



MEETING MINUTES

DATE July 28, 2025, at 3:00 pm
LOCATION Parks and Recreation Administration Building
2154 Landstown Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456

Members Present: Clay Bernick (Chair), Vincent Bowhers, Richard “Tuck” Bowie, Francis Drumm, William W. Fleming, Tangela Green, Eric Lin (Student Member), Heather Malaby, Stephen Rockefeller, and Jeremy Wing.

Member Absent: Dianna McDowell (Vice Chair), and Cooper Stuart (Student Member).

Councilmember Liaison Present: Barbara Henley.

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

1. WELCOME & ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Chair Bernick called the meeting to order at 3:03pm and welcomed new members, Heather Malaby and Jeremy Wing. Recorder Trina Harrell called the role.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- a. April 28, 2025 – A motion was made by Steve Rockefeller, seconded by Tangela Green, to approve the April 28, 2025, minutes, which passed unanimously.
- b. June 23, 2025 – A motion was made by Vincent Bowhers, seconded by Francis Drumm, to approve the June 23, 2025, minutes, which passed unanimously.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Environmental Studies Program video – Ms. Green played the video created, written, and edited by Ms. Aubrey Moore titled “[Generation Impact – Leading by Example, Inspiring Change](#)” which is a short documentary of a Virginia Beach student being empowered when appointed by City Council to committees and commissions. For more general information about the Program, see [Environmental Studies Program](#).
- b. Annual Report – Workgroup will be completing a draft for members to review at the August meeting. Mr. Bernick will send an email of the outline provided by City Clerk’s Office and ask for any suggestions by members.
- c. Recommendation letter(s) – Mr. Bernick provided a draft letter of recommendation supporting the City acquiring the property on Buzzard Neck Road. A few comments were received, and Mr. Bernick expects to send in the next few weeks.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Virginia Land Conservation Fund – Mr. Bernick reviewed the property associated with the grant application Ms. Green is completing. The application deadline is August 12th, 2025.

- b. Finalize Member Guidebook – The final draft Member Guidebook was distributed, and members were asked to provide any corrections/changes by the August meeting. Mr. Bernick explained this is a living document and will be updated as needed. He thanked staff for assembling copies of the guidebook that were provided at the meeting.
- c. District Maps distributed during June meeting – Please continue to review the maps to familiar yourself with your district. Using City mapping, you can zero in on properties and find potential properties for purchase.

5. REPORTS

- a. City Council Liaisons – Councilmember Henley affirmed the importance of the open space program and mentioned the recent Va. Pilot article that didn't expand on the progress Virginia Beach has made to reduce flooding/stormwater issues. She advised a public information meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 30th, 5:30pm-6:30pm at Creeds Elementary School to provide an update on the permitting issues for the Marsh Restoration Project in Back Bay and answer citizen questions. She also fielded questions at her District 2 Forum last Thursday. City Council received additional presentations to develop the ITA area, which are in direct conflict with the ITA plan Mr. Chad Morris presented October 2024 to City Council. Councilmember Henley requested committees take part in the discussion and send comments to City Council members prior to the Council Retreat in late August. City Council received letters of support from nine different groups and 40 citizens. Chair Bernick will provide the letter OSAC sent in support. Mr. Bernick would like to review the entire package, including the letters of support and the Development Authority report.
- b. Student Members – Eric Lin – He supports enriching the lives of local children first before turning the focus on tourists. Utilizing the TA/ITA as a recreational amenity would increase the social factor for children.
- c. Parks and Recreation Commission – Looking forward to voting on Rudee Park.
- d. Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation Foundation – no report
- e. Green Ribbon Committee – Vincent Bowhers
 - ITA Presentation from Mr. Chad Morris (P&R) and Ms. Diana Hicks (TA/ITA) – Development proposals
 - Approval of Annual Report
 - Approval of Legislative Agenda
 - VCAP Staffing/funding, Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF), Back Bay marsh island exemption, Menhaden, and Tree Canopy
- f. LRNOW – Vincent Bowhers
 - Completed Living Shoreline on Western Branch of the Lynnhaven River
 - Removed 64 ft sailboat from North Landing River
 - Cleanups
 - Lake Lawson/Lake Smith - removed 557 lbs. of debris, 54 volunteers and 21 boats
 - Group cleanups with Wolcott Rivers Gates, KMPG, Sodexo, and Scouts
 - 2025 totals – 76 cleanups, 852 volunteers, 1,930 hours and 11,082 lbs. of debris
 - Volunteer Appreciation/Eco-market at New Realm – November 2nd
- g. Active Transportation Advisory Committee – No report.
- h. Open Space Workgroup – Continue working on the Annual Report.
- i. Stormwater Implementation Group – The group met a few weeks ago and refined proposed solutions. The goal is to finalize five or six recommendations that are attainable to submit to City Council in the fall. The next meeting will be Friday, August 29th, 9am – 1pm at the Municipal Center, Building 3, 2401 Courthouse Drive, Room 1009.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments.

7. DISCUSSION, UPCOMING MEETINGS, ADJOURN, & EVENTS

- a. Bayside 6th grade campus – School Board will vote on August 12th, 2025.
- b. FY27 CIP Budget – Currently in the planning stage.
- c. Next Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting August 25th, 2025
- d. Planning, Design & Development Project Updates

Chair Bernick stated liaisons are needed for the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC), Green Ribbon Committee, and the Transition Area/Interfacility Traffic Area Citizens Advisory Committee (TA/ITA). Please contact him if interested. 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 4:20pm.

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