

TOWN CRIER

This is the 14th issue of what will be a periodic communication to the citizens of Cape Charles. John Burdiss is solely responsible for the content.

In this issue (July 11, 2008) are items from the 7/10/08 agenda

Action items - only a few

In meeting dominated time wise by Report Presentations from various department heads, actually a part of the consent agenda and agenda format which for the most part is included in the Council meeting package - see brief comments below - there were only 5 items that required a vote of council.

1. Council unanimously approved to adoption of the revised flood plain ordinance.
2. Council unanimously approved the adoption of the current zoning map which reflects a fully up-to-date map of previously adopted zoning designations and/or changes.
3. Council unanimously elected Chris Bannon at the Vice-Mayor. Chris, a long time councilman - 2 years into his most recent term, replaced Bruce Evans, who made the motion to nominate Chris.
4. Council unanimously approved the selection of Bruce Evans to be the Council's representative on the Planning Commission; a position in which Bruce has served for several years.
5. Council also unanimously approved the scheduling of a public hearing on August 14th at 7 PM regarding the proposed Cape Harbor Project - see comments below.

Cape Harbor Project

The Town's Planning Commission, by a 3 to 2 vote on Monday, July 7th, subject to 12 separate conditions, recommended to Council the approval of the Cape Harbor Project. Cape Harbor sought 3 conditional use permits: up to 425 multi-family units; a 120 room hotel; and building heights of up to 55' (with an average height of not over 45' for a block). The project is proposed to be constructed in 6 or 7 phases on a 6½ acre site bounded by Mason Ave. to the North and the Town Harbor to the South.

There was some discussion among Council about the significance of the project and the need to carefully and fully analyze the matter before a decision is made. The Town Planner explained that agreeing to set the public hearing (as was approved in the unanimous vote) only allowed the requisite advertising, and while Town Council will hold the hearing on this project in August, Council has no prescribed time limit to make a decision.

I expect that deliberation on this matter will be thorough and actively involve all members of Council. At least one workshop will be held and public input will be highly coveted.

Some of the other matters on the 7/10/08 agenda

Council was advised that Bay Creek had declined the offer previously approved by Council to settle numerous issues imbedded in the annexation agreement. Accordingly, while negotiations and discussions continue, the Town will begin billing Bay Creek for its share of the expansion costs related to the water and waste water systems.

Report Presentations

Reports were made by the Treasurer, the Planner (see above topics and votes cast), the Director of Utilities and Public Works, the Recreation Director, the Assistant Harbormaster and the Town Librarian.

The Treasurer provided preliminary, but believed to be reasonably accurate figures for the fiscal year just ended on June 30, 2008. More analysis and scrutiny of this data will be made at a later date, with comments regarding last year's performance and the prospects for and implications of this year's budget.

The public works staff and some others have been busy planting some of the donated trees and the Heritage Acres location was highlighted by the Director.

The Assistant Harbor Master related positive information about events and certain types of usage at the Harbor, but he also noted that high fuel prices had affected some traffic and sales.

The newly hired Recreation Director, Tab Taborn, spoke of ongoing activities and laid out a schedule of priorities for future programs and activities.

The Librarian noted the increased activities at and usage of the Library, especially including children and teenagers.

CONSTITUENTS MEETING – 5:15 – 6:15 PM on Thursday, July 17th

The meeting is at my office, at 117 Mason Ave., Suite E (next to Kelly's Pub). It is your opportunity to come, voice opinions, ask questions and learn more about what your Town government and your Council are doing to honor our duty to you by always striving to serve the best interests of the Town with each action we take. **Please come; we will all benefit.** Responses and/or inquiries to anything in the Town Crier or about "Town" business are welcome: johnburdiss@baycrk.net