



MEETING MINUTES

DATE February 24, 2025, at 3:00 pm

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 3:04pm. Recorder Trina Harrell called the role.

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	√
William W. Fleming	Committee Member	√
Maury Hill	Committee Member	Ab
Dianna McDowell	Committee Member	√
Jenny Perry	Committee Member	Ab
Stephen Rockefeller	Committee Member	√
Gavin Wehr	Student Member	√
Cooper Stuart	Student Member	√
Liaisons		
Barbara Henley	City Council Member	
Joashua Schulman	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	√
Lucia Whitlow	City Attorney's Office	√
Tim Copeland	Public Works Real Estate	√
Rachael Miller	Planning	√
Guests		
None		

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 27, 2025

A motion made by Francis Drumm seconded by William Fleming to approve the January 27, 2025, minutes, passed unanimously.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Comprehensive Plan Team - Update & Input – Ms. Rachael Miller gave an overview of the draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan highlighting community engagement, big ideas, context areas, place types, and a linear park system. She detailed the next steps, including City Council voting on the final 2040 Comprehensive Plan before summer. A copy of the presentation will be made available.
- b. Vacancy – Pending applications from several districts not represented on the committee.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Finalize Member Guidebook - Vice Chair Katzer thanked Ms. Green for her work on the guidebook and advised additional comments are still pending.

5. REPORTS

- a. City Council Liaisons – no report
- b. Student Members – Assisted in harvesting native trees, shrubs and grasses at PHP.
- c. Parks and Recreation Commission – Discussed the potential fee increase and Earth Day activities spanning the week of April 19th - 26th at Mount Trashmore Park.
- d. Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Foundation (VBPRF) – no report
- e. Green Ribbon Committee – January meeting canceled. Sent a letter to support the PHP Mitigation Bank and will participate in the Southern Watersheds Symposium Friday, April 11th, 8:30am – 3:00pm, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center.
- f. LRNOW – Vincent Bowhens
 - Cleanup at MOCA on February 8th – 45 volunteers and 1,197 lbs. of debris removed
 - FY25 13 cleanups, 165 volunteer hours, 1,464.8 lbs. so far
 - Participated in PHP tree rescue – 650 trees and 225 grasses, including 120 Live Oaks
 - Upcoming events –
 - March 15th - Francis Land House cleanup
 - March 18th – 20th Virginia Marine Debris Summit at Norfolk Botanical Gardens
- g. Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Maury Hill
 - The Eastern Shore Rail Trail was recommended to receive \$17.8M (Smart Scale grant).
 - Virginia Creeper Trail (located in southwest Virginia) incurred \$660M in damages from Hurricane Helene. Half the 34-mile trail was destroyed.
 - The South Hampton Roads Trail is 41 miles long (14 miles paved), and there's an additional 22 miles funded/under construction.
 - VB Trail Phase IV (London Bridge Road to Birdneck Road) was recommended to receive \$23.8M (Smart Scale grant).
 - ITA Master Plan Update – P&R staff provided a briefing to Planning Commission on February 12th.
- h. Workgroups – no report

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments.

7. CLOSED/OPEN SESSION

Closed Session
Chair Bernick called for motion to convene a closed session at 3:35pm to discuss properties in Voting Districts 2, 3, and 9. Motion made by Jarrod Katzer, seconded by Francis Drumm, and unanimously approved to convene into closed session.
Open Session
Chair Bernick reconvened the open meeting and called for a motion to certify the closed meeting at 4:12pm. Motion made by Jarrod Katzer, seconded by William Fleming, and unanimously approved to certify the closed meeting.

8. ADJOURN AND UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- a. Next Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting March 24th, 2025
- b. Planning, Design & Development Project Updates

There being no further business, the Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Vincent Bowhens and seconded by Francis Drumm to adjourn the meeting at 4:35pm.

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

MEETING DATE: February 24, 2025

MOTION: Jarrod Katzer

SECOND: William Fleming

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee of the City of Virginia Beach has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Code 2.2-3712 requires a certification that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A) to which this certification applies; and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the Motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Parks and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee.

VOTE: 8-0

AYE (list by last name): Bernick, Bowhers, Bowie, Drumm, Fleming, Katzer, McDowell, and Rockefeller

NAY (list by last name): N/A

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Hill and Perry

ABSENT DURING MEETING: Hill and Perry

STATEMENT OF MEMBER INDICATING SUBSTANCE OF DEPARTURE: N/A

Trina M. Harrell

Administrative Specialist II

Parks and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee