



MEETING MINUTES

DATE June 23, 2025, at 3:00 pm
LOCATION Parks and Recreation Administration Building
2154 Landstown Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456

Members Present: Clay Bernick (Chair), Richard “Tuck” Bowie, Vincent Bowhers, Francis Drumm, Jenny Perry, Stephen Rockefeller, and Jeremy Wing.

Member Absent: William W. Fleming, Tangel Green, Heather Malaby, Dianna McDowell (Vice Chair), Cooper Stuart (Student Member), and Gavin Wehr (Student Member)

Councilmember Liaison Present: Joashua Schulman

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

Guests Present: Walter Camp and Eric Lin

1. WELCOME & ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Chair Bernick called the meeting to order at 3:00pm and welcomed new members, Heather Malaby and Jeremy Wing. Recorder Trina Harrell called the role.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April 28, 2025

Tabled due to lack of quorum of members from the April meeting.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Park Needs Assessment Presentation – Mr. Chad Morris, Planning, Design & Development Administrator, reviewed the Park Needs Assessment and Development Strategy outlining the process, streamlining park categories, and analyzing access equity. The Assessment also provided numerous recommendations totaling approximately \$837.6M but staff advised a few of the recommendations are already moving forward. Actual total costs will be based on the market when/if the projects are approved and in progress. The entire Council Presentation can be viewed at [Park Needs Assessment](#).
- b. VLCF Grant Opened – Ms. Corinna Green advised \$15.3M is available, including \$3.44M in the Open Space and Parks category. The application deadline is August 12th, 2025, and an Open space Workgroup may be asked to assist Ms. Green in preparing the application.
- c. Environmental Studies Program video – Ms. Green played the video created, written, and edited by Ms. Sadie Mixer titled “[A Story of Student Voice](#)”, which is a short documentary of Virginia Beach students being empowered when appointed by City Council to committees and commissions. For more general information about the Program, see [Environmental Studies Program](#).

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Finalize Member Guidebook – The draft guidebook will be distributed in the next few weeks and members were asked to provide any final comments before the next meeting.

5. REPORTS – ALL NEED UPDATES

- a. City Council Liaisons – Mr. Joash Schulman mentioned the Bayside 6 campus property on Jericho Road. He anticipates providing more information at a later meeting.
- b. Student Members – no report
- c. Parks and Recreation Commission – The Parks After Dark program was expanded this year to the Level Green (College Park Elementary) and Green Run (Rosemont Elementary) communities and has been well received so far. A status update was provided for Rudee Park and the VB Trail.
- d. LRNOW – Vincent Bowhers
 - Cleanups
 - London Bridge bike path (with ATAC) – May 10th, removed 1,207 lbs. of debris
 - Hutton Launch for Clean the Bay Day – removed 1,162 lbs. of debris
 - 2025 totals – 68 cleanups, 773 volunteers, 1,730 hours and 10,425 lbs. of debris
 - Next cleanup – Lake Lawson/Lake Smith on July 12th, 9am - noon
- e. Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Mr. Walter Camp advised the Commonwealth Transportation Board will adopt the final funding plan of \$23.8M for Phase IV of the VB Trail at their June 25th meeting. Bike Month activities were well attended, including over one thousand students participating in bike events hosted by various schools. The dedication of Three Oaks Elementary Multi-Use Path occurred on June 2nd and is a Safe Routes to School project. Work is advancing for both Thalia Creek Greenway and Violet Bank Trail.
- f. Open Space Workgroup – Anticipate working on the Annual Report and assisting with the grant submission.
- g. Stormwater Implementation Group – Finalizing policy recommendations to submit to City Council in the fall.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments.

7. CLOSED/OPEN SESSION

Closed Session
Chair Bernick called for motion to convene a closed session at 4:18pm to discuss properties in Voting Districts 2 and 2. Motion made by Tuck Bowie, seconded by Vincent Bowhers, 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 Francis Drumm, seconded by Vincent Bowhers, and unanimously approved to certify the closed meeting.

8. DISCUSSION, UPCOMING MEETINGS, ADJOURN, & EVENTS

- a. Mr. Francis Drumm made a motion for OSAC to draft a letter of support for the purchase of the Hancock property located on Buzzard Neck Road in District 2. Mr. Vincent Bowhers seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- b. Chair Bernick distributed maps correlating to each members' district and asked them to evaluate based on potential open space opportunities. He will send to those members absent and ask the students to review the VB Trail corridor.
- c. Next Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting July 28th, 2025
- d. Planning, Design & Development Project Updates

There being no further business, the Chair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Tuck Bowie and seconded by Francis Drumm to adjourn the meeting at 5:00pm.

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: June 23, 2025

MOTION: Francis Drumm

SECOND: Vincent Bowhers

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: 7-0

AYE (list by last name): Bernick, Bowhers, Bowie, Drumm, Perry, Rockefeller, and Wing

NAY (list by last name): N/A

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Fleming, Green, Malaby and McDowell

ABSENT DURING MEETING: Fleming, Green, Malaby and McDowell

STATEMENT OF MEMBER INDICATING SUBSTANCE OF DEPARTURE: N/A

Trina M. Harrell

Administrative Specialist II

Parks and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee