



RESORT ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: November 3, 2022
TIME: 3:00 pm
PLACE: Virginia Beach Convention Center, Room 5AB

COMMISSION MEMBERS

PRESENT

BJ Baumann
Randy Thompson
Bill Gambrell
Billy Almond
Bob Taylor
Bobby Melatti
Chuck Cayton
D. Nachnani
Delceno Miles
George Kotarides
John Zirkle
Lori Overholt
Michael Eason
Michael Levinson

Michael Mauch
Michael Ronan
Tyler Brown

COMMISSION MEMBERS

ABSENT

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Page Miyares

OTHERS PRESENT

Guy Tower, City Council
Police Chief Paul Neudigate,
VBPD
Capt. Harry McBrien, 2nd
Precinct

Sgt. Nick Ball, 2nd Precinct
Kyle Williams, RAMP
Michael Anaya, EcoDev
Kathy Warren, EcoDev
Nancy Helman, CVB
Brande Rumpf, CVB
Nancy Perry, VSH
Stacey Parker, The Pilot
Taylor Adams, DCM, Eco Dev
Teri Wiley, VBHA
Lisa Bleakley, RMO
Elisabeth Parker, EcoDev,
Recorder

RAC Chair BJ Baumann called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

Law Enforcement Resort Seasonal Update – Chief Paul Neudigate introduced Capt. Harry McBrien of the Virginia Beach Police Department 2nd Precinct to present the Resort Area Law Enforcement Update.

Capt. McBrien gave a detailed update on the Resort area crime statistics with the main focus of leading the city in the reduction of violent crimes and highlighting having gone 343 days consecutively without a shooting at the Oceanfront. Other highlighted efforts include having a Director of Communications for the Virginia Beach Police Department to help increase positive perception and reality of Resort Area safety, regional tracking collaborations, updated software systems in office and on patrol, hiring certified officers, and having an Atlantic Avenue Public Safety Substation.

Billy Almond suggested having the VBPD engage with the Honor Foundation who supports retired Navy Seals in securing public safety positions such as vacant police positions.

Resort Area Mobility Plan (RAMP) Update – Kathy Warren introduced Kyle Williams of Kimley Horn to present the RAMP update.

Kyle Williams gave an up-to-date presentation on what the Resort Area Mobility Plan's initial intentions

were and how they have evolved over the last two years. Some efforts are still trying to be implemented from the original Oceanfront Transportation Mobility Plan (OTMP) from 2000. Freebee has supplied over 10,000 rides for the months of July and August 2022 with over 8,000 in September. VbGo is the parking app that is being rolled out to find and pay for parking in the city along with the ability to book a Freebee ride.

Kathy Warren shared that Resort facilities are not ready as of yet to accommodate some of the plan's goals. Striping, share-the-road placement, and signage still needs to occur before full execution and no underground utilities have been moved.

Taylor Adams reminded everyone that there will be a vote on this at the December 6, 2022 RAC meeting. Without an overwhelming consensus to move forward, this will stall progress.

Chairman's Report

BJ Bauman asked Deputy City Manager Taylor Adams to give an update on the 2023 Something in the Water Festival event. DCM Adams shared that to the best of his knowledge, tickets for the event went on sale yesterday, November 2, 2022. A dedicated team member from the Convention & Visitors Bureau will be the City liaison for this event.

This will be the second year of the presentation of the Preston Midgett Volunteer Award.

The Resort Advisory Commission is scheduled to present their annual report to City Council on December 6, 2022.

Committee Reports

Transportation, Parking, Pedestrian Committee (TPPC)

The TPPC met last Thursday and received an update on Freebee as well as the Resort Employee Parking Program from Robert Fries, Parking Management Office Manager. They also received an update on the Holiday Lights Traffic Plan from Lisa Bleakley, Resort Management Office Administrator. Megan Gribble, Transportation Planner, gave an update presentation on future plans for the HRT Trolley based on ridership.

Planning & Design Review Committee (PDRC)

Billy Almond had to leave and there was no report out.

Oceanfront Enhancement Committee (OEC)

OEC met on October 27th to discuss a busking permit. The Atlantic Avenue Association gave an update and new seal proposals are due by November 21, 2022.

Resort Investment Committee (RIC)

The RIC received a budget presentation from Kevin Chatellier at their last meeting. He has been asked to present to RAC to review and discuss revenue adjustments.

Oceanfront Strategic Growth Area Committee (OSGAC)

OSGAC discussed continuing to work on marketing and perception issues for the Resort area specifically regarding crime and how to draw more positive awareness to the area for higher visitor numbers and increase safety measures.

G.R.E.E.N.

The committee is working on a polystyrene (Styrofoam) pledge for businesses and residents to adopt, ahead of approved legislation for certain businesses to prepare for the ban.

Toyboxes are being designed to be placed next to lifeguard stands and filled with beach toys left on the beach, to prevent them from being washed out to sea, and for others' use.

Five-minute pickup buckets are being considered for installation for a program to allow beachgoers to pick up trash for five minutes on the beach.

Staff Report

Lisa Bleakley shared that free 2-hour on-street parking has resumed on Atlantic Avenue from 11a.m.-11p.m.

Festoon lights are going up for the holidays.

Bike Night for Boardwalk Holiday Lights will be on November 17th and will officially begin for cars on November 18th. There are free vouchers here for RAC members.

December 6, 2022 the plastic bag fee is coming back to City Council for discussion and vote.

There are also openings on the City Council Cannabis Task Force if anyone is interested in becoming a member.

Old Business

Bobby Melatti communicated that the Jeep on the Beach event scheduled for November 12-13, 2022 is sold out.

New Business

None

Public Comment

None

Meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.