



MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

DATE December 1, 2025, at 3:00 pm

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

Members Present: Clay Bernick (Chair), Lauren Bland, Vincent Bowhers, Francis Drumm, William W. Fleming, Tangela Green, Heather Malaby, Dianna McDowell (Vice Chair), Jeremy Wing, and Cooper Stuart (Student Member).

Member Absent: Richard “Tuck” Bowie and Eric Lin (Student Member)

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

Guests: Walter Camp, Maury Hill, Robert Waring, and Anna Orchard-Hays (student)

1. WELCOME & ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. August 25, 2025 – A motion was made by Mr. Francis Drumm, seconded by Mr. Vincent Bowhers, to approve the August 25, 2025, minutes, which passed unanimously.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. HRSD Briefing on Atlantic Treatment Plant Property - postponed
- b. VLCF grant \$1.2M – Ms. Corinna Green advised Virginia Beach was awarded a \$1.2M grant through the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation to acquire 26 acres partially within Gum Swamp, one of the headwaters of the Virginia Scenic North Landing River.
- c. Virginia Land Conservation & Greenways Conference Preproposal – Chair Bernick, Mr. Vince Bowhers, and Ms. Corinna Green submitted a preproposal for the conference scheduled April 27-29, 2026.
- d. Vacancy – P&R Commission – Chair Bernick advised Mr. Steve Rockefeller resigned from the Commission, and subsequently from OSAC, since he no longer resides in the district he was chosen to represent.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Liaisons needed for ATAC, Green Ribbon & P&R Commission – Chair Bernick advised liaisons are needed for ATAC, Green Ribbon, and P&R Commission and asked members to contact him if interested. Until a permanent liaison for the Green Ribbon is confirmed, Mr. Cooper Stuart will work with his classmates to report out at future meetings.

5. REPORTS

- a. City Council Liaisons – No report.
- b. Student Members – Mr. Cooper Stuart is relocating the osprey nest at Pleasure House Point and continues the shoreline restoration work with LRNow. In Mr. Eric Lin's absence, Chair Bernick read an email from Mr. Eric Lin. In summary, Mr. Eric Lin surveyed Ocean Lakes students asking for their views on open space and how open space should be used. The most desired amenities include gardens/flora, courts for racket sports (badminton/pickleball), parks closer to neighborhoods, and tracks (cross country). The lack of cross-country tracks has been discussed in several OSAC meetings, and he hopes a solution/alternative could be found. Chair Bernick thanked Mr. Eric Lin for surveying his peers and looks forward to utilizing this information as future open space properties are considered.
- c. Parks and Recreation Commission – No report.
- d. Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Foundation – No report.
- e. Green Ribbon Committee – Next meeting is December 4th, 2:30pm – 4:00pm in Building 3 at the Municipal Center. A new subcommittee, Trees, has been formed to review the City's tree planting program, tree replacement policy, and establish a tree planting grant. The Green Ribbon Committee asked if a member of OSAC would like to serve on this new subcommittee.
- f. LRNOW – Vince Bowhers
 - Cleanups
 - October – Lynnhaven Colony Park
 - November – Brigadoon neighborhood parks
 - Upcoming – Francis Land House on January 10th
 - 2025 totals – 122 cleanups, 1,377 volunteers, 3,156 hours and 23,794 lbs. of debris
 - Volunteers planted 280 trees at Back Bay Natural Wildlife Refuge, and they anticipate planting 250 additional trees in December.
- g. Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Mr. Walter Camp advised ATAC submitted a grant application for \$20M for VB Trail Phase I. ATAC participated in a site tour of Virginia Beach Trail Phases 1 and 2 with the Planning Commission on Wednesday, November 26th and Mr. Walter Camp offered to coordinate a tour for OSAC members. The next ATAC meeting on December 8th will be a site tour of the Thalia Creek Greenway and Violet Bank trail. ATAC is looking forward to two upcoming events: First Day Hike – Citizens are encouraged to walk the Boardwalk Light Display on January 1st; and Crossing Guard Day celebrations in February.
- h. Planning Commission – The updated draft of the Comprehensive Plan will be released on December 8th, and the Master Transportation Plan will be available in January.
- i. Clean Community Commission – Mr. Maury Hill advised the City celebrated Zero Waste Awareness Week in September, which was the first time it was recognized statewide. The Commission held a Clothing Drive at Ocean Lakes High School during the Turkey Bowl Football Event in November and look forward to the next drive at Salem High School in April. The students are extremely active and bring fresh ideas, including Ms. Anna Orchard-Hays (student) who appreciates the opportunity and believes her committee work has made an impact. Mr. Maury Hill advised they plan to participate in the Beach Bag drive and Winter Wildlife Festival as well.
- j. ITA – Ms. Heather Malaby attended the November 6th TA/ITA Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting and stated the next steps for the ITA Master Plan Update include a significant amount of data collection and hiring a consultant. The TA/ITA voted to send a letter to City Council requesting public engagement during the development of the ITA Master Plan Update.
- k. Open Space Workgroup – no report
- l. Stormwater Implementation Group – No report.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- a. Citizen Mr. Robert Waring discussed the potential of property in and around Hell's Point Golf Course.

7. CLOSED/OPEN SESSION

Closed Session
Chair Bernick called for motion to convene a closed session at 4:10pm to discuss properties in Voting Districts 2 and 9. Motion was made by Mr. Francis Drumm, seconded by Mr. William Fleming, 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 4:32pm. Motion was made by Mr. Vincent Bowhers, seconded by Ms. Dianna McDowell, and unanimously approved to certify the closed meeting.

8. DISCUSSION, UPCOMING MEETINGS, ADJOURN, & EVENTS

- a. Chair Bernick asked members to provide a status of the property review of their districts. Mr. Francis Drumm continues to search for vacant land in District 8 but it is very limited. Mr. William Fleming mentioned the Wycliff Church and the Pleasure House Point properties and their potential. Mr. Cooper Stuart will research District 5 and Ms. Lauren Bland will research District 1. Mr. Vincent Bowhers will research waterways for potential launches along West Neck Creek. Chair Bernick will follow up with those members who are not in attendance.
- b. Ms. Dianna McDowell suggested OSAC request a presentation from Mr. Scott Martin. As CEO of the Fort Monroe Authority, Mr. Martin is designing a plan for the 565-acre site incorporating residential, commercial, and public access but also honoring its history, which includes being the first site enslaved Africans were brought to North America in 1619 and a U.S. Army fort for thousands of people who escaped enslavement. Other members shared concerns that the full history, including slavery, is not included in the current plans.
- c. Ms. Lauren Bland suggested when the Comprehensive Plan is approved, OSAC should capitalize on the moment by sharing the story of open space.
- d. Next Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting January 26th, 2026.

There being no further business, the Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Francis Drumm and seconded by Ms. Tangela Green to adjourn the meeting at 4:45pm.

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: December 1, 2025

MOTION: Vincent Bowhers

SECOND: Dianna McDowell

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: 9-0

AYE (list by last name): Bernick, Bland, Bowhers, Drumm, Fleming, Green, Malaby, McDowell, and Wing

NAY (list by last name): N/A

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Bowie

ABSENT DURING MEETING: Bowie

STATEMENT OF MEMBER INDICATING SUBSTANCE OF DEPARTURE: N/A

Trina M. Harrell

Administrative Specialist II

Parks and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee