

BAYFRONT ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES
JULY 19, 2018
VIRGINIA BEACH RESORT HOTEL &
CONFERENCE CENTER

REGULAR MEETING:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Kal Kassir, Gee Faison, Wally Damon, Scott Ayers, Charlie Malbon, Martin Thomas, Joe Bovee

STAFF PRESENT:

Kay Wilson – City Attorney; Mark Shea – Planning Department; Bob Trahan Linn – STIR

OTHERS PRESENT:

Denise Bowman Scott, Emsy Munden – Cape Story by the Sea, Trish Rozanski – Bay Breeze Villas, Ashley Cytron – Harbour Gate, Sharon Chancey – Harbour Gate, Duane Gauthier – Commonwealth Hotels, Joe Hart – Commonwealth Hotels

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Damon made a motion to approve the minutes from 6/21/18. Mr. Ayers seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

CHAIRMAN REPORT:

Chairman Kassir called the meeting to order.

Mr. Gauthier and Mr. Hart, from Commonwealth Hotels were introduced. Mr. Hart gave a brief orientation to the upcoming plans to invest 25-27 million dollars in renovations to the hotel and that he wants to be involved with the activities of the Commission.

The cancellation of the earlier scheduled Strategic Planning session due to improper advertisement of the meeting. He asked if the Commission wanted to proceed with the strategic planning after regular business or to schedule another date. The Commission decided to proceed today and see how late it goes.

A request was made by a citizen for the names of the recipients of the Baylines newsletter. This request is being handled by the City Attorney's Office through the FOIA process.

Ocean Park has discussed registering the Bayfront Oak Trees logo that is featured on the Ocean Park Neighborhood Identification sign since this is being used for other marketing purposes. Both Kay Wilson and Martin Thomas expressed concerns with registering the logo and its future use by other neighborhoods and the Commission. The Commission agreed to not support the Ocean Park request.

Installation of “The Canoes” public art on the Lesner Bridge will begin on July 24 and there will be an unveiling ceremony on July 28 at 11 am.

Due to hotel renovations expecting to begin in November, the Shiflet family has graciously offered the Virginia Beach Tennis and Racquet Club for meetings while the renovation is ongoing at the Hotel.

Phil Davenport has offered volunteer service to the Commission. Chairman Kassir stated that this will be very helpful, especially to the Design Committee.

\$800,000 of capital funds have been temporarily shifted from Shore Drive Phase III in the City’s Budget to address immediate stormwater needs and will be restored by the next fiscal year. This will not impact the schedule for construction.

The owner of Chic’s restaurant on Vista Circle has expressed various complaints with the upkeep of the adjacent property to the north. The latest situation involved confrontations with feral cats. Ms. Wilson indicated that various complaints have been pursued by the City and are awaiting court action.

STAFF REPORTS:

No reports

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Design – Mr. Bovee indicated that he and the committee would like to review plans for Shore Drive Phase III

Communication – Mr. Ayers expressed that there needs to be a suggestion section in the Baylines Newsletter.

Infrastructure – Mr. Malbon gave a report that indicated that ridership went up over 50% from June, 2017 to June, 2018. After further review of the HRT information, Mr. Shea discovered that the increase was actually 113% in ridership or over a doubling. Mr. Shea stated that this is even more significant since the ridership of the other seasonal shuttle routes were basically the same over the past year. Parks and Recreation has placed the order for the bike racks at the 6 designated beach access points. A suggestion was made to look at a future bike rack at Crab Creek near the City boat ramp.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS:

Ms. Munden spoke of Cape Story by the Sea's challenges to conduct the fireworks event each year on the 4th of July. She expressed that they would like BAC to ask the City for more support. Chairman Kassir indicated that the \$500 provided to both Cape Story and Ocean Park is very minimal and that this would be discussed more in the strategic planning session.

The representatives from Harbour Gate expressed that the adjacent beach is in great need of sand replenishment.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION:

The session began at approximately 4:30 and ran until 6. The Commission decided to continue the session prior to the next regular meeting on August 16, 2018. The session will start at 1:30. Separate meeting notes will be provided for the Strategic Planning sessions.