



Resort Advisory Commission  
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RESORT ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MINUTES

**DATE:** January 9, 2014  
**TIME:** 3:00 pm  
**PLACE:** Virginia Beach Convention Center, Meeting Room 4AB

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Billy Almond  
Jim Davis  
Craig Roback  
Bobby Melatti  
Randy Thompson  
Joe DaBiero  
Bill Gambrell  
Laura Habr  
Sam Reid  
Michael Cloud-Butler  
Nancy Creech  
Bryan Cuffee  
Sylvia Strickland  
Ken Taylor  
Gerrie West

John Hawa  
Preston Midgett  
Art Webb

**OTHERS PRESENT**

John Uhrin, City Council  
Chief Cevera  
Deputy Chief Tony Zucaro  
Scott Humphries  
Capt. Pat Gallagher  
Kristina Chastain  
Diana Burke, VBHMA  
Bill Reed, BEACON  
Stacey Parker, Virginian-Pilot  
Mike Eason, SGA/Resort Mgmt.  
Robin Hart, SGA/Recorder

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT**

Gerrie West  
Tom Brown

Chair Billy Almond called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

**Motion carried to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2013 meeting as written.**

Law Enforcement Update – Deputy Chief Tony Zucaro

The Virginia Beach Police Department (VBPD) has taken an effort to send some positive messages to the City at large, and to better educate the community about what the police do, as well as show them how safe the City really is. They are reaching out to organizations such as the civic leagues, and the hotel-motel association to help bring this presentation to the forefront.

Capt. Gallagher has been transferred from the Oceanfront (Second) precinct to the Kempsville (Fourth) precinct. Capt. Sean Adams will be transferred to the Oceanfront precinct.

Chief Jim Cevera was in attendance to answer any broad questions resulting from the presentation, and to emphasize that law enforcement is a community issue that needs community solutions.

Pat Gallagher begins the presentation on VBPD Oceanfront Operations (link: <http://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/police/Documents/FreshPerspective.pdf>).

The purpose of the presentation is to show how the VBPD is organized under four precincts, provide a picture of Virginia Beach's environment and attempt to explain why so many people come to Virginia Beach.

The Captain goes on to explain what types of major events involve the police, their multi-system enforcement approach, varying patrol methods and crowd control.

In presenting the arrest and conviction records, trends, crime hotspots and typical violators, Captain Gallagher noted that, in 2012, Virginia Beach was ranked first in crime prevention comparisons among cities in the United States with populations between 300K and 500K people. Good law enforcement-community relations, good preliminary response officers, good investigative skills and superior technology contribute to Virginia Beach's high ranking, with an average of 1.8 officers assigned per 1,000 people.

Other duties that fall under the VBPD include policing the homeless at the oceanfront, finding lost children and dementia sufferers (Project Lifesaver), assisting foreign students (ISOP), and having officers certified in first aid and CPR in order to assist EMS.

Looking toward the future, the police department hopes to have new technology increased staffing, changes in the criminal code, and increased outreach and stakeholder coordination efforts to further community involvement. They realize that resources have to be devoted to Town Center as well as the oceanfront, as they are both economic drivers for the City.

## DISCUSSION

An update on the camera system revealed that there were 90 cameras reviewed and there will be 25 cameras to start. The hope is that the project will become a CIP soon, to build in with the back end structure. They are also looking at having cameras at Town Center to tie in with the whole system.

Mike Eason says that it is also being coordinated with the phase-in of the LED lights at the boardwalk.

Pat Gallagher holds the lead on the outreach position. He has been in communication with the VBHMA, the Director of the housing entity for the City, who is also the Chairman of the Homeless Task Force Advisory. A review is coming and the idea will be going before Council. RAC has already provided a letter of support, and the challenge is to connect the dots in linking the service provider to the individual in need.

Chief Cevera says that it has been a challenge for law enforcement to incorporate diversity on the force. The applicants are not from a diverse background, but they are reaching out to the communities.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Transportation, Parking, Pedestrian Committee (TPPC)**

The TPPC did not meet in December.

### **Planning Design Review Committee (PDRC)**

Billy Almond notes that the boardwalk replacement lighting is in the planning stages and was under discussion at PDRC.

There will be a meeting on Monday at 2:00pm concerning the LifeguART project, discussing ideas on how to incorporate sponsorship.

### **Oceanfront Enhancement Committee (OEC)**

The OEC did not meet in December but Jim Davis reports that in their November meeting, they discussed bringing stakeholders in for discussion at the Resort Investment Committee (RIC), and that is happening.

The OEC also reviewed their Power of Change program.

### **Resort Investment Committee (RIC)**

Ken Taylor reports that the RIC did meet with stakeholders and recognized the group effort required, with human rights being a piece of the project.

In reviewing the New Year's Eve celebration at Town Center, they realized the need to invigorate their efforts to round out our 12-month offering at the oceanfront, and have put together a subcommittee to address that.

### **Communications Committee (CC)**

The CC did not meet in December.

### **G.R.E.E.N. Committee**

The G.R.E.E.N. Committee did not meet in December.

### **Staff Report**

Mike Eason reports that the indoor carousel at Lynnhaven Mall is going to be removed, and he has been in discussion with the owner about moving it to the resort area. A conference call is forthcoming.

Cirquesa will probably not be back, but the City is reviewing options. The City is looking at something to replace them at Rudee Loop.

### **New Business**

None

**Other Business**

John Uhrin provided a summary of his retreat meetings that occurred recently, and reported that the arena was still on tap toward helping create a vibrant area for the City.

He expressed a need to continue investment in those industries that have worked for us in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:12pm