



Resort Advisory Commission
4525 Main Street, Suite 710
Virginia Beach, VA 23462
(757) 385-2900
FAX (757)

RESORT ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES

DATE: August 5, 2021
TIME: 3:00 pm
PLACE: Virginia Beach Convention Center, Room 4AB

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

BJ Baumann
Randy Thompson
Bill Gambrell
Billy Almond
Chuck Cayton
Doug Douglas
George Kotarides
John Zirkle
Lori Overholt
Mike Eason
Michael Mauch
Michael Ronan
Michael Levinson
Paige Miyares

Tyler Brown

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Joel Rubin, Rubin Comm.
Worth Remick, G.R.E.E.N.
Ray White, Econ. Dev.
Guy Tower, Council
Angela Keaveny, Rowdy
DowBBQ
Emily Archer, SGA
Lauren Townsend, CVB
Lisa Bleakley, RMO

Mark Shea, Planning
Megan Gribble, Planning
Nancy Helman, CVB
Ron Kuhlman, CVB
Sgt. Nicholas Ball, VBPD
Sgt. Nicole Kosmas, VBPD
Stacey Parker, The Pilot
Taylor Adams, Econ Dev.
Terri Boothe, Civic League
Kathy Warren, SGA
Robin Hart, SGA, Recorder

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

Motion carried to approve the June 3, 2021 and July 1, 2021 RAC minutes as written.

OSW / Windsdays Presentation - Joel Rubin

Joel Rubin reviewed the Offshore Wind Program and how it is important for the culture and education, and the impacts to community lives.

The official start date of the marketing program was July 21, 2021.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Joel reviewed the externalities of the program - the environmental impacts associated with the turbines' placement in the ocean.

BJ requested links from NOAA and BOEM to send out to prevent misguided negative information about the project.

Subsea Fiber Optic Cables Update - Ray White

Ray reviewed the growth of the internet and how many more connections were planned worldwide.

He reviewed the existing locations on the east coast and where the connections are planned for the

future.

Ray White described the clearing barriers and what was required to prepare for them.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Taylor Adams addressed the projected new business thought to occur because of the connections.

In response to Billy Almond's questions concerning possible effects to wetlands areas, Taylor replied that the cables are subterranean all the way down.

Chairman's Report

BJ Baumann reported on the ARP progression.

She announced that the Boardwalk Art Show may be previewing a project from Amelia Ross-Hammond.

Committee Reports

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

Chuck Cayton recapped presentations from Mark Shea on the relocation of the HRT bus temporary transfer center, Ashby Moss on the commercial parking lots review, Rob Fries on the employee municipal parking data.

They heard an update on the Atlantic Avenue pilot project from Kathy Warren.

Planning & Design Review Committee (PDRC)

Billy Almond reported on the Murphy's Restaurant Alternative Compliance Update with Tom Mooney and provided an update on the Urban Forest Master Plan.

They heard an update on the Atlantic Avenue pilot project from Kathy Warren.

Oceanfront Strategic Growth Area Committee (OSGAC)

RAC Chair BJ Baumann introduced newly appointed Chair Bill Gambrell and Vice Chair Mike Ronan to the OSGAC committee. The committee provided a summary of its recent meetings and reviewed the mission statement and goals.

Oceanfront Enhancement Committee (OEC)

Randy Thompson reported on the oceanfront zoning and code enforcement update with Lisa Bleakley.

They had a discussion on how to address panhandling at the resort.

Randy reviewed the legislative agenda items currently under review.

They heard an update on the Atlantic Avenue pilot project from Kathy Warren.

Resort Investment Committee (RIC)

The RIC discussed the RAC FY22 Priorities, reviewing comments and Committee Assignments for Draft #1.

They reviewed speakers under consideration for RIC and RAC upcoming meetings.

G.R.E.E.N.

G.R.E.E.N. did not meet.

Staff Report

Kathy Warren provided an update on the Atlantic Avenue pilot project.

Lisa Bleakley updated the Commission on the progress at the Resort Management Office, including personnel changes and upcoming special events.

Old Business

None

New Business

George Kotarides brought up concerns about lost parking in the Central Beach area and it might be addressed, and Taylor Adams responded with ideas that they are working on for the future.

Motion carried to draft a letter to the Mayor and City Council on the need for a parking solution for Atlantic Park.

Public Comment

None

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.