



RESORT ADVISORY COMMISSION
MINUTES

DATE: June 2, 2022
TIME: 3:00 pm
PLACE: Virginia Beach Convention Center, Room 3AB

COMMISSION MEMBERS

PRESENT

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS

ABSENT

Lori Overholt
Mike Eason
Mike Mauch

OTHERS PRESENT

Sen. Bill DeSteph
Del. Barry Knight
Guy Tower, Council
Linwood Branch, Council
John Janusz, Dir. EcoDev,
Freebee
MacKenzie Di Nardo, VA AQM
Kate Pittman, ViBe
Kathy Warren, EcoDev
Mark Shea, Planning

Megan Gribble, Planning
Brande Rumpf, CVB
Nancy Perry, VSH
Rob Fries, Parking Mgmt
Sgt. Nicholas Ball, VBPD
Ofr. Charlotte Mayberry,
VBPD
MPO Tony Espinosa, VBPD
Stacey Parker, The Pilot
Teri Wiley, VBHA
Terri Boothe, Resident
Wendell Phillips, RMO
Worth Remick, Colliers
Lisa Bleakley, RMO
Robin Hart, RMO, Recorder

RAC Chair BJ Baumann called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **Motion carried to approve the May 5, 2022 minutes as amended for attendance.**

Freebee Presentation – John Janusz

John Janusz, the Director of Economic Development for Freebee electric carts, provided an overview of the pilot program to be operating at the resort this summer.

The contract is a performance-based contract, partially paid by the City at \$550K, which is less than transit service paid for currently.

Legislative Discussion

Bill DeSteph and Bobby Knight addressed both their respective and common legislative issues and how their work, specifically on passing the budget, was achieved through compromise. Other items of discussion centered on cannabis and ABC regulations, mental health, and the hotels and the HRT tax being taken from their revenue.

Chairman's Report

There will be a Wednesday JUNE 8 RAMP Workshop for RAC Commissioners to review the Resort Area Mobility Plan Steering Committee documents to ensure that everyone is clear on the summaries and recommendations. BJ reminded the Commission that the RAMP document is a mobility document, not an aesthetics document. BJ requested that comments be sent to Robin Hart if they have comments and are unable to attend.

Billy pointed out that the documents point out the five things that we need to do and how should they go about it.

BJ advised not to complete the survey until after the June 8 Workshop, and Chuck Cayton wants to review the last RAMP meeting summary from the last TPPC.

Billy Almond suggested asking Kimley-Horn to show the Commission examples of other municipalities that have made these types of changes, i.e. San Diego and what the Ten Things to Do, etc.

Committee Reports

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

At last month's May TPPC meeting, a motion was carried to approve the plan for the temporary Amtrak/Megabus transfer station relocation to Parks Avenue next to the convention center, and another motion was carried to request that City Staff conduct a feasibility study to examine using the VIC for a future transportation center for Amtrak, Megabus and HRT. Both motions stemmed from discussion after a presentation from Mark Shea regarding the transfer station and need for transportation facility.

Rob Fries reviewed the FY22 Parking Program presentation to Council in April, which included proposed changes to the code, parking rates and the RPPP rate. Council is scheduled to vote on this matter this month.

They also continued their discussion on the RPP parking program.

Ric Lowman provided the status of the traffic signal at Atlantic Avenue and 5th Street and Rob Fries provided an update on the pilot micro-mobility program.

Rob Fries reviewed the changes to the parking rates. There is a proposal to have dynamic pricing during in the garages and lots during peak periods only (between \$10 and \$22), and to realign the rates for the surface lots to a flat \$2.00/hr to park. They are increasing the RPPP fee to a flat \$5.00 across the board, no free passes. They have not raised prices in 10 years. A lot of the push behind the changes is to keep the message simple.

There was discussion between raising prices that would discourage locals coming to the beach, and the fact that the proposed rates are not as high as other comparable cities. The hearing on the parking fees' changes is on June 7 and the vote will be June 21.

George Kotarides made a motion that a study be conducted to see if residents can park for free in certain areas and certain times of the resort, in three-hour increments. Seconded by Bill Gambrell. John Zirkle reminded the Commission that if residents are paying for a percentage of parking now, the Parking Enterprise Fund does not make a lot of money now and if you let them park for free, the Parking Enterprise Fund loses its revenue for maintenance.

Mike Levinson added that he is in support of the study and that the TPPC be allowed to evaluate the recommendation instead of carrying a motion.

George asked whether that meant that the proposed changes in the parking rates would be deferred at the next Council meeting, and it was not; it was to conduct a study.

BJ recommended that they withdraw the original motion and have TPPC evaluate the free parking component for residents in conjunction with the staff. TPPC will bring it forward to RAC.

Guy Tower made a point of order, asking if the vote for the motion imply that a request for deferral will be made at the June 21 Council meeting, and Bill replied that it was not part of the motion.

Kathy Warren believed that they did provide feedback on offering free parking at one of the presentations during the past year, so they can resurface that data and report on it again.

BJ called for a vote on the original motion. Bill Gambrell and George Kotarides in favor. The rest of the Commission (majority) opposed. Motion denied.

Mike Levinson verified that the motion was not against free parking. Rob Fries began reviewing the free parking discussions on in the past and BJ rerouted the discussion for Rob to appear at the July RAC meeting to provide an overview and discuss. Plan to invite Rob to the RAC meeting on July 7 to discuss the free parking.

Planning & Design Review Committee (PDRC)

Billy Almond reported that they had a presentation on a water meter valve replacement project planned for 55 sites between 1st and 17th streets. The decision on what gets put back in place and the landscaping is the responsibility of the contractor. Kevin Campbell, the PE from PW and PU, and a few PDRC volunteered to be part of the decisions that will affects all the visuals that are put back in place. There will be utility markings everywhere again.

Oceanfront Strategic Growth Area Committee (OSGAC)

Bill Gambrell reported that they met with a bank representative who reviewed the criteria that the bank uses and their enthusiasm in working with the resort industry, also offered that they would find themselves coming to our committee meetings and offer observations as to what goes on in the RAC and OSGAC.

Oceanfront Enhancement Committee (OEC)

Randy Thompson reported that they met last Thursday with the chief office of the Virginia Cannabis Control Authority accompanied by our region's cannabis rep from the area. The next step for OEC is to come up with a list of concerns, run them through RAC at the next meeting, and take those concerns to our City Council and legislative team and legislative liaison.

They also reviewed their RAC assigned Priorities. They are awaiting implementation schedule for the revised utility pavement markings notification, hopefully in time for the water meter replacement project.

The projection art project will now be funded and handled by Emily Labows of the Department of Cultural Affairs.

They moved their busking permit process for the city to after the city deals with the noise ordinance to avoid confusion. There is a public hearing for the noise ordinance on June 28 and vote scheduled for July 12. There are plans to have a RAC member at Council speaking in favor of the noise ordinance.

Resort Investment Committee (RIC)

BJ Baumann reported that most of their RIC meeting centered on what was already discussed at

today's meeting.

The RIC suggested and confirmed speakers for upcoming RIC and RAC meetings for the next three months. July has Emily Labows schedule for the Sports Center art project, and are determining whether they will be holding the August RAC meeting.

G.R.E.E.N.

No report for this month.

Staff Report

Kathy Warren introduced a drawing of the planned parking for the construction employees involved with the Atlantic Park project. The parking hours will likely be from 7:00a.m. to approx. 4:00pm.m-5:00p.m. in the South Lot No. 1 and the Valet Lot next to it. They will either walk to the site or be shuttled in. They worked with the CVB and VBCC and they have approved that this will work for them. The spaces for the handicapped will be available. If they need to move it to the other side to the Sports Center, they will.

The TPPC motion to incorporate a requirement for construction parking in the project site plan review process is in progress; Kathy will check the planning department's progress.

Councilmember Tower asked what plans are for additional visitor parking once the current available parking is no longer available due to construction. Kathy replied that today's parking plan is only about the construction workers. There are several different pieces to the parking plan for the 538 parking spaces that are going away because of Atlantic Park construction. One of those includes the new garage at 35th Street, they are looking at an angled parking plan along the side streets between Pacific and Atlantic Avenues. They are talking to developers who own surface lots to see if they are interested in adding parking structures there like what is being done at 35th Street. They must look at what they can actually get in place by next season.

Lisa Bleakley reported that sand removal from the northeaster storm is ongoing, much of which has to be done by hand.

Regarding the noise ordinance, if it is approved, should be able to help them with some situations that they experienced over the weekend.

Memorial Day went well in most respects, and they are in full events mode now. Next weekend is Sand Soccer which will occupy many blocks of the beach. The oceanfront concert series will begin soon and the performances have been ramped up.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.