



# City of Virginia Beach

## Parks & Recreation Commission - MINUTES

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Thursday, August 6, 2020, 3:00pm

Administration Building Forum 101

2154 Landstown Rd, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456

### ATTENDANCE

Name	Represents	Email	Present
Brunke, Bill	District 7: Princess Anne; At-Large	<a href="mailto:william.brunke@brunkecpa.com">william.brunke@brunkecpa.com</a>	✓
Davis, Joan	Vice-Chair; District 7: Princess Anne	<a href="mailto:joanempt@aol.com">joanempt@aol.com</a>	✓
Dolan, Pat	District 1: Centerville	<a href="mailto:pdolan1@cox.net">pdolan1@cox.net</a>	Ex
Ewell, Jill	OSAC Liaison; District 1: Centerville; At-Large	<a href="mailto:ewellhousehold@gmail.com">ewellhousehold@gmail.com</a>	✓
Felton, Sharon	District 6: Beach; At-Large	<a href="mailto:sharonr.felton@gmail.com">sharonr.felton@gmail.com</a>	-
Fentress, Mike	Chair; District 4: Bayside	<a href="mailto:mfentress@gmail.com">mfentress@gmail.com</a>	✓
Geroux, Kema	District 5: Lynnhaven	<a href="mailto:kmgeroux@gmail.com">kmgeroux@gmail.com</a>	-
Hakim, Alex	Senior Student; District 3: Rose Hall	<a href="mailto:alexandriahakim@gmail.com">alexandriahakim@gmail.com</a>	Ex
Monaco, Joseph	District 7: Princess Anne; At-Large	<a href="mailto:joe@monacocapital.com">joe@monacocapital.com</a>	-
Payne, G. Garland	Secretary; District 2: Kempsville	<a href="mailto:ap@ham.hrcoxmail.com">ap@ham.hrcoxmail.com</a>	✓
Robertson, Jenna	Junior Student; District 7: Princess Anne	<a href="mailto:Jennarobertson1227@yahoo.com">Jennarobertson1227@yahoo.com</a>	-
Tierney, Hugh	District 6: Beach; BTAC liaison	<a href="mailto:htierney@empiredevelopment.net">htierney@empiredevelopment.net</a>	✓
<b>LIAISONS</b>			
Anoia, Nick	VBPR Foundation	<a href="mailto:nickanoia@cox.net">nickanoia@cox.net</a>	✓
Freeman, Jack	VBCP Schools	<a href="mailto:jack.freeman@vbschools.com">jack.freeman@vbschools.com</a>	-
Kubba, Sama	MYLA	<a href="mailto:samakubba@gmail.com">samakubba@gmail.com</a>	Ex
Macareg, Jondre	MYLA	<a href="mailto:Jonmon9@cox.net">Jonmon9@cox.net</a>	Ex
Wooten, Sandra	City Council	<a href="mailto:swooten@vbgov.com">swooten@vbgov.com</a>	Ex

## STAFF - VBPR

Deibler, Shirley	Programming & Operations	<a href="mailto:sdeibler@vbgov.com">sdeibler@vbgov.com</a>	✓
Fentress, Frank	Parks & Landscaping Services	<a href="mailto:ffentres@vbgov.com">ffentres@vbgov.com</a>	Ex
Hildenbrand, Maile	Business Systems	<a href="mailto:mhildenb@vbgov.com">mhildenb@vbgov.com</a>	✓
Kirschman, Michael	Director	<a href="mailto:mkirschman@vbgov.com">mkirschman@vbgov.com</a>	✓
Morris, Chad	Planning, Design & Development	<a href="mailto:cmorris@vbgov.com">cmorris@vbgov.com</a>	✓

## AGENDA

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. Call to Order                                 | 6. Subcommittee Reports |
| 2. Minutes, Agenda Additions, and Public Comment | 7. Director's Report    |
| 3. Old Business                                  | 8. Good and Welfare     |
| 4. New Business                                  | 9. Adjourn              |
| 5. Staff and Liaison Reports                     |                         |

## MEETING NOTES, DECISIONS, ISSUES

### 1. Welcome and Call to Order

- *Chairman Fentress welcomed everyone back to meeting in-person and called the meeting to order at 3:04pm.*
- *Recorder Beth Haynes called the roll.*

### 2. Minutes, Agenda Additions and Public Comment

- *Approval of minutes*
  - *Commissioner moved to approve the meeting minutes for March 5, 2020.*
  - *Commissioner seconded. All in favor.*
  - *Motion carried.*
- *Agenda Additions*
  - *None noted.*
- *Public Comment*
  - *None noted.*

### 3. Old Business

- *CIP project status and updates were presented by Mr. Chad Morris.*

- *This update was shared as a result of the capital improvement plan impacts of COVID-19 for fiscal years 2020-21 to include long-range plans, projects in planning & design phase, and projects in construction. (attached)*
  - *Commissioner Tierney raised the question to see if the Centerville modernization study and draft recreation enter facility design with COVID-19 changes can be shared with the Commission prior to final Council approval and public release, as an advisors to the Council. This will be explored by staff liaisons to see if possible. Commissioners Tierney volunteered to view the draft plans if they do become available to the Commission prior to finalization.*
- *Little Island Parking*
    - *Commissioner Brunke raised the question regarding parking at Little Island for Parks & Recreation to clarify how much of the parking issues are related to COVID-19 or other issues.*
      - *Director Kirschman and Mr. Morris noted that the parking issues were direct correlation to the COVID-19 situation as parking was reduced due to COVID-19 restrictions to 50%. June 2020 through July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend was the largest impact. And capacity has not met full capacity for the last three weeks.*
      - *Vice-Chair Davis noted that parking is an ongoing issue there at Little Island with visitors parking in neighborhoods and leaving trash; Vice-Chair Davis noted that the sand nourishment project which ended recently had taken over 100 parking spaces. Parking would spill into the community residential areas. Now that this project is complete for the summer season, parking capacity for parking lots has increased and returned to full capacity.*

#### 4. New Business

- *Committee formation: Officer nominees – September*
  - *Chairman Fentress and Secretary Davis have reached the end of their terms with the Parks & Recreation Commission as of August 31, 2020. Regarding reappointment, Director Kirschman recommended reaching out to your City Council members to let them know of your interest in continuing with the Commission.*
  - *Ms. Sharon Felton was reappointed to a new term by City Council on July 14, 2020. (attached)*
  - *Nominating Committee formation is deferred till September when it is clear regarding appointment for Chairman Fentress and Secretary Davis.*
- *Preparation for Annual Report – November*
  - *The Director's Office will be responsible for sharing the Parks & Recreation Annual Report 2019-20 later this year and will be viewed by all Commission members once published.*

## 5. Staff and Liaison Reports

- *VBPR Foundation – Nick Anoaia*
  - *Mr. Anoaia shared a presentation to the Commission to share the Foundation goals, accomplishments and priorities. It was explained the opportunities for raising funds to be able to contribute positively to the community with programs such as Bike Buddies, Tree Buddies, Green Team Project, Students on the Swim, when individual citizens can donate for the causes. Secretary Payne raised the question to see if bench buddies would potentially be applicable to the city golf courses, and this was affirmative.*
  - *Brochures were shared with the Commissioners with VBPR Foundation overview information.*

## 6. Subcommittee Reports

- *OpenSpace Advisory Committee*
  - *Mr. Nick Anoaia is the new Chairman of the Open Space Advisory Committee. There were no other updates at this time, since recent meetings have been cancelled. Potential partnerships are being explored on the sidelines, though there have not been formal meetings for decision-making in recent months.*
- *Bikeways and Trails Advisory Committee*
  - *Commissioner Tierney noted that there were no major announcements from BTAC.*
  - *Bike month was cancelled and events for August were also cancelled due to the pandemic.*
  - *Bike sales have soared, as have any activities where individuals can exercise by oneself.*

## 7. Director's Report

- *Virginia Beach 2020 ParkScore Draft Results*
  - *Yearly ranking results for 2019 and 2020 Park Scores across the country from TPL metrics were shared with the Commission. This is comparative information across the country amongst park systems with a wide variety of criteria and makeup within city planning.*
  - *Scores can be boosted when parcels of land may be acquired or gifted to the City by the federal government with the intent to add a park for citizen use. In areas where gaps can be filled, the score is raised. This generally positively impacts the economic development of a city.*
  - *Questions on the reports can be raised to Director Kirschman, Chad Morris, or Corrina Green.*
  - *Reports are attached for perusal.*

- *Events update*
  - Party at the Pier:  
Friday, August 28 • 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. | Little Island Park | **CANCELED**
  - Family Fishing Clinic:  
Saturday, September 26 • 8 a.m. - noon | Lake Smith/Lake Lawson
  - Water Lantern Festival:  
Saturday, October 10 • 5:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. | Mount Trashmore Park  
| **CANCELLED**
  - Great Pumpkin Bash:  
Saturday, October 24 • Time: TBD | Mount Trashmore Park
  - Santa's Stocking Old Fashioned Craft Bazaar:
    - November 7 & 8 | Princess Anne Recreation Center
    - November 21 & 22 | Kempsville Recreation Center
    - 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturdays | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Sundays
  - All 5ks were cancelled, in compliance with executive orders for large gatherings.
  
- *Budget / Finance Outlook Update*
  - *The budget for the new fiscal year has not yet been released. This year's loss in revenue due to the pandemic and subsequent quarantine stay-at-home executive orders has significant impacts on the future budget. There will be losses reflected from last fiscal year, and deficits in the operating budget must be made up with the fund balance to balance the budget.*
  - *April-June 2020 was no revenue from recreation center memberships, classes, park shelter rentals, events, we will be short on revenue targets for the year.*
  - *Since March 2020, hiring, spending and travel freezes have been in place. Utilities and cost-cutting measures have helped. The freezes continue till further notice from the new City Manager's office.*
  - *In second quarter of FY 20-21, we will have a better idea of projections for the remainder of the year. There are ongoing budget meetings for Parks & Recreation department in August.*
  - *Commissioner Tierney raised a question regarding staff layoffs and furloughs to offset the cost.*
  - *Director Kirschman relayed that the department lost 18 positions, mostly vacancies were identified and went away with the budget cuts versus active positions. There was a commitment from the City Manager's office not to layoff or furlough staff, which ultimately would have impacted expenditures for unemployment wages, which are chargeable to the operating costs. Several staff were not working or idle during facility closure and mostly reported to the recreation centers, childcare, and other jobs due to closure to the public. Wherever possible, staff were tasked with developing virtual rec center material, moved to work within other departments where possible, reassigned to become park ambassadors for the park amenities phased reopening till the pools and recreation centers could reopen. Some vacancies were closed as of July 1, 2020.*
  - *From the CARES Act, we have the essential childcare programs which are reimbursable. Of the \$101M eligible, the City received \$39M. We are hopeful more is recoverable though unsure of further payouts from CARES Act.*

- *More budget updates are forthcoming for September and/or October meeting.*
- *Recognition*
  - *This is the first meeting for Recorder Beth Haynes, Executive Assistant to the Director, replacing Fallon Nicholson.*
  - *Director Kirschman honored Commissioner Brunke with a Volunteer Award plaque as he departs the Commission at the end of his second term with six years of service. With deep appreciation for his leadership and service, the City is truly thankful for his service to the community.*
  - *After delaying her retirement to assist us when COVID-19 hit, Ms. Maile Hildenbrand, Business Systems Administrator, has decided that it is now time. She will officially retire on September 1, 2020 with nearly 42 years of service since she began in 1979. She started as a Lifeguard in Parks & Recreation and has served the department ever since. She is a volunteer for VBPR Foundation. Gratitude was expressed for keeping the administration on time, sharing her opinion openly, and her years of public service; she noted it was the best place to work.*

#### 8. Good and welfare

- *Mayor's Youth Leaders in Action liaisons Sama Kubba and Jondre Macareg have both graduated from high school and MYLA program, moving on to Harvard and Duke University respectively. We will welcome new liaisons to the Commission for MYLA in September.*

#### 9. Adjournment

- *Commissioner Tierney motioned to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Payne seconded. All in favor. Chairman Fentress adjourned at 4:26pm.*

#### 10. Next meeting

- *The next meeting is planned to be held September 3, 2020.*