



MEETING MINUTES

DATE February 26, 2024, at 3:00 pm
LOCATION TCC/CVB Joint Use Library Rooms L102 & L103
1700 College Crescent, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23453

1. WELCOME & ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Chair Bernick called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. Recorder Trina Harrell called the role. Chair Bernick asked the visitors to introduce themselves.

Name	Role or Association	Attend
Clay Bernick	Chair	√
Jarrod L. Katzer	Vice Chair	√
Richard "Tuck" Bowie	Committee Member	√
Vincent Bowhers	Committee Member	√
Francis Drumm	Committee Member	√
William W. Fleming	Committee Member	√
Maury Hill	Committee Member	√
Phillip Hines	Committee Member	√
Dianna McDowell	Committee Member	√
John Olivieri	Committee Member	√
Paige (Kathleen) Simmons	Committee Member	√
Cecilia Kocan	Student Member	√
Gavin Wehr	Student Member	√
Liaisons		
Barbara Henley	City Council Member	√
Chris Taylor	City Council Member	
City Staff		
Michael Kirschman	Parks and Recreation	√
Chad Morris	Parks and Recreation	√
Corinna Green	Parks and Recreation	√
Trina Harrell	Parks and Recreation	√
Steve Lambert	Parks and Recreation	√
Brooke Costanza	Parks and Recreation	√
Lucia Whitlow	City Attorney's Office	√
Carrie Bookholt	Planning & Community Development	√
Hank Morrison	Planning & Community Development	√



Name	Role or Association	Attend
Guests		
Logan Stanton	Environmental Studies Program	√
Windy Crutchfield	Citizen	√
Julia Cherry	Citizen	√

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JANUARY 22, 2024, MEETING

A motion made by Francis Drumm and seconded by Vincent Bowhens to approve the Minutes, with one minor spelling correction, from the January 22nd meeting was passed unanimously.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Two citizens spoke against the planned development of the Wycliffe Church parcel presented to the Planning Commission.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Comprehensive Plan Update Presentation – Hank Morrison

Mr. Hank Morrison, Comprehensive Planning Administrator, reviewed the history of the Comprehensive Plans that were first adopted in 1979. During the summer of 2023, a consultant team was hired to assist in moving the next plan update through the five phases to completion. Currently in Phase 3: Planning Area Perspectives and anticipate draft sections will be posted online for public review and comment. Tentative completion/adoption is the fall/winter of 2024/25. A copy of the presentation is attached.

b. Pleasure House Point Updates – Chad Morris

Mr. Chad Morris, Planning, Design, & Development Administrator, gave a very informative update on the Pleasure House Point property. A conservation easement was a condition of a financial grant applied toward the purchase of the property in 2012. The management plan was completed in 2013 to comply with conditions of the conservation easement and specifies the conservation goals for the property. The kayak launch planned for the site is delayed until the mitigation bank project is completed due to construction access needed. The kayak launch will be a joint venture with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) to minimize the environmental impacts and will provide a small parking area. Other P&R projects have taken priority and funding, which has delayed the start of the kayak launch project. The Water Quality division in Public Works plans to initiate a shoreline stabilization project, which would start at the CBF property and travel north to Shore Drive. A copy of the presentation is attached.

c. Access City's GIS sites – Corinna Green

- Ms. Corinna Green, Planner III, provided and briefly reviewed the two GIS websites and how to view the data using the interactive maps. She will provide step by step instructions at a future meeting.
- Ms. Green mentioned the upcoming changes to the webpages and documents posted as the City is progressing to be fully ADA compliant.

d. Legislative Update – Clay Bernick

Chair Bernick provided the status update of several bills before the Legislature, and he grouped them by categories. This is provided for information only.

e. Potential Joint Meetings with Green Ribbon and Parks & Environmental



Chair Bernick asked if there's interest in a joint meeting with the Green Ribbon Committee, like the March 2023 meeting. Those in attendance agreed.

- f. Tour of potential open space
Chair Bernick asked if there's interest in touring a potential open space in the southern part of the City. Staff will poll members to coordinate the best time/day.
- g. Tree Planting Request – citizen inquiry
Member Maury Hill received a citizen request for landscaping and tree buffering near the Witchduck Road exit ramps. Mr. Morris has discussed this request with the citizen for three plus years while the State Road project has been under construction. Public Works has a water quality project that includes landscaping and tree buffering on City property near the Witchduck Road and former Greenwich Road area. Once the project is awarded, Mr. Morris will advise if a backup plan for the landscaping is needed.
- h. Potential parcels of non-judicial Tax Sales – Chair Bernick reviewed a list of parcels that could enter the tax sale process.
- i. Tree mitigation – A question was asked if the City has a policy to mitigate trees removed in a City Right-of-Way for projects.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. ITA Open Space Strategies Update
Chair Bernick reminded members of the six recommendations provided at the December meeting. He asked members to review again and provide any comments before finalizing.
- b. Acquisition Updates
 - i. Washington Square – no update
 - ii. Holland Road Carbon Credit Property – Public Works is reviewing.
- c. Open Space Acquisition Process
Work continues with the City Attorney's office to finalize. A draft will be provided for review.

6. REPORTS

- a. City Council Liaisons – no report
- b. Student Members
 - i. Ms. Cecilia Kocan – Students at Brock Environmental Center designed and sent a Google form requesting students provide suggestions for tree planting locations.
 - ii. Mr. Gavin Wehr – Students traveled to General Assembly to speak about House Bills 257 and 538. Discussions among the students on additional housing on vacant lots surrounding the Brock Environmental Center.
- c. Parks and Recreation Commission – Members were asked at the last meeting to suggest City owned property locations for the \$1M in tree mitigation that will be paid for by Dominion Energy.
- d. Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Foundation (VBPRF) – no report
- e. Green Ribbon Committee – Vincent Bowhars
Met on February 22nd
 - 1. North Landing and Albemarle Sound Estuarine Symposium will be Friday, April 26th at the Convention Center. Proposed topics include Back Bay marsh restoration project, nutria control, tree preservation, SAV restoration, tribal lands, natural areas, agricultural lands, and NC pine project.
 - 2. Councilmembers Henley and Schulman discussed dedicated funding sources including open space and the need to demonstrate the successes of the programs.



3. Partnering with OSAC to align acquisition and use recommendations for multiple benefits and prevent overlaps/gaps in our efforts. Potential for two joint meetings a year.
4. ITA presentation – Comments include:
 1. No attempts to build residential in the ITA
 2. Suggested focus should be on possibilities in ITA, instead of what's not possible. Resending the presentation to the committee members.
5. Karen Forget provided an update on environmental bills before the Virginia General Assembly. Copy attached.
6. Next Green Ribbon is scheduled for Thursday, March 28th.
- f. LRNOW – Vincent Bowhens/Clay Bernick
 - February 10th Cleanups – Francis Land House and North Lynnhaven at Virginia Beach Blvd
 - 60 volunteers
 - Removed 881 lbs. of debris
 - For 2024 (including December), 2,671 lbs., 17 cleanups, 163 volunteers
 - Next Cleanup will be March 9th at Gardenwood Park (Diamond Springs) 9am - noon.
 - Upcoming Public Events
 - March 2nd Winter Waterfowl Walk Pleasure House Point
 - March 2nd Repurposing Workshop
 - March 13th Green Drinks at Croc's
 - March 22nd Great American Cleanup
 - March 23rd Repurposing Workshop
 - April 20th Earth Day at Mount Trashmore
 - April 27th Elizabeth River/Virginia Beach Trail celebration
- g. Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Maury Hill/ATAC Chair Camp
 - The Va School Crossing Guard Day on February 7, 2024, was very well received and both the VBPD and the Sheriff's Office were on site to show their support.
 - A notice to proceed for the Kempsville Kayak Launch is expected in March.
 - Once the grant agreement for the Virginia Beach Trail has been finalized, the City will have five years to complete the construction.
 - May is Bike Month and there are several activities planned.
- h. Clean Community Commission – Will participate in the Elizabeth River/Virginia Beach Trail celebration

7. ADJOURN AND UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- a. Next Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting March 25th. Chair Bernick reminded members to bring forth any potential properties to purchase for open space.

There being no further business, the Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by William Fleming and seconded by Maury Hill to adjourn the meeting at 5:00pm.

H.C. Bernick, III

Clay Bernick, Chair

Trina M. Harrell

Trina Harrell, Recorder



Distribution:

Mayor and City Council
Patrick Duhaney, City Manager
Parks and Recreation Commission
Open Space Advisory Committee
Kenneth Chandler, Deputy City Manager
Lucia Whitlow, City Attorney's Office
Kaitlyn James, Budget and Management Services
Kathy Warren, Planning Director
Emily Archer, Planning/SGA Office
David Trimmer, Agriculture Director
L.J. Hansen, Public Works Director
Kristal Johnson, Public Works/Real Estate
Michael Kirschman, Parks and Recreation Director
Frank Fentress, Parks and Recreation, Landscape Services
Parks and Recreation staff present