

## THE COMMISSION

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*Chairman*

Robert Magoon,  
*Vice Chairman*

Morgan Ayers

Joseph Bovee

Wally Damon

Charles Guthrie

William Hearst

Frank Rabena

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*Planning Commission*

John Coston,

*Planning Commission*

Joash Schulman,

*City Council*

Chris Taylor,

*City Council*

Bruce Widener

*First Landing State Park*

CAPT. David Lewis USN  
*Commanding Officer, JEB  
Little Creek-Fort Story*

Mercedes Holland  
*JEB Little Creek-Fort Story*

# Baylines

## June 2023

Newsletter of the Virginia Beach Bayfront Advisory Commission



*Lesner Bridge: Photo Credit; Clark Nexsen*

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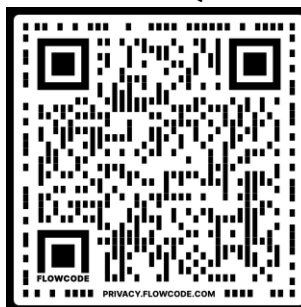
*Share the Baylines with your neighbors!*

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We would like you to share the Baylines newsletter with all of our friends, neighbors and businesses in the Shore Drive Corridor. Please pass it along or post the following on your social media:

To signup, simply follow copy and paste this URL into your web browser:  
<http://eepurl.com/h-s5y5>

Or scan this QR code:



## Contact Us

**Thank you for your  
continued interest in the  
Bayfront Communities!**

**Feel free to pass this  
along to others.**

Email:

[vb.bac.communications@gmail.com](mailto:vb.bac.communications@gmail.com)

### Hotlinks:

[Virginia Beach Government  
Bayfront Advisory Commission  
Planning Commission](#)

[Virginia Marine Resources  
Commission](#)

[First Landing State Park  
JEB Little Creek – Ft. Story](#)

## Council Contact

Chris Taylor

**District #8**

[chtaylor@vbgov.com](mailto:chtaylor@vbgov.com)

(757) 840-5859

Joash F. Schulman

**District #9**

[jschulman@vbgov.com](mailto:jschulman@vbgov.com)

(757) 840-1291

## From the Agenda...

### Chairman's Report:

The relocation of sand from the Lynnhaven Beach and Boat Ramp to the eastern bayfront beaches is moving ahead of schedule at a rate of 15 to 20 truckloads per hour. The amount of sand is more than what was originally estimated, and most of it will be moved to the beach. Once completed, this location will remain a sand transfer station, with a berm of sand creating a perimeter barrier.

Last month, a group walk about in Ocean Park on Shore Drive was conducted, attended by Councilman Schulman, City staffers from Public Works and other local stakeholders to identify sidewalk gaps and related Right of Way to have missing sidewalks installed. At present we are waiting to hear back from the city on a project cost estimate to have contiguous sidewalks completed. More to follow!

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### Staff Reports:



Following a nationwide search, City Manager Patrick Duhaney has appointed Kathy Warren as director of the City's Department of Planning and Community Development. Warren has served as the interim director since January of this year, overseeing operations, planning administration, permits and inspections, zoning, development services, and the Planning Commission. She has also served as deputy director of Economic Development since March 2022.

Warren has 26 years of municipal management experience. Prior to joining the City, she served for 19 years in leadership roles with the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority and has worked closely with city councils, as well as numerous boards and commissions. Warren holds a bachelor's degree in government and politics from George Mason University.

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[virginiabeach.gov](http://virginiabeach.gov) is now officially online, designed with a fresh look, improved navigation, and new interactive tools.

The website is the No. 1 resource for residents, visitors, businesses and community organizations to connect with City services and discover what Virginia Beach has to offer. The new design streamlines the website's navigation into easily



identifiable categories through which users can readily search for whatever City service they need or topic of interest.

Features include:

- “How Do I” - A quick-search section of frequently asked questions
- “Services” - A section to easily navigate City services without having to know the department that provides them. Topics include Trash & Recycling, Water & Sewer Utilities, Election & Voting, and Property, Permits & Zoning
- “Experience” - A place to find Virginia Beach’s many cultural and entertainment attractions, leisure activities and more, as well as an event calendar
- “What's Up” - A section to help Virginia Beach residents stay in the know by highlighting City news and events through videos, a new blog and the City’s social channels; ready access to the City’s mobile apps is here as well
- A straightforward homepage where emergency information and hot topics are highlighted in a top banner.

The new website provides users with faster loading times and a cleaner design that is mobile friendly and ADA compliant.

**The new link for the Planning Commission is:**

<https://planning.virginiabeach.gov/boards-commissions/planning-commission>

**The new link for the Bayfront Advisory Commission is:**

<https://planning.virginiabeach.gov/boards-commissions/bayfront-advisory-commission>

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Hank Morrison (City Staff Liaison) also reported that a new application for a Marlin Bay street closure has been requested. More details to follow when they are made available.

**Committee Reports:**

**-Public Safety, Transit, Parking & Pedestrian Access:** Martin Thomas reported that several bike rack locations have been proposed for the Shore Drive corridor. These locations will be forwarded to Public Works for approval recommendation.

### **New Business:**

-Councilman Schulman opened discussion about a draft Resolution to amend the membership of the BAC.

Of note, membership is to include local high school student(s) from the Virginia Beach Schools environmental studies program, one student from District 8 and one from District 9.

The draft also recommended increasing the commission size by 2 new members, noting that the Commanding Officer of JEB Little Creek/Ft. Story and the First Landing State Park manager historically never attend the BAC meetings as Ex-Officio members. These two would transition to guest member status.

In discussion, Phil Davenport reinforced that the JEB Little Creek/ Ft. Story Commanding Officer would most likely never be able to attend. Mercedes Holland has returned to Virginia Beach, a former guest member that represented the military bases in the past has been invited back to the BAC.

Phil also recommended that the Resolution should be clear that the Planning Commission and Council Members should not be voting members of the BAC as not to tip their hand on current issues.

- The Resolution will better define the requirements to be a voting member.

A suggestion was made to have a Commission member matrix of skill set and backgrounds - to demonstrate 'diversity'.

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-The BAC Annual report is due to the Council on 31 August. In preparation, the BAC will be having an extended working meeting on 20 July, to determine Goals and Objectives. These will be voted on at the 17 August meeting. Last years are available on the BAC [webpage](#).

Commissioner Morgan Ayers recommended that all members bring their ideas for goals to the July meeting and the Commission minimize the final product to a total of 2 obtainable goals to report to Council. Morgan further discussed the BAC priorities, illustrating concern that goals in the past tend to be non-specific and subsequently unobtainable. Paraphrasing: 'Milestones could and should be better tracked and executed moving forward.' She went on, 'identify in these goals, what will be the commissioner's responsibilities to obtain them'. She further emphasized the importance that the BAC has simplified goals and objectives to be better focused on for 2024.

*The 20 July meeting will start at noon as a working session. Regular meeting at start at 3.30 pm.*

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-The Shore Drive Corridor Plan [\[link to current\]](#) has been identified and funded for an update by a consultant. The current iteration was adopted by the Council on 28 March 2000. Hank suggested using the existing Planning contractor for this task. The Design Committee members, Bob Magoon and Joe Bovee, would help develop the scope of this work to include periodic presentations on progress to the BAC.

This effort would start by the end of the summer and is expected to take a year to complete.

### **Presentation:**

Commonwealth Brewing Company; Modifications of Conditions and Street Closure. Eddie Burdon Esq. made the presentation, representing Commonwealth Brewing and owner, Jeramy Biggie, who was also present.

Mr. Burdon provided a brief back story and history of Commonwealth Brewing (CWB) relating to its growth and expansion to the Commissioners.

In brief, CWB has requested to modify previous approval to expand the brewery and associated parking area. In conjunction, the street closure request is for the portion of the improved Lake Drive that is east of Pleasure House Road to be incorporated as part of CWB's master plan creating parking improvements.

Councilman Schulman suggested that they also meet with Chix Beach Civic League for similar briefing. Ironically, they meet at the CWB facility.

Questions were posed about possible future plans that may include (loud) music events. The response was that special events are not planned for outdoor (loud) music.

As part of the planned work, Pleasure House Road improvements to include a lot clean up, new curbs and gutters with sidewalks.

Commissioners voted and approved the plan. Recommendation from the BAC will be forward on to the Planning Commission.

## (The BAC)

The mission of the BAC is to review and make recommendations to the City Council regarding public and private projects and issues associated with the Bayfront area, and projects or issues associated with the Bayfront area that the City Council may refer to the Commission.

Meetings held on the 3rd  
Thursday each Month,  
3:30 - 5:30 pm

OCEAN PARK VOLUNTEER  
RESCUE SQUAD 3769 E.  
STRATFORD DRIVE

**Next Meeting**  
**20 June 2023**

### Community Reports:

- ✚ Complaints were passed on about the Lesner bridge colored aesthetic lights need maintenance, as they are not working.
- ✚ Comment that the 'Beach Trolley' should be a 'trolley' bus and required to run on time (HRT Route 35). Schulman responded that Route 35 has been targeted by HRT to either eliminate or scale back to 7am to 7pm. Low ridership numbers are driving this, as the current cost per rider is over \$40, subsidized by the taxpayer. More discussion to follow with HRT and the City.
- ✚ Complaint that the HRT Bus stop servicing Baylake Pines on Shore Drive is in poor repair and provides a hazardous condition.
- ✚ Complaint that the 'Canoes' public art sculpture on the Lesner bridge has several extinguished light bulbs. Apparently, the sculpture was designed by the artist with unique light bulbs are no longer available.
- ✚ An update was requested on the Shore Drive Corridor Phase 4 from Public Works. Phil promised at the next meeting will be a Public Works update.
- ✚ Appreciation expressed for the security cameras installed at the Lynnhaven Boat Ramp.