



MEETING MINUTES

DATE August 25, 2025, at 3:05 pm

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

Members Present: Clay Bernick (Chair), Vincent Bowhersh, Richard “Tuck” Bowie, Francis Drumm, William W. Fleming, Tangela Green, Eric Lin (Student Member), Heather Malaby, Dianna McDowell (Vice Chair), Stephen Rockefeller, and Cooper Stuart (Student Member).

Member Absent: Jeremy Wing

Councilmember Liaison Present: Barbara Henley

City Staff Present: Kenneth Chandler, Michael Kirschman, Chad Morris, Corinna Green, Trina Harrell, Dita Beard, Lucia Whitlow, and Tim Copeland.

Guests: Maury Hill and Terry Stevens

1. WELCOME & ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Chair Bernick called the meeting to order at 3:00pm and welcomed guests. Recorder Trina Harrell called the roll.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. July 28, 2025 – A motion was made by Mr. William Fleming, seconded by Mr. Francis Drumm, to approve the July 28, 2025, minutes, which passed unanimously.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Election of Chair – A motion was made by Mr. Richard “Tuck” Bowie, seconded by Mr. William Fleming, to elect the current chair and vice chair, Mr. Clay Bernick and Ms. Dianna McDowell, respectively, which passed unanimously.
- b. Article – Waterway cleanup – Chair Bernick acknowledged the abundant efforts Mr. Vince Bowhersh performs by working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to remove several derelict and abandoned vessels in the Hampton Roads waterways. Those present gave him a round of applause. Mr. Bowhersh advised boat owners are asked to complete a [survey](#) on the Lynnhaven River Now website to help find a solution so boats are not abandoned in the waterways.
- c. Letter of Support (HB 534 and SB 11) – Chair Bernick reviewed the draft letter of support recommending instituting a plastic bag tax (fee) that was sent last week and asked for comments. Chair and Vice Chair of the Clean Community Commission, Ms. Terry Stevens and Mr. Maury Hill, respectively, were in attendance to provide history and answer any questions. After a brief discussion, Mr. Francis Drumm made a motion to approve the letter

as written, seconded by Ms. Heather Malaby, which passed unanimously. Staff will work with the chair to process.

- d. Annual Report – Chair Bernick thanked members for their comments and corrections to the previously distributed Annual Report. Chair Bernick also thanked staff for their review and input as well, noting formatting issues will be corrected. Vice Chair Dianna McDowell made a motion to approve the Annual Report, seconded by Mr. Richard “Tuck” Bowie, which passed unanimously. Staff will correct the formatting issues and provide to the City Clerk prior to the September 2, 2025, deadline.
- e. Coordination with City Departments on delinquent tax property – Chair Bernick reviewed the delinquent tax property that is expected to be auctioned by the City and the history of the process. Understanding the role the Open Space Advisory Committee plays in the process is important. Staff will continue to work closely with other departments to ensure all properties are vetted accordingly.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Virginia Land Conservation Foundation – Ms. Corinna Green thanked staff for their assistance and advised the application was submitted on August 12th, 2025, for the Gum Swamp/Indian River Road property in District 2. The final request was for \$1.2 million.

5. REPORTS

- a. City Council Liaisons – The City Council Retreat will be all day Tuesday and half a day Wednesday, August 26th and 27th, 2025. Councilmember Henley asked members for top priorities for her to bring forth to the Retreat. The Interfacility Traffic Area (ITA) plan is expected to be discussed extensively. She reminded members to send their comments on the ITA Plan and/or other topics to all City Council members. The draft ITA Plan presented to City Council on October 1, 2024, is available at [ITA Plan](#).
- b. Student Members – Mr. Cooper Stuart will be sharing the ITA plan Mr. Chad Morris presented to City Council (on October 1, 2024) with his classmates.
- c. Parks and Recreation Commission – Chair Bernick advised Mr. Stephen Rockefeller offered to be the liaison for ATAC.
- d. Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Foundation – no report
- e. Green Ribbon Committee – No report
- f. LRNOW – Vince Bowhens
 - Cleanups
 - Thalia Creek, Beach Garden Park, Ocean Lakes Park, Lynnhaven Park, Princess Anne Commons Park, and Hunts Point Park
 - Group cleanups with Wolcott Rivers Gates, HR Youth Volunteer Corp, KMPG, Sodexo, Scouts, and entire community
 - Upcoming - West Neck Creek/Scarborough Square Cleanup on September 13th
 - 2025 totals – 1,019 volunteers, 2,314 hours and 13,738 lbs. of debris
- g. Active Transportation Advisory Committee – No report.
- h. Open Space Workgroup – no report
- i. Stormwater Implementation Group – The group will meet on Friday, August 29th to finalize recommendations to submit to Council.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Zero Waste Awareness Week – September 1st – 7th. In Virginia, the first full week of September is designated as Zero Waste Awareness Week to promote sustainability, education, and local action toward reducing waste. Campaigns include distributing reusable shopping totes at a food pantry to reach those in need and at the Endless Summer party at Bow Creek Recreation Center. Media communication is being provided by Max Media.

7. CLOSED/OPEN SESSION

Closed Session
Chair Bernick called for motion to convene a closed session at 3:55pm to discuss properties in Voting Districts 2, 3, 8 and 9. Motion made by Mr. Richard “Tuck” Bowie, seconded by Mr. 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 4:45pm. Motion made by Mr. Richard “Tuck” Bowie, seconded by Mr. William Fleming, and unanimously approved to certify the closed meeting.

8. DISCUSSION, UPCOMING MEETINGS, ADJOURN, & EVENTS

- Several members volunteered for open liaison positions with Active Transportation Advisory Committee (Steve Rockefeller), Clean Community Commission (Dianna McDowell) and Transition Area/Interfacility Traffic Area Citizens Advisory Committee (Heather Malaby). Until a permanent liaison for the Green Ribbon is confirmed, Mr. Cooper Stuart will work with his classmates to report out at future meetings.
- Chair Bernick continues to work with the City Clerk’s Office to fill the Committee’s vacancy.
- The Planning Commission held a special meeting July 29th to review the consultant and staff’s work on the draft Comprehensive Plan Update.
 - Timeline
 - August 29th – deadline to receive re-revised draft for review. Staff and consultant review and make available to the public
 - September 5th – Post the Re-revised Comp Plan draft and draft Master Transportation Plan online
 - Boards/Commissions will be notified of opportunity for comment
 - Public open houses Wednesday, September 17th and Thursday, September 18th Times to be decided, 1 each at Convention Center and Building 19 (Municipal Center)
 - 2nd Week of October – public comment period (including boards/commissions) closes
 - Draft revised based on public input
 - Target dates for approval:
 - ✓ November Planning Commission hearing for City Council recommendation
 - ✓ December City Council meeting

a. Next Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting September 22nd, 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 Mr. Richard “Tuck” Bowie and seconded by Ms. Dianna McDowell to adjourn the meeting at 5:05pm.

Clay Bernick, Chair

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, Deputy Director, Economic Development
- David Trimmer, Agriculture Director
- L.J. Hansen, Public Works Director
- Tim Copeland, Public Works/Real Estate
- Michael Kirschman, Parks and Recreation Director
- Frank Fentress, Parks and Recreation, Landscape Services
- Parks and Recreation staff present

MEETING DATE: August 25, 2025

MOTION: Mr. Richard “Tuck” Bowie

SECOND: Mr. 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, Green, Malaby, and McDowell

NAY (list by last name): N/A

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Rockefeller and Wing

ABSENT DURING MEETING: Wing

STATEMENT OF MEMBER INDICATING SUBSTANCE OF DEPARTURE: N/A

Trina M. Harrell
Administrative Specialist II
Parks and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee