



## MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** June 24, 2024

**LOCATION:** Parks and Recreation Administration Building  
2154 Landstown Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456

### 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	Ab
Richard "Tuck" Bowie	Committee Member	√
Vincent Bowhers	Committee Member	√
Francis Drumm	Committee Member	Ab
William W. Fleming	Committee Member	√
Maury Hill	Committee Member	√
Phillip Hines	Committee Member	√
Dianna McDowell	Committee Member	Ab
John Olivieri	Committee Member	Ab
Cecilia Kocan	Student Member	Ab
Gavin Wehr	Student Member	Ab
<b>Liaisons</b>		
Barbara Henley	City Council Member	√
Chris Taylor	City Council Member	
<b>City Staff</b>		
Chad Morris	Parks and Recreation	√
Corinna Green	Parks and Recreation	√
Trina Harrell	Parks and Recreation	√
Lucia Whitlow	City Attorney's Office	√
Emily Archer	Economic Development	√
<b>Guests</b>		
Rowena Finn	Citizen	√
Daniel Shattuck	Citizen	√

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

April 22, 2024, and May 20, 2024

A motion made by Richard Bowie and seconded by Vince Bowhersh to approve the April 22, and May 20, 2024, minutes, and it passed unanimously.

## **3. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Vincent Bowhersh made a motion to reelect Clay Bernick and Jarrod Katzer as chair and vice chair, respectively. William Fleming seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **b. Crusader Circle Economic Development Property – Emily Archer**

Ms. Archer, Project Development Administrator, briefed the committee on a Preservation Easement at Oceana West Business Park, 2857 Crusader Circle. The 135-acre parcel, zoned I2, is in Council District 3 and was acquired in 1972 by the Development Authority. The Navy and US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) must review any changes and would only approve changes that do not disrupt the “natural flow of water”. Potential permitted improvements could include soft foot trails, boardwalks/observation decks, wildlife management structures, and educational signage. The City of Virginia Beach Development Authority requested the City accept the property with the existing preservation easement in place on April 16, 2024. Department comments will be presented to the City Manager for consideration. If request is to move forward, then it will be brought to City Council for consideration. A copy of the presentation is attached.

### **c. Vacancies – Chair Bernick has reviewed the applications for potential members to fill the existing two vacancies, which include both a member and a student member, and provided recommendations to Council. Appointments are forthcoming.**

### **d. Virginia Land Conservation Foundation (VLCF) Grant Workgroup**

There is potential for the City to apply for a reimbursement grant for the previous purchase of the Washington Square property. The application deadline is August 28<sup>th</sup> and Ms. Green asked for volunteers to assist in completing the application. Phillip Hines volunteered to assist.

### **e. Annual Report Workgroup**

Chair Bernick asked to reestablish the workgroup to prepare the annual report, which is due by the end of August. Bill Fleming volunteered to assist.

### **f. Sentinel Landscape Initiative – Bill Fleming**

Mr. Fleming shared the whitepaper detailing the Virginia Security Corridor by Sentinel Landscapes. Virginia Beach is included in the Tidewater sentinel landscape, which is one of two in the state. The Virginia Security Corridor supports 10 military installations representing every branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. A copy of the flyer is attached.

## **4. OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Open Space Property Development Priorities**

Chair Bernick requested members review the undeveloped and underdeveloped lists of previously purchased open space properties and bring ideas to the next meeting.

### **b. Potential Open Space Property Identification**

Utilizing all resources available to identify potential future open space, members were asked to be prepared to discuss in detail at the July meeting.

## **5. REPORTS**

### **a. City Council Liaisons**

Ms. Henley is concerned with future costs of construction, as witnessed with the Stormwater Bond Referendum projects.

### **b. Student Members – no report**

### **c. Parks and Recreation Commission – no report**

### **d. Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Foundation (VBPRF) – no report**

### **e. Green Ribbon Committee**

Due to other commitments, Vincent Bowhers has not been able to attend a meeting recently and asked for a volunteer to be the liaison for the Green Ribbon.

f. LRNOW – Vincent Bowhers/Clay Bernick

- Clean the Bay Day, June 1<sup>st</sup> – Hutton Circle Kayak Launch Cleanup
  - Removed 1,483 lbs of debris
  - 59 volunteers
- The first six months of 2024 (December - May) - 10,410 lbs., 46 cleanups, 629 volunteers
- Cleanup History
  - 2002 to 2012 – 2 or 3 cleanups a year, removing an average of 416 lbs of debris per cleanup
  - 2013 and 2014 – increased to 7 or 8 cleanups a year
  - 2015 – started monthly plus cleanups and averaged 412 lbs per cleanup
  - 2018 – special request cleanups started and had 34 cleanups removing 8,002 lbs
  - 2021 – 68 cleanups and removed 12,106 lbs of debris
  - 2022 – 113 cleanups and removed 10,213 lbs of debris
  - 2023 – 79 cleanups and removed 12,555 lbs of debris
  - Steadily increased the number of cleanups and pounds of debris removed
  - Many cleanups are small (1 or 2 volunteers) and average debris removal is 134 lbs
  - Large monthly cleanups usually have 50 plus volunteers and remove thousands of pounds of debris
- Upcoming Public Events
  - June 28<sup>th</sup> Native plant garden tour 9am until noon
  - July 13<sup>th</sup> Beach Garden Park Cleanup

g. Active Transportation Advisory Committee - no report

h. Workgroups

- Handbook workgroup will be meeting soon
- Grant workgroup just formed
- ITA workgroup is scheduled to meet later this week
- Annual Report just formed

**6. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Questions arose about the reforestation program and if it is ongoing.

**7. ADJOURN AND UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS**

a. Next Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

There being no further business, the Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Tuck Bowie and seconded by Maury Hill to adjourn the meeting at 4:40pm.

H.C. Bernick, III

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Clay Bernick, Chair

*Trina M. Harrell*

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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