



RESORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES

DATE: April 7, 2022
TIME: 3:00 pm
PLACE: Virginia Beach Convention Center, Room 4AB

**COMMISSION MEMBERS
PRESENT**

BJ Baumann
Randy Thompson
Bill Gambrell
Billy Almond
Bob Taylor
Bobby Melatti
Chuck Cayton
D. Nachnani
Damen Watson
George Kotarides
John Zirkle
Lori Overholt
Michael Levinson
Mike Eason
Page Miyares
Tyler Brown

**COMMISSION MEMBERS
ABSENT**

Delceno Miles
Mike Mauch
Michael Ronan

OTHERS PRESENT

Guy Tower, Council
Linwood Branch, Council
Capt. Harry McBrien, VBPD
Lauren Townsend, CVB
John Mayer, CVB
Robby Wells, iamother/CVB
Nancy Perry, VSH
Emily Archer, EcoDev
Kaleb Dunlap, EcoDev

Kate Pittman, ViBe
Kathy Warren, EcoDev
Laura Habr, ViBe
Megan Gribble, Planning
Mackenzie Dinardo, AQM
Nancy Helman, CVB
Brande Rumpf, CVB
Sgt. Nicholas Ball, VBPD
Stacey Parker, The Pilot
Teri Wiley, VBHA
Terri Boothe, VB Resident
Worth Remick, Colliers
Wendell Phillips, Zoning, RMO
Lisa Bleakley, RMO
Robin Hart, RMO, Recorder

RAC Chair BJ Baumann called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **Motion carried to approve the March 3, 2022 minutes as written.**

CVB Spring/Summer Campaign – Lauren Townsend

Lauren updated the Commission on the upcoming spring and summer marketing campaigns and expressed thanks to the city for their support during her tenure as Marketing Director for the CVB.

VB Law Enforcement Update – Capt. Harry McBrien

Capt. McBrien reviewed the police department's plans for the summer, which included the 2nd precinct's Special Event Unit's schedule and responsibilities, the Atlantic Avenue substation, the cameras and lighting status, bike programs, homeless outreach and CPTED schedule.

The city is going to try to take further actions that could speed up the completion of the substation, hopefully by July 1, and Councilmembers will do what they can to assist.

The law enforcement staffing shortage is still an issue and the Commission discussed what might be

addressed at the legislative or executive level. Discussion to continue.

Chairman's Report

BJ Baumann advised the commission that they will be walking the resort the upcoming weekend on Friday and Saturday evenings and invited any that wished to attend to contact her for details.

Committee Reports

Transportation, Parking, Pedestrian Committee (TPPC) & Resort Area Mobility Plan (RAMP) Steering Committee

Chuck Cayton reported that they had an update to the operations plan for the reapplications for the Old Beach Farmers and Art Markets contracts. Cypress Avenue and sections of 19th Street will be closed, and they will adjust for events accordingly. The TPPC approved the plan as presented.

They had a presentation on improvements to 21st Street entering the resort area to improve public safety, which included lowering the speed limit and installing flashing signs.

The had HRT ridership updates and Q&A from Megan Gribble and HRT's Ray Amoruso.

The Ave project refresh (murals, planters, umbrellas, installing wave delineators) is scheduled to be completed by April 4.

The micro-transit Freebee contract funding is to be voted on at Council on April 19. The GEM cars will be replaced with Teslas, due to supply chain issues, but it will likely work out to be a better substitute.

Chuck reviewed the RPP residents' survey and will work with the RMO to obtain draft approved. The employer survey will be reviewed at the May TPPC meeting.

A motion was carried to approve the letter to Secretary Buttigieg in support of HRT's application for a RAISE grant for their new maintenance facility at Corporate Landing. The VBHA's John Zirkle opposed, requesting that TPPC/RAC consider a letter to HRT to begin the process to remove the portion of the hotel tax currently being received by HRT. **Motion carried to draft tax letter to HRT when the time is appropriate.** Councilman Tower suggested copying members of our General Assembly delegation and ask Debra Bryan to add to the legislative agenda for 2023.

RAMP Update – Chuck reviewed the RAMP schedule with new tentative dates of April 28 for a RAMP Advisory Committee review meeting, a presentation to RAC on June 2, review by Planning Commission on June 8, July 5 and 12 will be City Council Public Comment and Vote, respectively.

Planning & Design Review Committee (PDRC)

Billy Almond reported that the committee heard a presentation to add heaters to the Sheraton's outdoor café. The installation was approved by the PDRC.

Restroom construction on 20th Street has been delayed to the fall of 2022 due to address underground utilities discovered at the site. Billy also mentioned that there is technology to discover this type of unforeseen circumstance. The 20th Street facility will be the prototype for the 30th Street restrooms that will be demolished in the fall and rebuilt, adding two showers.

The owners of outdoor café for the Ramada at 28th Street made some modifications to the café, which were approved by PDRC.

Emily Archer has reported that resort outdoor café inspections are ongoing with follow-ups to be conducted. The makeshift COVID-cafes have been either taken down or brought into compliance.

Oceanfront Strategic Growth Area Committee (OSGAC)

Bill Gambrell summarized a previous City employee's experience with resort development in the past and they discussed recommendations for the future.

Oceanfront Enhancement Committee (OEC)

Randy Thompson reported on the noise ordinance discussion led by Rod Ingram. The VBPD demonstrated a new noise decibel meter, which is needed to substantiate criminal charges for noise violations. Rod presented new laws for civil penalties for noise violations which require less restrictive measures. RAC will be advised when they will be on a future Council agenda. The OEC is hoping that this might serve as a template for enforcing ROW violations again for next year.

They also had a second update from Charlene Moring, an attorney specializing in cannabis legislation. The legislative agenda items list was updated to include establishing position on cannabis retail locations, onsite consumption licenses, odor control and transportation.

Resort Investment Committee (RIC)

The RIC suggested and confirmed speakers for upcoming RIC and RAC meetings for the next three months.

G.R.E.E.N.

No report available.

Staff Report

Lisa Bleakley updated the Commission on the ongoing café franchise inspections, upcoming special events and enforcement reminders of zoning regulations.

Old Business

None

New Business

George Kotarides commented that he noticed that the morning Pilot's newspaper article on parking conflicted with the statement made by law enforcement today that the on-street parking does not present a public safety issue for them in the off-season. The article appeared to present contradictory information, which does not typically occur. He requested that the conflict to be vetted through the committees, and BJ advised that it would be addressed at the TPPC.

Bobby Melatti recommended downloading a noise decibel app on their cell phones called Decibel-X.

Public Comment

None

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.