

**OSW Community Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday 8/18/2022**

Prepared by: Mary Anne Mather

6:00-6:30 Social

Thank you Betsy Nixon & Julie Mugford for hosting.

**6:30 Order of business suspended to accommodate guests:**

David Morse, Patrol Captain for Roanoke City & Daria Eilich, Code Enforcement attended to receive question & offer information related to OSW community safety issues and concerns as a continuation of the discussion at the July OSW community meeting (*Officer Morse Background: 16 years on force. Has not worked in OSW. Speaks Arabic and worked for the FBI for 5 years, then homicide in Roanoke. Now oversees patrol officers.*)

**Community Questions:**

--Shooting at Elm Ave home last Thursday: Petty dispute over a dog. Shooting with a high-power rifle started inside house. Police returned fire. Suspect has been incarcerated.

--Marshall Ave. violence dispute: Suspects known by police. Being monitored/active warrants.

--Skeletal remains found near Franklin: no update

--Disturbances at 5<sup>th</sup> and Elm (noise, inebriation, drug dealing): Daria Eilich, Code Enforcement, is contacting property owners in the area to build awareness of issues and actions. Property owner of Southwest Market is an absentee owner. (Problem: Commonwealth attorney never collects on fines. Strategy: Vote out Don Caldwell/Commonwealth attorney)

--501 Allison disturbances: Daria connecting with owner to follow-up

Daria left business cards. Call her any time needed. Pressure needs to be put on the commonwealth attorney and judges to enforce violations.

**6:57-7:45 Speaker:** Tom Klatka, VA State Archaeologist

Long before OSW was developing its historic roots, the Totero (Tutelo) Indians thrived in the Roanoke Valley, including near the Historic Alexander Gish House, the OSW meeting place..

Started talk with expedition of Thomas Batts, Robert Fallam, Thomas Woods--first documented men to meet Totero 1671. Totero already had weapons from undocumented contact with fur traders. Within only 29 years, Totero no longer in Roanoke Valley/decimated by Euro diseases.

--3 known Totero archeological areas in Roanoke.

--OSW is 7 miles down-river from one "Totero Town."

--Artifacts have been found in Highland Park. Keep eyes open when digging in OSW yards. Tom Klatka would like to know about and see what is found.

--Archeological specimens housed at Salem Historical Society (trade shell beads, pottery, glass beads, metal, antler handles from a butter knife, trigger)

--Black Robe movie demonstrates early rifles traded to Indians in 17thc.

--Colonists impressed by size of Native American bodies/muscles (often mentioned in journals)  
 --Some Toteros moved southward (S. Carolina). Combined w/2 other Nations to build strength.  
 --Tutelo Nation ceased to exist 1832 & 1848. Horatio Hale met Nikonha, last full-blooded Totero. Hale collected some of their language. Changed the name to Tutelo.  
 --A "Roanoke" was a type of trade bead.

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**OSW Business meeting called to order: 7:50pm**

**Board present:** Mark Hostetter (president), Elaine Fleck, Julie Gale, Mary Jo Gale, Mary Anne Mather, Julie Mugford

**Board absent:** Erica Danko (V-P), David Jeavons (Treasurer), Clay Trinkle, Grace Johnston (co-secretary), Terry McGuire, Phillip Morgan

**Attendees:** 31 neighbors, including 1 police officer, code enforcement officer, 1 presenter, 1 city council candidate (Nick Hagen).

July 2022 Minutes: approval tabled for next meeting. Will find a way to share more broadly. Many not at the July meeting are interested in info about safety issues near 5<sup>th</sup> & Elm.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. Safety Committee—Police Call List 7/19 - 8/15**

*Reminder to report crimes and ask for a report number.*

Aggravated Assault:	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property:
500 Block of Mountain 07-19	300 Block of Elm 07-22
100 Block of Marshall 08-10	400 Block of Mountain 07/27
100 Block of Elm 08/11	300 Block of Washington 07/29
Simple Assault:	Theft from Motor Vehicle:
500 Block of Elm 07-19	100 Block of Albemarle 08-13
100 Block of Elm 07-24	300 Block of Highland 08-04
100 Block of Elm 08-10	
	Theft from Building:
Weapons Law Violation:	500 Block of Allison 08-05
600 Block Mountain 07-19	
	All Other Larceny:
Intimidation:	1200 Block of 4th St 0/7-31
100 Block of Elm 07-29	200 Block Mountain 08-07
Burglary Residential:	Disorderly Conduct: 08-03
000 Block of Mountain 08-09	Drunk in Public:
700 Block of 4th St. 07-20	400 Block of Elm 07-27
Motor Vehicle Theft:	
400 Block of Janette 07-22	

**2. Preservation, Parks and Green Space Committee**

- Lots owned by OSW

### --Woods Ave

Two successful cleanups held on OSW-owned lots at the end of Woods Ave. Many bags of trash removed and large piles of brush. OSW coordinated with the City for brush removal. Long-term goal is to create a clear walking path through the woods between Woods and Allison. Thank you to all who volunteered and to Terry McGuire for organizing the cleanups.

### --Corner 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Day Ave

Jan Keister has been identifying grants and working with Mary Anne Mather to submit them. To date 4 have been submitted and 2 are pending to be written. Trina Cline Scott & Mary Anne Mather met with Sharon Burnham (GardenVitals - Vital Natives <[gardenvitals@cox.net](mailto:gardenvitals@cox.net)>), professional landscaper/master gardener, for more pro bono advice about specific plant selection and overall design. Various committee members have been gathering information to inform upcoming decisions and action items. A meeting of the Pocket Park committee will take place between now and mid- September, after which, all updates and the fall clean-up and November tree planting dates will be announced. Volunteers will be needed.

Community requested: stagger clean-up dates and avoid Sundays.

## 2. Events

- **Block Pride** Clean-up is October 1

- **Parlor Tour**

Long standing (40+ years) OSW fundraiser -- underwrites Gish House upkeep & supports neighborhood activities/projects. Gish is city-owned. OSW rents for \$1/yr (w/responsibility for its upkeep). Parlor Tour dates: Dec 3 & 4, 2022; 6 houses already agreed to participate

- **Block parties**

Would like to do another. Day Ave possible in early Oct or Woods Ave expressed interest via NextDoor. Need volunteers to have a block-party event. **Suggested: Have President coordinate with OSW Event Committee to meet/determine fall events.**

### Other Business/announcements

--Nick Hagen introduced himself as a candidate for City Council. Neighbors who were interested met with him outside the meeting to learn more about his platform.

--OSW Community September Meeting anticipated as a follow-up to the July meeting concerning safety and nuisance issues at 5<sup>th</sup> and Elm. Mark is inviting back the state liquor licensing ABC rep and several city departments to let us know what action has been taken to address concerns. There are additional/similar issues occurring at 8<sup>th</sup> and Marshall empty house.

**Adjourned 8:10**