

BAYFRONT ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING
SUMMARY
OCTOBER 15, 2015
VIRGINIA BEACH RESORT HOTEL &
CONFERENCE CENTER

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Kal Kassir, Vice Chairman Scott Ayers, Charlie Malbon, Joe Martin, Gee Faison, Wally Damon

STAFF PRESENT:

Clay Bernick – Planning & Community Development Department/Environment & Sustainability Office, Kay Wilson – City Attorney’s Office, Mercedes Holland - JEB Little Creek/Fort Story Liaison, Mike Eason – SGA Department/Resort Programs Office, Officer McNERney – Police Department, Staff from Fire Department

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Kassir

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

- Chairman Kassir welcomed new Commissioner Wally Damon
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- Chairman Kassir discussed meeting held with Clay Bernick, Mike Eason and Scott Ayers on ways to better integrate Bayfront Advisory Commission (BAC) and Resort Advisory Commission (RAC) activities and support functions, and discussed commercial uses of beaches controlled through special event pass permit process
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- Chairman Kassir noted that the JEB Little Creek/Fort Story golf tournament was rescheduled to November 6
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- Chairman Kassir noted that the 2016 meeting schedule was finalized and would be emailed to Commissioners and staff by Clay Bernick
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- Chairman Kassir reviewed the revised Commission roster
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- Chairman Kassir advised the Commission would be presenting awards to 2 local businesses for Exceptional Design
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- Minutes approvals postponed to November meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

- Emily Steinhilber, Assistant Director of Coastal Resilience Research, Office of Research, Old Dominion University, provided an informational briefing on Coastal Resilience Initiatives in the Hampton Roads area. Ms. Steinhilber noted flooding in Norfolk has increased 500% since the 1990’s. She also noted sea level is anticipated to rise 2 feet by 2050. She noted VIMS and NOAA have developed online tools to evaluate and predict recurrent flooding and sea level rise. She reported that the Commonwealth released a VIMS study through the Secure Commonwealth

Panel in 2013 which recommends new state initiatives. She reported that the Corps North Atlantic Division has released a post-Hurricane Sandy study with broad recommendations for the mid-Atlantic region, and that HUD disaster grants for projects and additional studies has been released for proposals. She noted that Delegate Stolle is expected to release a final report in November re: Virginia recommendations and that Governor McAuliffe has renewed the Climate Change Commission. Clay Bernick noted that the City was undertaking a comprehensive recurrent flooding and sea level rise study with Dewberry as a consultant, undertaking a new City-wide stormwater study update, and was pursuing City participation in FEMA's Community Rating System. Emily Steinhilber also noted that the Virginia Coastal Policy Clinic was hosting a workshop on November 13, and that ODU's Intergovernmental Pilot Project was working to coordinate related activities in the region. Mercedes Holland noted that Norfolk, Virginia Beach and JEB Little Creek/Fort Story were pursuing a joint project to address resiliency initiatives for the Little Creek watershed, and that the Navy was complying with new federal flood risk management standards.

CITY REPORTS & UPDATES:

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- Clay Bernick noted City staff was working to address remediation for trees removed at condos located at Jade Street and Shore Drive, and bike parking for beach access areas.
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- Gee Faison requested City staff investigate improving visibility for traffic at Shelton Road and Independence Boulevard, and the status of the cones removed at the Shore Drive/Northampton Boulevard ramp.
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- Clay Bernick noted that Friends of Live Oaks would be donating trees to area businesses.
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- Chairman Kassir requested a meeting with City staff to finalize the neighborhood signs policy.
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- Mike Eason reviewed opportunities for RAC and BAC to work together. He also referenced the proposed flag project, parking issues, entertainment and fireworks displays as expels of parallels between each area.
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- Chairman Kassir requested a meeting be scheduled between BAC and RAC chairs and vice chairs.
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COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES:

- Design: Joe Bovee reported that the Committee did not meet, but that he had met with the Lesner Bridge art selection committee on September 18. He noted 65 submissions would be refined to 5 semi-finalists who would submit models/renderings and that interviews would be conducted in December to select a finalist.
- Communications: Vice Chairman Ayers reported no meeting took place. He then introduced Denise Bowman-Scott as the new newsletter editor, and that she would be working to improve the circulation database and format.
- Public Safety, Transit, Parking & Pedestrian Access: Charlie Malbon reported no meeting took place, but that he had met with Brian Solis to further develop concepts for the proposed HRT bus route. He also noted that Public Works would be expanding bike lanes along Shore Drive from Greenwell Road to Diamond Springs Road.

COMMUNITY REPORTS & UPDATES:

- No report

NEW BUSINESS:

- Wally Damon noted he had witnessed more debris on the Chesapeake Beach area under sand, including trash, rocks, a car wheel, etc. He also noted that the new brewery at the former Chesapeake Beach Fire Station location was operational, but that noise concerns and food truck operations were being raised by adjoining property owners.

OLD BUSINESS:

- No report

PROJECT BRIEFINGS, OPEN DISCUSSION & COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

- Denise Bowman-Scott noted the City storm drain outfall at Seagate Colony was in need of maintenance.

NEXT MEETING (TENTATIVE):

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

ADJOURN