

BAYFRONT ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2018
VIRGINIA BEACH RESORT HOTEL &
CONFERENCE CENTER

REGULAR MEETING:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Kal Kassir, Charlie Malbon, Joe Bovee, Wally Damon, Stacey Shiflet, Gee Faison, Mercedes Holland (Navy)

STAFF PRESENT:

Kay Wilson – City Attorney; Mark Shea – Planning Department; Victoria Rice – City Attorney; Brian Solis – Planning

OTHERS PRESENT:

Josh Moto/Steve Bishard – Bishard Homes; Jeff Holste – Harborview Condo's; Doug Norris – Ships Watch; Trish Rozanski – Bay Breeze Condo's; Denise Bowman Scott – BAC Volunteer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Malbon made a motion to approve the minutes from 8/16/18. Mr. Faison seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

CHAIRMAN REPORT:

Chairman Kassir told the Commission that the Design Committee has decided to give this year's recognition award to the Virginia Beach Public Arts Foundation for their work with the recently installed "Canoes" piece on the Lesner Bridge. A letter will be drafted to announce this decision to the appropriate individuals and City Council. The recognition will take place at the November meeting at the request of the Foundation.

Chairman Kassir and Vice-Chair Ayers will meet soon to discuss the packaging of the 2018 BAC strategic planning and citizen input session summaries for City Council. This information will be sent after the election.

Chairman Kassir and Vice-Chair Ayers are looking to schedule a meeting with Ms. Scott and Ms. Bailey to talk about the newsletter. Chairman Kassir will also talk with Ms. Munden and Jill Doczi about approaching the City for more funds and/or possible better rates for Shore Drive if the City did the contracting.

STAFF REPORTS:

No reports

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Design – Mr. Bovee indicated that he has a better comfort level with Shore Drive Phase III after seeing the landscaping sheet for the area near the intersection of Shore Drive and Page Street. Many of the oak trees will be kept outside of the perimeter of the proposed stormwater pond. Mr. Bill Purcell, from Public Works, will attend the next meeting.

Communication – No report

Infrastructure – Mr. Malbon reported that Parks and Recreation has made a slight modification to the installation of the bike racks along Shore Drive. At the request of the Ocean Park Civic League, Parks will be leaving the existing older rack at Rookery Way and instead will install a new rack near the intersection of Raleigh and Jefferson. The other 5 locations from the recent study will remain the same.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS:

No Reports

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Steve Bishard discussed his proposed project located at 3301 Ocean Shore Avenue. This three story mixed use building will have retail on the first floor and the two upper floors are planned for residential use. He is requesting a 20 foot variance for the front yard setback from the property line adjacent to Ocean Shore Avenue and a 15 foot corner yard setback from property along Cherry Tree Place. After some discussion of the proposed project design, commission members indicated that they did not have concerns over the proposed variance application.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Solis provided the Commission with ridership information related to the Bayfront Shuttle. Ridership for 2018 continued to be nearly double the amount for the same months in 2017. Improvement of the route headway from 45 minutes to 30 minutes and extension of the route to the Pleasure House and Rudee Loop transfer at either end of the route have likely helped ridership. HRT will be installing a new shelter at the Pleasure House Transfer Station. Mr. Damon asked if the bike racks could accommodate fat tires. Mr. Solis will check into this. A suggestion was made to extend the route further west to the Little Creek gate. Mr. Solis stated that this would be unlikely to be approved by HRT.

The entire frontage of the base is currently served by a connecting route and some of the base housing is within walking distance of the transfer center. Chairman Kassir stated that HRT needs to continue improvement with marketing the route. Mr. Malbon asked again if trolleys could run on the route and Mr. Solis will check with HRT.

Mr. Solis gave a briefing on the new van shuttle service to take lighthouse visitors from the Ft. Story gate parking lot to the lighthouse, in order to enhance security on base. These vans should be running by the end of October and Ms. Holland stated that the Navy has programmed a two phase gate modification project to enhance accessibility to those parking at the gate. The vans were purchased by the City and will also be maintained by the City. They will be wrapped with Virginia Beach Tourism advertisements. Preservation Virginia is providing the drivers.

Chairman Kassir concluded the meeting at 4:50 and indicated that October would be the last meeting at the Virginia Beach Hotel and Conference Center. In November, the meeting will be held at the Virginia Beach Tennis and Country Club, 1950 Thomas Bishop Lane.