



Resort Advisory Commission  
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## RESORT ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

**DATE:** February 7, 2019  
**TIME:** 3:00 pm  
**PLACE:** Virginia Beach Convention Center, 2nd Floor, Rm 4AB

### COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

BJ Baumann  
Billy Almond  
Bobby Melatti  
Bryan Cuffee  
Gerrie West  
Keith Ireland  
Laura Habr  
Kristina Chastain  
Michael Cloud-Butler  
Phil Boyer  
Preston Midgett  
Ron Villanueva  
Russell Lyons  
Sam Reid  
Sylvia Strickland  
Tyler Brown

John Hawa  
Michael Levinson  
Randy Thompson

### OTHERS PRESENT

David Nygaard, Council  
Rosemary Wilson, Council  
Lt. Scott Merce, VBLE  
Ronald H. Williams, Jr., DCM  
Brad Van Dommelen, CVB  
Bernice Pope, HPC  
Kathleen Warren, SGA  
Emily Archer, SGA  
Brian Solis, SGA  
Deborah Zywna, SGA  
Teresa Diaz, CVB  
Ted Logue, Human Services  
Mike Ronan, VB Resident  
Stacey Parker, The Virginian-Pilot  
Mike Eason, CVB/Resort Mgmt.  
Robin Hart, CVB/Recorder

### COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Craig Roback

BJ Baumann called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **The January 10, 2019 minutes were approved as written.**

Updates: AAA initiatives, EDSA workshops, 17th Street Workshops, Oceanfront Restrooms – Kathy Warren & Emily Archer

Kathy Warren began the presentation with an update on what the Atlantic Avenue Association and EDSA consultants have under discussion and their accomplishments have been to-date.

### QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

Kristina Chastain asked what “improvements” were considered and Kathy replied that it can fall under most anything as long as it is considered to “activate” the area, or bring life to it.

David Nygaard asked if the Aquarium was part of the RASAP Refresh and Kathy replied that it is part of the discussions.

Emily Archer provided the update on the Oceanfront Restrooms Project, reviewing how they approached their task, which was to identify the existing facilities, their condition and what could be remedied in the short-term. She reviewed precedent public restrooms and possible new designs. They researched and recommended locations for north, central and south beach areas. Emily also reviewed what could be done with existing facilities, given the primary issues such as cleanliness, lack of signage and improper use.

Emily concluded with recommendations for constructing one restroom/shower facility for test, conducting an existing facilities study to see what can be upgraded, constructing 3 new permanent facilities and increasing the operating budget to include full-time staff at all restrooms.

#### QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

Emily added that she will be appearing at some of the RAC subcommittee meetings over the next month to vet the ideas.

There was a comment on the need to have safety and visible identification on the 31<sup>st</sup> Street facility.

Branding the restrooms is part of the plan, and the project will travel through the RASAP Steering Committee.

Funding for increased maintenance would come from an operating budget that would lead to a CIP, and Kathy Warren added that it would be an “out of cycle” budget request for Building Maintenance/Public Works. Several members expressed for the restrooms to be clean as a top priority.

**A motion was carried unanimously to support an increase in personnel to maintain the existing oceanfront restrooms as soon as possible.**

Emily Archer then presented an updated on the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Gateway and one member asked if the 17<sup>th</sup> Street group was going to be part of any Sense of Arrival for the oceanfront, and Kathy Warren replied that it has been discussed in the workshops.

#### Chairman’s Report

BJ Baumann reviewed the RAC speakers scheduled for the next few months.

#### Committee Reports

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

Preston Midgett reported on HRT updates concerning the trolleys and apps. There is a hold on action on the Bird scooters, pending how the State rules on them, toward the end of February.

He also reported on discussion about food truck operations in the resort but the discussion has been put on hold pending other committees’ and associations’ discussions.

Preston reported that a task force was forming concerning a possible alteration in the Residential Parking Permit Program (RPPP) and asked attendees to let him know if they were interested in participating in the meetings for discussion.

A motion was carried at the TPPC meeting to draft a letter of support for the RAC to review concerning encouragement for the INFRA grant application for Phase I-B of the Laskin Road Corridor improvements. Kristina Chastain made a motion to forward the letter to Council, seconded by Sam Reid and Ron Villanueva. **After discussion, a motion was carried unanimously by the RAC to forward the letter on the INFRA grant application to Council for Laskin Road improvements.**

There was discussion on the time-sensitive letter sent to Council on January 31, 2019 for their February 5, 2019 session requesting a deferral on the RPPP changes scheduled for vote on that agenda. **A motion was carried, with one abstention, to send a more formal follow-up letter from RAC supporting same, along with previous letters to Council on the same subject dating back to November 2017.**

##### Planning & Design Review Committee (PDR)

Billy Almond reported that they had a presentation update on The Caton Place project, concerning recommendations made by PDR on a previous visit to the committee. PDR approved of the changes.

They discussed the need for replacement of the canopy at 31<sup>st</sup> Street, and decided on a process to

brainstorm ideas on materials, structure and procedures to move the project forward.

Oceanfront Enhancement Committee (OEC)

Sam Reid reviewed the OEC's 2018 priorities and progress.

Resort Investment Committee (RIC)

BJ Baumann reviewed the presentation and discussion with the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Gateway Association.

**A motion was carried unanimously to approve the draft letter from the RIC to support the request from the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Association for funding, specifically through a CIP or the City's public works department, for infrastructure improvements to 17<sup>th</sup> Street, from Birdneck Road to Pacific Avenue.**

Oceanfront Strategic Growth Area Committee (OSGAC)

BJ reported that the OSGAC is not meeting while the RASAP Steering Committee is meeting; the RASAP meeting will occupy the same time slot.

G.R.E.E.N. Report

Laura Habr reported that the G.R.E.E.N. committee met last month and identified items they would like to include in the RASAP Refresh discussions.

She announced that BOEM will soon be releasing a 5-year schedule for oil and gas lease sales proposed for the United States. There is a 90-day window for public comment and Laura will make links available.

Staff Report

Mike Eason thanked Commissioners for getting their financial disclosure forms submitted to the Clerk's Office, and recapped the last Live! On Atlantic (LOA) meeting and LOA entertainment schedule.

Old Business

None

New Business

BJ Baumann asked Phil Boyer for an update on their discussions concerning food trucks. Phil replied that they have put off the discussion until the next VBRA meeting; however, he feels that the VBRA may send a letter to city council stating that they are not in favor of the trucks if they are operating on public property. Since the ordinance still had to go to Planning, the RAC will wait to see if the idea has to be vetted through the TPPC.

Laura Habr introduced a letter from Kate Pittman regarding funding for the ViBe District.

Preston Midgett believed that one of the reasons that the ViBe has grown is because of the grants and private money, and the efforts of their Executive Director, and he is in favor of them continuing to try to find a funding source. Other Commissioners were not comfortable with supporting the letter yet, and requested details on the funding element for next month.

Councilmembers Rosemary Wilson and David Nygaard will be at the Council Retreat next week. Rosemary had requested that Council consider economic development grants for historic properties for adaptable use. **After discussion, a motion was unanimously carried to write a letter to Council the RAC voted unanimously to support the request for Council to find reasonable initiatives, including researching Economic Development incentives for adaptable use, to preserve the historic structures in the resort area.**

BJ Baumann added that the RAC Priorities have been to the Councilmembers for consideration during their retreat.

Public Comment

None

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.