

City of Virginia Beach

Cannabis Advisory Task Force (CATF) Minutes, February 10, 2025

January 13, 2025, Cannabis Advisory Task Force (CATF) meeting was rescheduled and held on Monday, February 10, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., in the Economic Development Boardroom at 4525 Main Street, Suite 700, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Andrew Lock, Chair, Citizen Member; Jason Blanchette, Vice-Chair, Cannabis Industry; Brandon Hackney, Planning; Letitia Langaster, Economic Development; Michael Mauch, RAC Member; Michele Meister, VBPD; Tamara Netzel, Citizen Member; Stacey O'Toole, Health Care Professional; Jairo Padilla, CVB Public Schools; Ryan Suit, Cannabis Industry; Herman (Ward) Valentine, MBC; LaTonya Warren, Citizen Member

MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

John Katsias, Commercial Real Estate, from his office in Virginia Beach; Mark Steven, Resort Beach Civic League, from Cavalier's Garage, as he had a flat tire on his way to the meeting

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Michael Berlucchi, Council member

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Damon, Andrew, Legislative Affairs Analyst; Kelley, Vicki, Staff Liaison

CITY STAFF PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

City Attorney Jessica Koepf from Virginia Beach

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Andrew Lock called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

- I. Mr. Lock welcomed all to the meeting.
- II. Meeting minutes – Andrew Lock
 - a. The corrected minutes from September 16, 2024, were unanimously approved.
 - b. The November 18, 2024, minutes were unanimously approved.

Discussion:

- Chair Lock announced that an updated member and subcommittee list was in their meeting packets.
- Mr. Lock also announced that a bill that has passed the House and the Senate and is on the governor's desk to be signed has passed both chambers. This is the same Bill that passed last year with few changes, and it seems the Governor's opinion has not changed.
- Tamara Netzel shared that even though the adult use bill may be vetoed other progress could be made.

- III. Election of 2025 Chair and Vice Chair.
 - a. Chair Andrew Lock requested that we hold off on this item until Vice Chair Jason Blanchette arrives.
 - b. See V. below.
- IV. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Chair Lock announced the members had a presentation and a grid on public safety
 - i. The grid was taken from the current Bill
 - ii. Items listed are on public safety
 - iii. Primarily the State has oversight, but localities can follow or opt-out
 - iv. Recommendations are on the second part
 - v. Rough Draft at this point
 - vi. Follows the JLARC format
 - vii. Could be used as a reference to recommend to the City Council for the Legislative Agenda in August
 - 1. The task force agreed to use this format
 - viii. Chair Lock asked for input from the members
 - 1. LaTonya Warren shared some examples from other municipalities and their processes
 - ix. Chair Lock asked the other subcommittees to come together and add to this format to make one report of recommendations
 - 1. Prioritize and share with City Council which would assist them in their preparation of Legislative items to present
 - x. Tamara Netzel shared that recommendation #4 on the presentation should read Marijuana instead of cannabis to follow the State verbiage usage
 - xi. LaTonya shared that Recommendation #2 should have the distance listed and the size of the facilities
 - xii. Brandon Hackney shared that we need to include the entire City in zoning recommendations
 - xiii. Chair Lock asked everyone to share their recommendations via email and we can add them to the list and refine
 - xiv. Discussion on enforcement of the current laws and how it looks when that possibly changes
 - 1. Michele Meister shared that because of the manpower available, the police must prioritize fentanyl and methamphetamine issues over the enforcement of the vape shops and testing small amounts of THC
 - 2. The licensing and permitting aspect could make a difference
 - 3. Tamara commented on the logo with the marijuana leaf being so large and asked why it was prominent and maybe they could consider changing
 - xv. Discussion on Zoning permits and signage
 - 1. Restrictions do not include pictures or words
 - xvi. The Chair asked everyone to submit recommendations to be added

Chair Andrew Lock asked the members to go back to III. the Election of Officers.

- b. Nominations were made, second and unanimously approved for Andrew Lock to remain as the Chair and Jason Blanchette as Vice Chair for another year

V. Committee Member Comments

- a. Tamara Netzel is working with the staff for the Dispensary Tours
 - i. Chair Lock emphasized the importance of the Task Force Members taking the tour if they had not.
 - ii. Reminders that only 2 members could attend at a time to follow the public meeting regulations
 - iii. Tamara will continue organizing the tours and members should let her know if they would like to attend
- b. Question was asked if the Police would have the authority to enter a medical dispensary to inspect
 - i. Michele Meister said that this would fall under the CCA, as the police would be enforcing the drug distribution aspect
- c. LaTonya Warren offered to share or present the RFP Metric of the recreational and medical cultivation, retail, and packaging
 - i. Andrew asked LaTonya if she could share with the team
- d. Andrew Damen shared that the City Council Draft Legislative Agenda will be in mid-October, and he wanted the team to be aware of the timetable
- e. Vicki announced the next meeting would be on March 10th as the February meeting was held to replace the January meeting which was canceled
- f. Brandon Hackney asked how the recommendations would be separated into subcommittee groups or combined
 - i. Chair Lock replied that the group would review that and decide.
- g. A member shared that there needed to be community outreach to educate the public on the medical marijuana laws and regulations
- h. Vice Chair Jason Blanchette shared that there were 2 Republicans who voted yes on the bill that detest marijuana but shared the need for this to be a regulated market and wanted something done now which is why they voted yes.
 - i. This is consistent for those voting for the bill
- i. Vicki reminded the members that attendance started over in January and if a member is not able to attend, please email the Chair and let him know the reason for your absence

VI. The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 pm.