

**Minutes**  
**Croatan Civic League Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Monday, November 4, 2024**

**Present:** Mike Kelly, Bob Lougen, Pat Costigan, Mike Fantozzi, Bill Garvey, Connie Agresti, Kathy Donahoe, Jim Ferrera, Cheryl Garvey, Katie Ripberger, Amber Torgerson, and Eileen Wren

**Absent:** Frank Borum, and Amanda Robinson

The meeting was started with a quorum present at 06:33 PM on 04 Nov, lasted 1h 57m.

**Officer Elections**

- The board conducted officer elections for the upcoming year.
- Michael Kelly reluctantly agreed to serve as president for one more year, with a 95% probability he will not continue in the role for 2026.
- Bob Lougen was re-elected a vice-president. Pat Costigan was elected as treasurer, and Mike Fantozzi was re-elected as secretary.
- The officers were elected by acclamation, with no objections raised.

**Treasurer's Update**

- Pat Costigan, the new treasurer, provided a brief update on his transition into the role.
- He encountered some challenges in understanding the financial processes, particularly regarding membership fee payments and security-related transactions.
- The board acknowledged Pat's efforts in stepping up to the treasurer position.

**Membership Committee Report**

- Jim Ferrera, who recently took on leadership of the membership committee, reported significant progress in recruiting new members.
- The committee has 10 new home memberships. Additionally, there are 12 potential members considering joining and 5 definite 'no' responses.
- Jim personally conducted in-person visits to non-member homes, covering South Atlantic Ave. and Virginia Dare Dr.
- He emphasized the effectiveness of face-to-face interactions in recruiting new members.
- Jim will continue visiting every non-member home in the neighborhood by Christmas.
- He highlighted the importance of emphasizing the Civic League's role in advocating for beach sand replacement and weir replacement as a key selling point for membership.

**Neighborhood Directory Update**

- Jim has also taken on the responsibility of updating the neighborhood directory.
- He noted that the current directory needs to be updated to reflect the house sales over the last few years and gaps in information.
- Jim is actively updating the directory as new information comes in but stressed the need for assistance to make it more comprehensive and accurate.

- He requested help from other board members in gathering and verifying information for their respective streets.

### **Neighborhood Security Patrol Issues**

- The board discussed ongoing issues with the neighborhood security patrol.
- Michael Kelly raised concerns about the value proposition of the current security arrangement, which costs around \$20,000 annually.
- The police department now uses an outside contractor for off-duty officers, resulting in increased costs, including charges for travel time.
- The board debated the effectiveness of the patrols in deterring speeding.
- There was discussion about forming a security and safety committee to address these concerns, as well as other issues like parking, ignoring stop signs, and the need for additional crosswalks.
- The board will conduct a survey to gauge residents' opinions on the security patrol and its value.

### **Improving Communication with Residents**

- The board discussed various methods to improve communication with residents.
- Suggestions included utilizing the neighborhood sign to announce meetings and events.
- They discussed a return to mailing physical newsletters, despite the associated costs.
- Exploring the use of 'Stroll' magazine for advertising Civic League activities was also suggested. Several members opposed using Stroll.

### **Budget Planning for Upcoming Year**

- The board briefly touched on the need for budget planning for the upcoming year.
- They discussed the possibility of organizing additional social events, such as a fall ball and more community gatherings.
- The board agreed to set a deadline for committee heads to submit their budget requests, which will inform decisions about membership dues and event planning for the next year.

### **Active Neighbor Contributions**

- Bob Salter, a new neighbor, was mentioned as being particularly active in addressing neighborhood issues. This includes arranging for refreshing for crosswalk paint and proposing the installation of a bench at a popular sunrise viewing spot.
- The board also discussed ongoing parking problems, including issues with cars blocking mailboxes and driveways. There is a need to reassess parking space dimensions due to changes in car sizes over the years.

### **Board Agreements**

- The board set a date of November 30 for budget input submissions.
- Future board meetings will be held in person. Dates and times are TBD.
- A Town Hall will be conducted in the first quarter of 2025.

- Explore the formation of new committees, particularly for security and safety.
- Conduct a survey on the security patrol and other neighborhood concerns.
- Improving communication strategies with residents was emphasized.
- Addressing parking and traffic issues in the neighborhood was also agreed upon.

**Meeting Conclusion**

- The meeting concluded at 20:30, with the president expressing appreciation for the board members' participation and input.