

BAYFRONT ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY
FEBRUARY 19, 2015
VIRGINIA BEACH RESORT HOTEL &
CONFERENCE CENTER

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Kal Kassir, Gee Faison, Charlie Malbon, Joe Miller, Joe Bovee, Faith Christie, Norm Carrick, Ross Brockwell (Planning Commission Liaison)

STAFF PRESENT:

Clay Bernick, Kristine Gay – Planning Department; Kay Wilson – City Attorney's Office; David Jarman, Jason Wilson – Public Works Department; Emily Spruill Labows – Cultural Affairs Office

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Kassir

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

- Chairman Kassir reported on attending the Parks & Recreation Department's Outdoors Plan update workshop on behalf of Commission
- Chairman Kassir shared Resort Advisory Commission report that 22% of City visitors enter City from Shore Drive and Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel accessways; need for welcome flags and gateway treatments; no mention of Bayfront Advisory Commission's efforts
- Chairman Kassir noted Arts Commission and Arts Foundation are engaging with public art proposed for southwest corner of new bridge, effort for fundraising to launch soon with Harry Lester and Jim Arnhold as co-chairs
- Chairman Kassir commented on successful completion of neighborhood sign effort by Design Subcommittee and Public Works Department staff
- Chairman Kassir reported on discussing issue of nonprofit fundraising permit issues with Phil Kellam through collection of admissions tax for City, Dana Harmeyer of City Attorney's Office to work on ordinance draft to exempt such groups from tax
- Chairman Kassir reminded Commission that subcommittees need to provide 1 week notice of planned meetings to meet notification requirements
- Chairman Kassir noted work on Commission website is needed
- Chairman Kassir reported on meeting held with Deputy City Manager Doug Smith on need for Commission support staff
- Commission reviewed ordinance reestablishing Commission adopted by City Council on January 6 and adopted revisions to Commission Rules and Procedures

CITY REPORTS & UPDATES:

- Emily Spruill Labows briefed Commission on public art process for southwest approach to new bridge; approach would be same as utilized at Laskin Road traffic circle; process overview: start fundraising committee, solicit RFP and call to artist, form selection committee (to include Design Subcommittee members), stipend given to develop model of concept, after 6-9 months ready for final decision; overall budget \$300-500K; need to develop overarching themes for art: materials, excitement, environment, water, eco lighting, minimal maintenance, naming rights, wildlife, history, no running water, impressive, iconic, day/night visible suggested soliciting input on ideas in newsletter
- Clay Bernick no report; would check into illegal auto repair on South Oliver Drive; would also check into removal of volleyball posts on Lynnhaven Beach near condominiums
- Dave Jarman and Jason Wilson reported Phase 3 of Shore Drive flooding study on hold pending comprehensive City contract for recurrent flooding and sea level rise analysis funded by City Council; draft July 2014 study identified a range of betterments to reduce impacts, anticipated schedule: contract execution - March 2015, 60% plans - August 2015, final construction plans - January 2016, acquisitions and relocations – January 2016 to July 2017, start construction August 2017, complete construction 2019, separate funding source
- Dave Jarman reminded Commission of City webcam and bridge update information being provided by Chris Wojtowicz of Public Works Department
- Dave Jarman reported on \$4.7 M Shore Drive bike facility being managed by Wayne Wilcox of Parks & Recreation Department, \$1.3 M of total cost being provided through 2 grant programs, will over route from Diamond Springs Road to Greenwell Drive, anticipated June 2015 construction start delayed pending final grant award, 5 months construction timetable

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES:

- Design: Joe Bovee reported on neighborhood signs efforts and design guidelines results, guidelines being posted on City website; working on revisions to Shore Drive Corridor Design Guidelines; noted Comprehensive Plan update process underway with Ross Brockwell serving as liaison to Commission concerns; noted need to update adopted Corridor Plan; subcommittee has reviewed plans for Baylake Pines School site redevelopment at today's subcommittee meeting
- Communications: Norm Carrick reported February newsletter released last week; shared that 11,000+ entries received to date on Lesner Bridge naming survey; information on neighborhood signs included in newsletter
- Public Safety, Transit, Parking & Pedestrian Access: No report

COMMUNITY REPORTS & UPDATES:

- Jack Bryan of Baylake Pines Civic League reported on March 28 oyster roast to help fund July 4 fireworks; solicited City support for fireworks

NEW BUSINESS:

- No report

OLD BUSINESS:

- No report

PROJECT BRIEFINGS, OPEN DISCUSSION & COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- Steve Bishard briefed Commission on proposed residential and office development projects on sites of former Baylake Pines Upper and Lower Schools, has previously briefed Baylake Pines Civic League and Shore Drive Community Coalition, plan reduced in scope from 36 to 31 units with homes farther off Lake Joyce, utilizing design guide book for project for consistency with Shore Drive Design Guidelines, private trash pickup, controlled traffic access, proffers, stormwater plan to protect lake, 2 car garages, parking restricted to one side of streets, office parking to serve as overflow parking areas, will utilize new City approved neighborhood sign design
- Commissioners posed questions to Steve Bishard re: design, lake water quality, aesthetics, traffic, etc.
- Community members voiced range of concerns to Steve Bishard: density should be kept at R-7.5 instead of R-5, need for master drainage plan, why need for office projects in plans, egret rookery exists on site and may need to be relocated, lots of waterfowl and wildlife, shoreline erodes as it is not bulkheaded, sets precedent for more dense development in area, East Beach look out of character with adjoining neighborhood, traffic issues, development use of and encroachment onto City property around lake
- Jack Bryan of Baylake Pines Civic League noted Lake Joyce was transferred to City from Norfolk, formerly reserve water supply reservoir, zoning for area was set when Baylake Pines expected City to be good trustee of lake, Baylake Pines is trustee of lake shoreline and Bay beach in its neighborhood
- Commission recommended to Steve Bishard Treasure Island Drive/Lower School site for office development plan meets Shore Drive Design Guidelines, prefers building elevation of other office building at Upper School site, suggested shifting building closer to road to hide dumpster and stormwater elements on site better, utilize new sign design guidelines
- Tuck Bowie, consultant for Point Chesapeake development project, briefed Commission on seawall project underway with 13.5 foot elevation and adjoining dunes elevations of 10.5-11.0 feet; desire to dedicate a pedestrian easement under the new bridge and use of space as public open space area, noted concerns from Pilots Associations and VDOT will need to be worked out; desire to create a gateway with iconic public art at Page Avenue intersection

NEXT MEETING (TENTATIVE):

- March 19, 2015 2:00 PM Subcommittees (if scheduled); 3:30 PM Commission meeting at Virginia Beach Resort Hotel & Conference Center

ADJOURN