



Resort Advisory Commission
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RESORT ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: June 2, 2016
TIME: 3:00 pm
PLACE: Virginia Beach Convention Center, Room 1D

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Billy Almond
Randy Thompson
Sam Reid
Bill Gambrell
Preston Midgett
Joe DaBiero
Gerrie West
John Hawa
Nancy Creech
BJ Baumann
Bobby Melatti
Bryan Cuffee

Sylvia Strickland
Tyler Brown
Jim Davis
Craig Roback

OTHERS PRESENT

Lt. Bob Christman, VBPD
John Uhrin, Council
Kristine Gay, Planning
Greg Ward, BCF
Bill Reed, BEACON
Stacey Parker, The Pilot
Hillary Smith, Southside Daily
Mike Eason, SGA/Resort Mgmt.
Cece Riddick, SGA
Robin Hart, SGA/Recorder

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Kristina Chastain
Laura Habr
Michael Cloud-Butler

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

Motion carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2016 meeting as written.

J&A Racing 5K Series – Jerry & Amy Frostick

Preston introduces Jerry and Amy Frostick, who appeared before the TPPC last week to discuss a weekly race on the boardwalk. There would be no closure of the boardwalk and they would be running with any traffic out there, around 8:00am. It will be a pilot program, and the TPPC thought that it was worth looking at for the summer. Expected attendance is between 75-100 people per race and they would start at 21st Street run to 10th Street and back. The series is designed for hotel guests to get out and get some exercise in the morning, but locals are allowed to participate. Jerry says that they are not recruiting hardcore runners; it is more of a fun, social event than anything else.

Mike Eason says that this is going to Council on Tuesday to request approval for a three-month franchise agreement and then evaluate after that time.

Commission members commented that it would be a good idea for the community. Jerry tells the RAC that they would have rack cards listing other locations where people can run so they can get to know the area.

Motion carried to support the pilot project proposed for the J&A boardwalk series runs.

The TPPC report will be continued after the report from Lt. Bob Christman.

Oceanfront Cameras Project – Lt. Bob Christman

Billy explains that Lt. Christman was available to fill in to show the Commission what the PDRC saw on Tuesday for the resort area camera project.

Bob includes what has been done up to this point in the project. The second precinct camera room received an upgrade with new computer workstations. They have installed the Genetec video management system, which will be compatible with the schools and other businesses' camera systems.

Phase I will involve installing 25 new cameras, replacing 18 existing cameras. Eventually they will be able to tie them all together, eventually linking to the city's 54 public works cameras throughout the city (which includes 13 traffic management cameras at the resort area to which they already have access). They are going to have end-to-end coverage from 2nd Street at the boardwalk, on down.

All locations are in the city right-of-ways and on city property. They did not choose landscaped areas because of all the gear already there, so they chose to work in the greenbelt areas as much as possible, making sure not to interfere with EMS access anywhere. Each street was a case-by-case basis due to where the power source was. They had to consider potential projects (i.e. Pier) so some adjustments have been made to existing plans.

Bob reviews the camera locations for Phases I through III, and then proceeds to review the specific locations of the 25 cameras in Phase I. The poles on the boardwalk will be 25-foot round tapered poles which will be painted Virginia Beach White. Poles will be on even-numbered streets on the boardwalk and odd-numbered streets on Atlantic to ensure overlapping coverage. The 8-foot deep poles are hurricane-proof for a Category 3 storm. The poles off the boardwalk will be 30 feet tall to view over trees, etc.

QUESTIONS:

- Bill Gambrell asks the scope of the cameras project.
Bob replies that there is no limit to the number of cameras they can have. The program is also easily expandable for private/public partnerships through an MOU.
- John Uhrin asks if they can access the private cameras, and Bob replies that they can, at the 31st Street Park, for example. Genetec will allow like systems to access to each other through one process (a federation), as well as access to other camera systems through their IP address (a stratocast). They want to install and tweak Phase I before they try those systems.
- Nancy Creech asks if they have the funding for any additional personnel that might be required to run the cameras.

Bob replies that they will require additional labor and it is funded. In the past, they have used limited duty officers for support. For the last two years, they had eight funded part-time workers from the Citizens' Police Academy and Alumni Association (CPAAA) to monitor the cameras. They worked in 5-hour shifts, seven nights a week.

- Preston Midgett asks if the on-street officers have access to the camera feeds, and Bob replies that they do. Genetec provides three platforms for observing these cameras. We are using the Genetec Client, a software installed on the computer. The two other options are a mobile app (for smartphone or tablet), and a web client, available as an address on the internet which requires city credentials for access.

Mike Eason comments that traffic engineering is assisting the police in installing the poles and hardware to mount the cameras. They are trying to make the poles look similar to those at the boardwalk. They are requesting a statement of support in their efforts to acquire a pole and base similar to what currently exists. Mike says that if the Commission is willing to do that, it will help them in their procurement process.

Billy Almond explains that during Bob's presentation to the PDRC, the committee was concerned about the pole color, dimensions, and the base; essentially, how it looked. The PDRC recommended going with the process that Mike had stated where they would match the existing poles as much as possible, whether it is sole sourced or put out for public RFP. **Motion carried to support the recommendation from the PDRC on the aesthetics of the camera poles in Phase I and Phase II.**

Billy mentions the importance of the structural components of the poles, not only for supporting a 65-lb camera unit in hurricane force winds, but also for everyday use so the images can be as sharp as possible.

Bob Christman explained that they have to have the pole top-mounted cameras (instead of the dome-mounted cameras) because they want to be able to monitor 360-degrees without the view being obstructed by the pole itself.

Sam Reid asked how the image is on the digital cameras and Bob replied that it is superb. They will end up covering approximately 300 feet and the resolution is very good.

Committee Reports

Transportation, Parking, Pedestrian Committee (TPPC)

Continuing after the discussion from J&A Racing, Preston reports that they met last Thursday and discussed a public works project to alleviate flooding in the North Lake Holly watershed, which will close Arctic Avenue and 17th Street for 21 days in January-February 2017.

They discussed the VDOT grant letter of support introduced to TPPC by Mark Shea. Mike Eason requests the RAC endorsement to send this letter of support to City Council to assist in acquiring that grant for improvements throughout the city. **Motion carried to support applying for the VDOT grant application for the proposed traffic improvements for pedestrians on Pacific Avenue.**

They had a presentation from a citizen's group on dog obedience at the beach. Preston shows a brochure the group developed with suggestions for distribution, initially to dog-friendly hotels. They will need to show the brochure to Animal Control, a city agency, and may need to come back to the committee for follow-up before it can become a legal, city flyer, if desired.

There was discussion on the RPP temporary residents' passes and uses, as the numbers that were requested appeared alarming. There will be further discussion on the subject next month.

Bill Gambrell comments that it might be a problem accommodating temporary parking for kids working on the weekends. He wonders if the temporary passes could be extended to the businesses. Preston says that there is no sharing of passes the way it is currently set up; you have to buy a pass for that month.

Planning and Design Review (PDR)

Billy Almond reports that they had an update from Lt. Bob Christman about the oceanfront camera project.

They need to have a review of the café guidelines as they apply to the ViBe District. The east-west guidelines are heavy compared to what the smaller ViBe cafes want to do. They will get a group together to have the guidelines put together. Planning and the SGA offices will be involved.

Oceanfront Enhancement Committee (OEC)

The OEC did not meet last month.

Resort Investment Committee (RIC)

Billy Almond reports that they discussed the next months' scheduled speakers for RAC. The BCF speaker for RAC today was postponed and rescheduled to appear in August with Brad Van Dommelen. There is a possibility for an onsite meeting at the Cavalier, with a tour on September 1. Other speakers tentatively scheduled are Warren Harris with the Economic Development Department for October 6, Aaron Spence, Supt. of Schools on November 3 for presentation on 21st Century Learning and their workforce program, and an update with City Manager Doug Smith on the parking strategy on December 1, 2016.

Oceanfront Strategic Growth Area Committee (OSGAC)

BJ Baumann reports that the discussions held with the Laskin Gateway Property owners is ongoing, and they have determined that there are six owners still to reach and a game plan has been developed. A report will be provided to John Uhrin and the City Manager after the information has been collected.

G.R.E.E.N. Committee

Billy Almond reports for Laura Habr.

The committee reviewed a draft RAC position letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on seismic testing and determined that they need more education on the issue before trying to determine if they should take a position. It was felt that the role of the RAC is to advise City Council.

It was mentioned that the Vacation Channel video links were sent to the Commissioners on the Beachy Clean program, and will be run in the hotels as PSAs.

Economic Development

None

Staff Report

Mike Eason announces that on Friday at 8:00am there will be a hovercraft landing on the beach at 17th Street. It is an exciting event to watch, as part of the Patriotic Festival.

Saturday afternoon the Wounded Warriors will be skydiving onto the beach. Many activities are scheduled for them while they are here.

The Boardwalk Art Show and Sand Soccer are coming up.

John Uhrin would like to, in the future, to be able to come back to the RAC and show everyone exactly what it is that we do for this event and how many people attend (last year he thinks we hosted over 400K wounded warriors and their families). He thinks that this is a worthwhile event and we should continue it.

Billy suggests getting a report on it in the fall.

Other Business

None

Public Comment

None

John Hawa asked for an update on the pier project, and Billy says that he had talked to Doug Smith and he has planned one coming up at an appropriate time.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.