

# Meeting Minutes: Cottage Line Civic League

Date: October 7, 2025

Time: 6:33 PM

**Location:** Cottage Line Civic League

**Presiding:** Rick Anderson, President

**Vice President:** Joan Tipton

**Secretary:** Ralph Cory is stepping down due to conflicts in scheduling. Position is now Vacant

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## Opening

- Welcome and introductions by Rick Anderson.
  - Raffle announced for two mums; proceeds to benefit charity.
  - Pledge of Allegiance and moment of reflection dedicated to First Responders and military service members.
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## Administrative Updates

- **Website:** Marida Hines is developing new Civic League website, Joan will take over admin duties
  - **Secretary Vacancy:** New secretary is needed; duties are taking minutes and occasional correspondence.
  - **Treasurer Report:** Susan confirmed funds are available.
  - **Membership:** Kate confirmed active membership; reminder: dues are collected on a calendar year basis.
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## Community Reports

- **Short-Term Rentals:** Martina reported city council's proposal to raise per day tax; Lack of proper notice is a concern.
  - **Crime Report:** Officer Sarmiento shared:
    - Only three larcenies in the past 30 days.
    - Emphasis on not leaving valuables or firearms in vehicles.
    - Reminder that failure to report stolen firearms can result in criminal charges.
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## Ocean View Alliance (OVA) Updates

- **OVA now includes 8 Civic Leagues and the Ocean View Business Association.**
  - **Marketing Video:** Volunteers invited to participate.
  - **Street Cleanup:** Held last Sunday of each month at Bold Mariner
  - **Grand Illumination Parade:** Ocean View float will feature a decorated boat and jellyfish-themed walkers.
  - **Holiday Tree Lighting (Nov 29):**
    - Fire truck arrival of Santa & Mrs. Claus.
    - Petting zoo, ornament-making, sanitation station, music, and community booths.
    - Asking Boss Burrito to provide free hot chocolate and churros.
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## Planning & Zoning Concerns

- **Group Home Proposal:**
    - A vacant building (unused since 1990) is proposed to be converted into a group home.
    - Concerns include lack of parking, poor building condition, and absence of architectural plans.
    - If a Duplex is approved, Owner does not need to come back to Civic League for Group Home
    - Planning Commission hearing scheduled for **October 23**.
    - CL members expressed strong concerns about safety, zoning compliance, and transparency.
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## Featured Speakers

### Virginia Zoo – Michelle Lewis & Lori Lambert

- Overview of zoo programs, conservation efforts, and community engagement.
- Upcoming events:
  - **Zoo Boo (Oct 18–19):** Family-friendly Halloween event.
  - **Dog Day Halloween:** Costume contest for dogs.
  - **Holiday Market & New Year's Eve Events.**
- Volunteer opportunities for adults and teens. Zoo is AZA-accredited and offers sensory-inclusive experiences. Discounts available via Norfolk Public Library and PowerUp program.

## **Norfolk Commonwealth Attorney – Raymond Fatahi**

- Shared crime statistics:
    - Homicides down 30%, sexual assaults down 20%, larcenies down 16%.
    - Car thefts down 40%.
  - Emphasized importance of community violence intervention programs.
  - Explained felony-to-misdemeanor reductions and sentencing guidelines.
  - Encouraged residents to report nuisance properties and crimes via Norfolk Cares.
  - Open invitation to contact his office for help with persistent misdemeanor issues.
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## **Closing**

- Raffle winners announced.
- Meeting adjourned.