort Monroe properties) don't belong to Hampton, why do we need to provide police officers there? Will the City get reimbursed for the police services in Fort Monroe?
- Is the City's Economic Development Council working with the State to develop, market, promote areas in Fort Monroe?
- How much revenue does the carnival in the Coliseum area bring in? It gives the City a bad reputation, because of the routine shootings in the carnival. There's a lot of violence that happen in the carnival. I even forbid my son from going to the carnival.
- On the budget thing, we have Deaf and Blind School. Does the City own it or part of it? It is a vacant property. It could be a money-producing property. Do we have plans to redevelop or reuse it? Is the City paying for its maintenance, since part of the property is owned by the City?
- Previously, we had a seat at the table. I have never been invited to any discussions about the use of (vacant) land or properties within the Wythe area, like the Wythe elementary school. Will we be invited to partake in those discussions?
- We had a fiasco a few years ago. We were notified (about use of property within the neighborhood) at the last hour. We had to say that we need to do a lit bit more education before anything is getting done there. We would love to get involved in the discussions early on.
- It's good to hear that you're involving the community. We would like to thank you for coming to our meeting and talking with us.
- We would like to commend your office and the Council for what you've done and the development along Kecoughtan Rd. It really attracts the people we want to attract.
- We are appreciative of the investments that have been made in the neighborhood and the community.

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- Is your contract with Waste Management, in terms of garbage pick-up? Waste Management actually collect methane gas that you can resell. Have we thought about utilizing this for our land fill?
- So, the City of Hampton has no control over the road by the land fill?
- Thank you for spending your evening with us.

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