



City of Virginia Beach

Old Beach Design Review Committee

2025-2026 Annual Report to City Council

Chair: Billy Almond

Date: August 13, 2026

Executive Summary

During the fiscal year covering the period of July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, the Old Beach Design Review Committee volunteers and liaisons met eight times to discuss matters concerning Old Beach.

Our most significant accomplishments are detailed below, along with recommendations for your consideration.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Old Beach Design Review Committee is to preserve and enhance the historic status of the Old Beach neighborhood as one of the first residential areas within the Oceanfront Resort Area and to encourage appropriate development in Old Beach.

Accomplishment of Goals and Objectives

Over the past fiscal year, the Old Beach Design Review Committee, through its appointed volunteers and its liaisons, worked on the following key matters in furtherance of its mission:

1. Held regular meetings to discuss development trends concerning Old Beach.
 - a. Eight regular meetings were held.
2. Establish an initiative to increase the influence of the design guidelines and promote conscious development in Old Beach.
 - a. The Committee engaged with city staff and the City Council liaison to initiate research on potential solutions that would address concerns related to current development trends.

3. Continue to research development patterns of nonconforming lots, including 30 foot wide lots to continue to preserve the character of Old Beach.
 - a. The presence of nonconforming lots has been an ongoing topic during committee meetings which has expanded the group's understanding on the influence of development rights.
4. Continue to coordinate with City offices and departments to assist with project planning in Old Beach.
 - a. The initiatives and potential solutions created by goal #2 have increased collaboration between the Committee and City departments on future planning practices in Old Beach.

Membership

Member	Position
Almond, Billy	Chair
Maloney, Jeremy	Board Member
Parker, Nancy	Board Member
Whalen, Rebecca	Board Member
Barnhardt, Ruth P.	Board Member
Remick, Worth	City Council Liaison
Harrington, Laine	Staff Liaison

Volunteer Hours Report

July 2025 – June 2026	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total Time
Almond, Billy		1:21		0		1:09		1:17	1:12	1:10	0:55	1:11	8:15
Barnhardt, Ruth		1:21		0:53		0		1:12	1:12	1:05	0:55	1:06	7:44
Maloney, Jeremy		1:21		0:53		1:09		1:17	0	0	0:55	1:06	6:41
Parker, Nancy		1:21		0:53		1:09		1:17	1:12	1:10	0:55	1:06	9:03
Whalen, Rebecca		1:21		0:53		1:09		1:17	0:52	1:00	0	0:51	7:23
Total Hours:													39:06

Goals and Objectives for the Coming Year

- Establish an initiative to increase the influence of the design guidelines and promote conscious development in Old Beach.
- Continue to research development patterns of nonconforming lots, including 30 foot wide lots to continue to preserve the character of Old Beach.
- Continue to coordinate with City offices and departments to assist with project planning in Old Beach.

Recommendations to City Council

Most recent developments in Old Beach have not adhered to the Old Beach Design Guidelines and have not elected to receive design review by the Committee. The Committee is concerned that, should recent trends continue, the character of the area will be irrevocably changed. The committee believes that updating the design guidelines and/or amending the overlay ordinance will refocus new development on the historic character of Old Beach and create an opportunity to better incentivize adherence to the design guidelines. The use of a discretionary review or additional site layout options in the overlay would advocate for the utilization of the design guidelines throughout the neighborhood.

The Old Beach Design Review Committee respectfully recommends that City Council continues to support initiatives to establish a higher level of enforcement from the Old Beach Overlay, such as the implementation of a discretionary review requirement and/or updates to the overlay and design guidelines documents.

Closing

Should you have any questions or desire a formal City Council briefing from our agency, please contact Billy Almond, Old Beach Design Review Committee Chair, at billy@wplsite.com or Laine Harrington, Staff Liaison, at lharrington@vbgov.com.