



Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes

Thursday, Feb. 6, 2026

3-4 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Administration Building
2154 Landstown Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Call to order

Chair Phillip Hines called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm. A quorum was present.

Roll Call

Members Present

Phillip Hines (Chair), Daniel Edwards (Vice Chair) - Virtual, Alexander Amerine, Barrett Lankford, Ben Messer, Clinton Mills Jr., Kathryn Moran, Myra Payne, Eugene Towler, David Weiner, Debbie Wiggins

Members Absent

Tommy Altman

City Staff Present

Michael Kirschman, Ken Chandler, Shirley Deibler, Chad Morris, Frank Fentress, Taryn Buckley-Thiel, LT. Irving Dewberry, Ryan Hersey

Approval of Previous Minutes

The January 8, 2025, meeting minutes were unanimously approved, with requested amendments by Windy Crutchfield, Chairman of the Lynnhaven Boat Ramp Committee.

Correspondence / Public Comment

Ms. Crutchfield asked for clarity to be added to the January meeting minutes. All charter operations changes requested at the previous meeting were those of the Lynnhaven Boat Ramp Committee, not the Bayfront Advisory Commission.

Old Business

New Chair – Selection/Vote

Chair Hines reminded the Commission that this was his last meeting before his term ends on February 28, 2026. A new Chair must be selected. Vice Chair Daniel Edwards nominated himself. No other names were received. Commissioner Debbie Wiggins made a motion to elect Vice Chair Edwards as the new Chair. Commissioner Eugene

Towler seconded. The full Commission was in favor. Vice Chair Edwards was selected as the Commission's new Chair, effective March 1, 2026.

New Secretary – Selection/Vote

A new Secretary is also still needed for the Commission. Chair Hines asked if anyone wished to fill the open position. Commissioner Kathryn Moran volunteered to fill the position. Commissioner David Weiner made a motion to select Commissioner Moran as the new Secretary. Commissioner Towler seconded. Commissioner Moran was selected as the Secretary, effective immediately.

New Business

Lynnhaven Boat Ramp & Beach Facility Report (Follow-Up P&R Staff Report)

Following Windy Crutchfield's, Chairman of the Lynnhaven Boat Ramp Committee, presentation last month on the need for charter boat permits at Lynnhaven Boat Ramp & Beach Facility (LBRBF), Parks & Recreation staff (Amanda Parrish, Coordinator - Park Events, Programs & Special Use, and Michael Parkman, Supervisor, Park Events, Programs, and Special Use) provided an overview of the site operations, challenges, and current initiatives of this facility. LBRBF provides boat launches and beach access directly into the Chesapeake Bay. This facility collects significant revenue from boat launch passes, parking fees, and ice sales. Users of the site include boaters (recreational and commercial), kayakers, beach goers, those seeking fishing opportunities, and those involved with dredging operations throughout Lynnhaven watershed.

The department has added additional safety and traffic control enhancements to improve the safety and security of the site, as well as to reduce traffic congestion in the local neighborhood. Enhancements included security cameras, speed bumps, police patrols and on-site armed security, wayfinding signage, and Flock cameras (license plate reading cameras). LBRBF has the most cameras of any one park facility in the Virginia Beach park system. Among other forthcoming safety enhancements, there are plans to add solar-powered boat ramp status signs to Shore Drive to inform boaters of the ramp status (open vs full) before they turn into the facility. The goal is to prevent trailered boats that cannot access the ramp from rerouting through the local community. Staff do direct boaters on the best route to turn around if they end up in the neighborhood.

Q&A/Discussion

- 1) With the addition of multiple cameras to this facility, will the Flock cameras be removed? Not at this time.
- 2) What is the current plan if the site's parking lot is full? If the lot is full, the facility closes until space is available. The nearby dredge site can be used as overflow, if dredging activities are not actively occurring.
- 3) Is funding for the additional safety measures covered by the increase in user fees? Yes. *The increased fees should also result in higher revenues for the facility.*
- 4) Can you buy a fishing license on-site? No.
- 5) Reminder: The Lynnhaven Boat Ramp Committee, a committee of the Bayfront Advisory Commission, would like a commercial registration fee placed on charter boat operations that utilize the Lynnhaven Boat Ramp & Beach Facility. Director Kirschman noted, while this change would be a decision for City Council, a park permit is different than a charter boat operation permit, as charter operations do not remove the facility from the general public's use long-term like a permitted park event. Additionally, while limiting charter operations at the facility may free up a select number of parking spaces, they will fill up with other

boat ramp users and beach visitors; it will not decrease traffic at the facility. Parks & Recreation Supervisor Parkman added that parking issues will still exist even if commercial permits are added as visitors will still heavily utilize the facility, especially at peak times.

- 6) Is the Department liable for anything if an incident occurs while a vessel is on the water if staff were aware the vessel was a charter boat? No. Boats only launch from the facility; boating activities are done off-site.
- 7) NOTE: There is some misinformation on social media that the Lynnhaven Boat Ramp's kayak launch area will close after Pleasure House Point's new kayak launch is opened. This is not accurate.

Other Discussions

Chair Hines requested an update on the Park Ranger program. Director Kirschman stated that there is not yet much to announce. The program is being considered by the City Manager and, depending on his support, it could be included in his recommended budget in May.

Chair Hines inquired if the change in curfew recently discussed in the news is a Parks & Recreation initiative. Director Kirschman informed him it was not. Lieutenant Irving Dewberry added that the curfew will confirm a responsible adult is with all youth under 18. This will help the Oceanfront area be better enjoyed by residents and visitors.

Director Kirschman stated that Parks After Dark will be at three locations this summer, including the recently reopened Level Green Park. The events will end at 10:00pm to meet the new curfew regulations.

Chair Hines asked for an update on Rudee Park. Planning, Design and Development (PDD) Administrator Chad Morris informed the Commission that the project is going well.

- Construction planning has started. These plans will be ready for approval in 12-18 months.
- A local fundraising agreement is being established with the Virginia Gentlemen.
- A national fundraising consultant is on board to help with national fundraising and establishing the park's conservancy.

Commissioner David Weiner inquired if a recent bill, aimed to determine the feasibility of a Tide Light Rail extension to the Virginia Beach Oceanfront, would affect the VBTrail progress. He was informed that the bill was killed in the Virginia General Assembly.

PDD Administrator Morris noted that VBTrail is changing from a design, bid, build project to progressive design build project.

Liaison Reports

Parks & Recreation Foundation

Foundation President Barbara Duke announced that [Bag's Buddies](#) will be donating to the Foundation to cover a program at Seatack Recreation Center. The program will fund swim lessons, spring break camps, and summer camps for low-income youth in the Seatack community. The donation will cover swim lessons, spring break camps, and summer camps.

Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC)

ATAC liaison and Vice Chair Edwards informed the Commission that ATAC is already gearing up for Bike Month (May 2026). More details are to come.

Additionally, he noted ATAC is working on a recognition for School's crossing guards this month.

Police

Lieutenant Dewberry informed the Commission that crime is trending down in the City. He also noted that 100% of homicides are solved in Virginia Beach.

Schools

Ryan Hersey, Sustainability Officer, Facilities Services for Virginia Beach City Public Schools, provided an update on the status of the former Bayside 6th Grade Campus site. The site is currently vacant. The building should be demolished prior to fall 2026, leaving trees and hardscapes intact. Once complete, the City will acquire the property for a future park. Director Kirschman stated that the site will be added to the department's undeveloped parks inventory and will remain as open space until funding for the park's development is acquired.

Mr. Hersey also noted the RFP for the Princess Anne High School redesign is now live. This project will have a progressive build design. A new school facility is still some time away.

Director's Report

Director Kirschman announced that the budget for fiscal year 2026-2027 has been submitted.

He gave a shoutout to the Parks & Landscape Services team for successfully handling the recent uncertain snow events.

Good & Welfare

With their terms ending on February 28, 2026, both Chair Hines and Commissioner Wiggins reflected on their time on the Commission and wished everyone well moving forward.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Hines called for adjournment. No one opposed. Meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Attachments (1)

- Presentation: Lynnhaven Boat & Beach Facility – Staff Report – Presentation