

Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: January 27, 2020

Location: Parks and Recreation Administration Building
Conference Room

Minutes Prepared By: Trina M. Harrell

Purpose of Meeting

Meeting monthly to provide recommendations to City Council evaluating properties for acquisition; monitoring funding, including Capital Funds, as well as grants; and assist in the monitoring, oversight and guidance of the acquisition process, including the exercise of due diligence, analysis, and development alternatives.

Attendance at Meeting

Name	Profession or Association	E-mail	Present
Tuck Bowie	Chair	tuckbow@terrypeterson.com	√
Lillie Gilbert	Vice Chair	lillie@bch2mts.com	√
Nick Anoaia	Committee Member	nickanoia@cox.net	√
Clay Bernick	Committee Member	cbernickiii@gmail.com	√
Vincent Bowhers	Committee Member	Vbowhers@cox.net	√
Jill Ewell	P&R Commission Liaison	ewellhousehold@gmail.com	√
Maury Hill	Committee Member	Mattcj2@msn.com	√
Tommy Johnson	Committee Member	Tommyjsr757@yahoo.com	
Harold Millett	Committee Member	MillettRh@yahoo.com	
Joseph "Frank" Walton	Committee Member	waltonfh@aol.com	
Committee Liaisons			
Barbara Henley	City Council Member	bhenley@vbgov.com	√
Bob Dyer	Mayor	bdyer@vbgov.com	
Staff			
Kenneth Chandler	Deputy City Manager	kchandler@vbgov.com	
Michael Kirschman	Parks and Recreation	mkirschman@vbgov.com	√
Chad R. Morris	Parks and Recreation	cmorris@vbgov.com	√
Corinna Green	Parks and Recreation	cgreen@vbgov.com	√
Trina Harrell	Parks and Recreation	tmharrel@vbgov.com	√
Lucia Whitlow	City Attorney's Office	cwhitlow@vbgov.com	√
Guests			

Agenda

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Call to Order | 6. Closed Session |
| 2. Introduction of visitors | 7. Open Session |
| 3. Opportunity for Public Comment | 8. Reports |
| 4. Old Business | 9. Announcements |
| 5. New Business/Discussion Items | |

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Meeting Notes, Decisions, Issues

1. **Call to Order:**
 - a. Chair Bowie called the meeting to order at 3:00p.m and introduced our two newest members, Vincent Bowhens and Jill Ewell. All members introduced themselves and shared a short but succinct reason they are dedicated to preserving open space.

2. **Introduction of Visitors**

None.

3. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

None.

4. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Review and approval of meeting minutes**

Tabled until next meeting when a quorum would be available.

5. **New Business/Discussion Items**
 - a. **Transition of Leadership Discussion**

Councilmember Henley provided a brief history of the open space advisory committee and noted the institutional knowledge of the long term members. Corinna confirmed all members will receive a hard copy of the 2015 Annual Report but advised, in the interim, it is available online as well. Chair Bowie advised elections for chair and vice chair will occur at the March meeting to ensure a smooth transition.

 - b. **Grant Opportunities and Limitations**

Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF): State matching funds for protection of open spaces and parklands. Project should be completed within two years. Funds are to be used for acquisition and there is a 50% match.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): Federal matching funds for the acquisition and development of public parks and other outdoor recreation sites and include a 50% match.

Recreational Trails Program (RTP): Federal matching reimbursement program for building and rehabilitating trails and trail related facilities. There is a two-step process: A RTP grant for preliminary engineering (PE) followed by a construction grant (18-month life for completion). Acquisition must take place during PE phase and there is a 20% match.

Partners for Places: A matching grant for building partnerships between local government sustainability leaders and place-based foundations. One or two year projects with a 1:1 match required by one or more local foundations.

6. Closed Session

NA

7. Open Session

NA

8. **Reports:**

a. **Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Foundation – Nick Anoia**

- Spring Tune-Up Golf Tournament – Friday, May 8th at Kempsville Greens Golf Course, Shotgun start at 12:30pm.
- Earth Day 5K Race and a Mile Fun Run-Walk – Saturday, April 18th at Mount Trashmore Park, starting at 11:30am.

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b. Lynnhaven River NOW Taskforce – Vincent Bowhers

- Recent land-based cleanup held on Saturday, January 11th at the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) – There were 87 volunteers who collected 2,112 tons of trash, which was a record cleanup. Partners included members of the 1701 ViBE Creative District and Smartmouth Brewing provided refreshments.
- Next land-based cleanup will be February 8th at Francis Land House, 9:00am – 12 noon.
- Waterway and land-based cleanups occur monthly on the 2nd Saturday of each month.
- For the first time, they are expanding beyond the Lynnhaven River Watershed, including Carolanne Farms and many more as the year progresses.
- Collecting water samples at 18 different waterway sites in Virginia Beach. A few notables members are probably familiar with include Hutton Circle Launch, Birdneck Launch, Thalia Creek Launch, and London Bridge Creek (West Neck Creek Launch).
- Working with the Ocean Lakes community, LRNow has received a grant to plant trees in the community open space.
- All events are listed on www.LRNow.org.

9. Announcements:

- ✓ Virginia Beach Sea Level Wise Adaptation Strategy Public Meetings www.vbgov.com/pwslr
Councilmember Henley spoke about the importance of attending these meetings. Many citizens do not realize the Southern Rivers Watershed encompasses 205 square miles or 67% of the area within the City limits. Virginia Beach still needs to complete the 3x3x3 Rule, which includes studies scoped to completion in three years or less, at a cost of no more than \$3M, and developed with the engagement of all 3 tiers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers vertical team (District, Division, and Headquarters). Also, Councilmember Henley advised the primary steps for the City to focus on now include planning (existing plans such as the Comprehensive Plan), updating the ordinances and policies, and nature based strategies the public is ready to support. By doing so, this will lay the ground work for the engineered solutions. Ultimately, flood reduction strategies filter down to each individual property and every homeowner can be part of the solution. The solutions are not going to stop the flooding but will help the City adapt to it.
- ✓ Another potential consideration for the City could include properties acquired through the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program.

Meeting Adjourn/Next Meeting		
Chair Bowie adjourned the meeting at 3:55p.m.		
Date of Next Meeting	Time	Location
June 22, 2020	3:00p.m.	Parks and Recreation Administration
Assignments		
Action	Assigned To	Notes
Brainstorm topics for the committee to consider.	All members	Be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

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Distribution

Mayor and City Council
Tom Leahy, Acting City Manager
Parks and Recreation Commission
Open Space Advisory Committee
Kenneth Chandler, Deputy City Manager
Lucia Whitlow, City Attorney's Office
Crystal Skinner, Budget and Management Services
Robert "Bobby" Tajan, Planning Director
Kathy Warren, Planning/SGA Office
Emily Archer, Planning/SGA Office
David Trimmer, Agriculture Director
Mark Johnson, Public Works Director
Kristal Johnson, Public Works/Real Estate
Michael Kirschman, Parks and Recreation Director
Frank Fentress, Parks and Recreation, Landscape Management
Parks and Recreation staff present