



MEETING MINUTES

DATE May 20, 2024, at 3:00 pm
LOCATION Office of Performance and Accountability
2408 Courthouse Drive, Building 21, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456

1. WELCOME & ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Chair Bernick called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. In Recorder Trina Harrell's absence, Ms. Babbie Dunnington called the role and prepared the meeting minutes.

Name	Role or Association	Attend
Clay Bernick	Chair	√
Jarrold L. Katzer	Vice Chair	√
Richard "Tuck" Bowie	Committee Member	√
Vincent Bowhers	Committee Member	√
Francis Drumm	Committee Member	Ab
William W. Fleming	Committee Member	Ab
Maury Hill	Committee Member	√
Phillip Hines	Committee Member	√
Dianna McDowell	Committee Member	√
John Olivieri	Committee Member	Ab
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	√
Babbie Dunnington	Parks and Recreation	√
Lucia Whitlow	City Attorney's Office	√
Guests		

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April 22, 2024 - tabled



3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Underdeveloped Sites Ranked – Chad Morris

Mr. Chad Morris, Planning, Design & Development Administrator, reviewed a list of nine existing underdeveloped sites previously purchased through the Open Space Acquisition Program through April 9, 2024. The top four underdeveloped sites would require a budget of \$11M. This prioritization considers whether there are existing implementation plans in place for the sites. Development of all nine sites would total approximately \$18M. The committee will provide a formal letter for City Council by July/August to 1. Recommend the development of land previously acquired through the program, and 2. Recommend how much bonded funding should be utilized. It was recommended to engage with Management Services prior to issuing letter to confirm that it is acceptable to utilize Open Space funding to develop acquired parcels. The recent needs assessment stated that the City would need to acquire 1,100 additional acres to fully close the gap in served areas. Michael Kirschman stated three categories of land acquisition: 1. Gaps in served areas – new patches of Parks. 2. Expansion of existing Parks and 3. Linking Parks or Natural Areas for preservation corridors. Councilmember Henley suggested the Committee define the mission of open space to include conservation and flood protection.

b. Reference Documents List

Ms. Corinna Green distributed a list of reference documents, City plans and links, and will follow up with an email containing the linking document. Vice Chair Katzer initiated a working group to create a manual for committee members. This would involve creating a guide that describes a collection of criteria. Dianna McDowell, Gavin Wehr, and Cecilia Kocan volunteered to be a part of the working group.

c. Sentinel Landscapes – Bill Fleming

This organization has funding opportunities specifically for properties that are held by the Department of Defense (DoD) to protect land and wildlife. This will be discussed at the June meeting.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. ITA Open Space Strategies Letter (draft) – Clay Bernick

Chair Bernick worked with the ITA committee and met with the Planning Commissioner as well as Councilmember Henley to establish recommendations for a plan update. Ms. Dianna McDowell provided the Transition Area and ITA map documents so the group could have a shared vision to be communicated in the plan update.

b. Approved Open Space Budget – Chad Morris/Michael Kirschman

The FY 25 Capital Improvement Budget was approved as presented including \$2.5M for Open Space Acquisition, design for the modernization of a recreation center and accelerating the construction from FY29 to FY28. Parks and Recreation was given direction to complete the updated ITA plan before October 1st. There was \$1M transferred to the Indian River Road project from the existing balance in the Southern Rivers Acquisition project. However, \$1.1M was allocated to tree planting that can be used for ITA design, planning and tree planting. Also, \$7M in State funding was appropriated for ditch and stormwater management but could be utilized for acquisition to assist with flooding issues in the southern part of the City if this aligns with the intent. This funding cannot be included in bonds the City issues and procurement deadlines could exist.



c. GIS tutorial

Ms. Green created a step-by-step instruction document for committee members and will provide after finalized by IT/GIS. A suggestion was made for open space acquisitions and bikes and trails to become more accessible in public City data.

5. REPORTS

a. City Council Liaisons

Request for OSAC to provide thoughts on a potential P&R bond referendum, which will be discussed in the next few weeks. This will be an open discussion including public comments about the recreation center modernization, a new recreation center, trails, and parks. A one-year notice was suggested about the intent of the P&R referendum to provide ample time for planning, partner engagement, and advocacy. This timeframe is in line with the Flood Protection Bond Referendum that was included on the November 2021 ballot.

b. Student Members

c. Parks and Recreation Commission

d. Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Foundation (VBPRF)

e. Green Ribbon Committee

f. LRNOW – Vincent Bowhens/Clay Bernick

- Thalia Creek Cleanups
 - April 21st – removed 1,560 lbs of debris
 - May 11th – removed 1,215 lbs of debris
 - 2,966 lbs of debris removed in April
 - For 2024 (including December), 8,793 lbs., 40 cleanups, 541 volunteers
 - Next Cleanup will be June 1st – Clean the Bay Day, at Hutton Circle Kayak Launch 9am - noon.
 - Upcoming Public Events
 - June 8th Bird walk at Pleasure House Point
 - June 28th Native plant garden tour
- g. Active Transportation Advisory Committee
- h. Comprehensive Plan Reports
- i. North Landing River & Albemarle Sound Estuarine Symposium
- Large and diverse attendance of 150 attendees
 - 67% of Virginia Beach drains to Albemarle Sound

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments.

7. ADJOURN AND UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

a. Next Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting June 24th.

There being no further business, the Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Jarrod Katzer 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