



9 January 2025, 5:30PM

Department of Planning and Community Development Conference Room
2875 Sabre Street, Suite 500

ATTENDEES:

Members:

James B. Wood, Chair; Christi Lyons, Vice Chair; Chris Pieczynski, Vice Chair;
Bobbie Gribble, Secretary

C. Drummond Ball, Robert Dozier, Sharon Felton, Patrick Hannum, Kevin Kattwinkel, Becky
Livas, Lee Lockamy, Stephen Mansfield, Michael Winner

Council Liaisons: Worth Remick

Staff Liaison: Mark Reed

Public: Suzanne Camden, Florence Reese

Welcome

Chair, Jimmy Wood, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed committee members
and members of the public to the Virginia Beach VA250 Committee meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2024

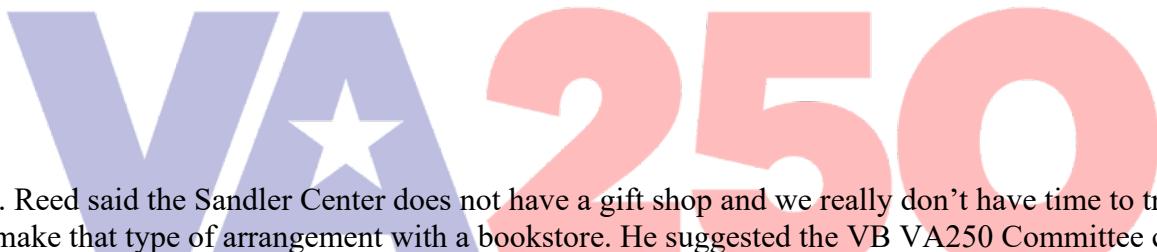
Mr. Wood called for the approval of the minutes of the December 12, 2024 meeting. Michael
Winner made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Robert Dozier seconded the motion.
There was no discussion. The motion to approve the December 12, 2024 minutes as presented
was unanimously approved.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Wood said there will be a book presentation by Andrew Lawler, *A Royal Governor, His
Black Allies, and the Crisis that Spurred the American Revolution*. He asked Mark Reed to
provide additional details.

Mr. Reed said the presentation will be on Monday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m., at the Miller Studio
at the Sandler Center. He said the contract for the use of the facility has been signed.

Mr. Reed then brought up the book sales arrangement. He said the author is not bringing books.
The bookseller informed Mr. Reed that typically the venue's gift shop or a local bookstore will
purchase the books and provide the onsite sales.



Mr. Reed said the Sandler Center does not have a gift shop and we really don't have time to try to make that type of arrangement with a bookstore. He suggested the VB VA250 Committee can purchase the books and the Cape Henry Lighthouse staff can do the transactions for the sale. Proceeds from the sale would go to Preservation Virginia for preservation of the lighthouse.

Mr. Reed said the VB VA250 Committee has approved giving up to 20 books to both public and school libraries. There also might be a possibility we could return an unopened box of books. There are 12 books to a box. Mr. Reed said the cost per book is 50% of the list price of \$30 plus the shipping cost.

Chris Pieczynski said the book is very readable. Some of the writing is tongue in cheek. It was suggested it be gifted to the high schools with a note to history teachers, so they know it is available. Christi Lyons said the author is speaking to the Jimmy Carter library in January and the website says they will have books available.

Chair Jimmy Wood stated there are two questions that have to be answered:

- How many books should the VB VA250 Committee purchase.
- How will they be sold.

Pat Hannum made a motion we buy 48 books (4 cartons). Christi Lyons seconded the motion.

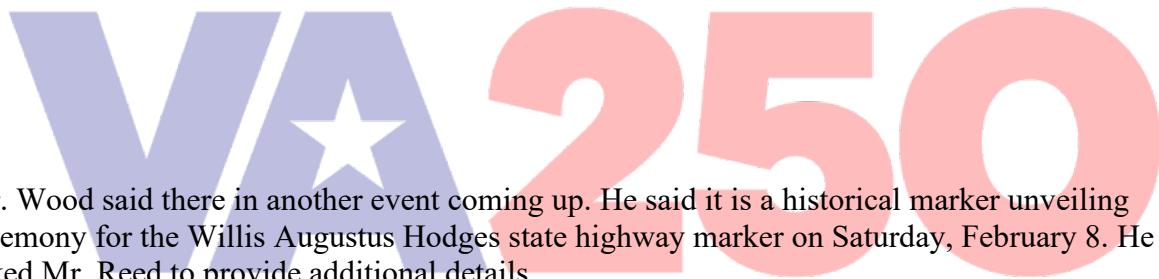
There was some discussion about the purchase of books by the Committee. Mr. Hannum said the book highlights the large African American population in Virginia, which is not often talked about. He said he feels it is well researched and well written.

Sharon Felton stated she appreciated the high schools getting the book. She said the high schools have a curriculum that teaches the African American's perspective in Virginia Beach.

Jimmy Wood called the vote. The motion to purchase 48 copies of Andrew Lawler's book passed unanimously.

Mr. Reed said he has reached out to Cape Henry Lighthouse staff to see if they can process book sales during the February 3 event. He noted that the City of Virginia received a \$1.5 million dollar grant for preservation work at the lighthouse. Preservation Virginia has to provide the required monetary 20% match. He said they still have \$300,000 to raise. The sale of these books would be a worthy donation. He said we would designate all proceeds to go towards the monies that need to be raised.

Mr. Pieczynski made a motion that we utilize the Cape Henry Lighthouse museum store to sell the books at the event and donate all proceeds of the book sales to the preservation of the lighthouse. Michael Winner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Jimmy Wood abstained from the vote as he serves as a member of the Preservation Virginia board.



Mr. Wood said there is another event coming up. He said it is a historical marker unveiling ceremony for the Willis Augustus Hodges state highway marker on Saturday, February 8. He asked Mr. Reed to provide additional details.

Mr. Reed said the event will begin at 10:30 a.m. and will be held at the New Jerusalem Ministries facility at Pleasant Hall in Kempsville. He said for members to please note that there has been a change of the start time to 10:30 from 11:00 a.m. that was previously reported.

Mr. Reed said the speaker will be Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander, a professor at Norfolk State University (NSU). He said Edna Hendricks, who is the sponsor of the marker, informed him that Dr. Newby-Alexander does not want an honorarium. She prefers a donation be made to NSU.

Mr. Reed asked the Committee members if they want to make a donation to NSU out of the \$2000 that is budgeted for this event? He noted that he is still working to finalize the facility rental fee with the church.

Becky Livas made a motion that we donate the balance for the approved event budget not to exceed \$1,000. With the donation to go to the African American studies program at NSU. The motion was seconded by Drummond Ball.

There was some discussion about the donation. Mr. Reed said he is expecting to receive a proposed contract tonight for the New Jerusalem Ministries facility. Ms. Lyons pointed out it would be good to know our budget for the entire Committee so when we make motions and vote on expenditures we know where the committee is fiscally. Mr. Reed said he would have that at the next committee meeting.

The vote was called by Chair Jimmy Wood and was unanimous. Sharon Felton abstained from the vote as she is on the event planning committee.

Old Business

Under Old Business, Mr. Reed brought forward a final opportunity to select the VB VA250 graphic design. A motion was made by Ms. Livas to only consider the design with the blue dates as it is more visible. The motion was seconded by Lee Lockamy. There was no discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

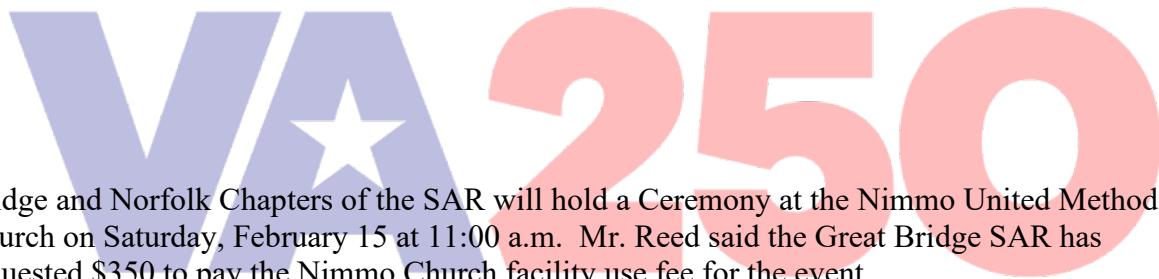
There was the discussion on the three variations of the design with the blue dates. Mr. Ball said he thought the design at the top of the page is more visible.

Ms. Lyons made a motion that the design at the top of the page be approved. The motion was seconded by Chris Pieczynski. There was no discussion. It was unanimously approved.

Mr. Pieczynski said the Run to Remember will get us the 2025 sponsor sheet once it is printed.

New Business

Under New Business, Mr. Reed said he had received a request for financial support for a commemorative event about the Skirmish at James's Plantation. He said the DAR and the Great



Bridge and Norfolk Chapters of the SAR will hold a Ceremony at the Nimmo United Methodist Church on Saturday, February 15 at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Reed said the Great Bridge SAR has requested \$350 to pay the Nimmo Church facility use fee for the event.

Drummond Ball made a motion to approve the donation of \$350 to the Great Bridge Chapter SAR. The motion was seconded by Michael Winner. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Christi Lyons made a motion to allocate \$500 to acquire magnets and stickers of the VB VA250 graphic design to be used at events. It was seconded by Lee Lockamy. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Florence Reese asked what we might think about sponsoring a Drum and Fife Corps. There was some discussion. It was noted that it would not be the Committee's role to sponsor, establish and manage a drum and fife corps. It was suggested that a local organization could submit a proposal to the Committee and support could be considered at that time.

Subcommittee Meetings/Reports

Mr. Wood said that the subcommittees will not go to break out sessions and will meet together this evening.

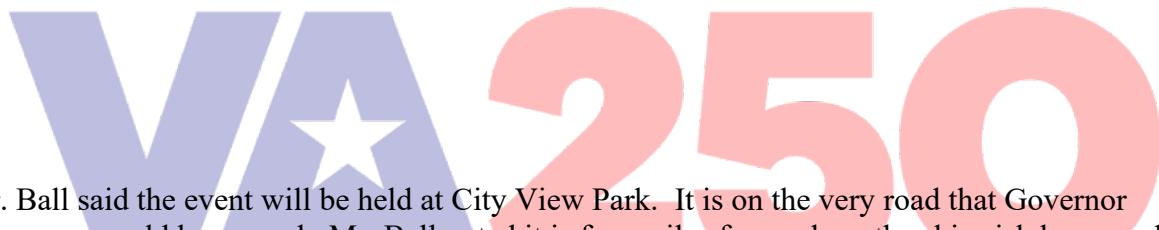
Conflict and Independence

Pat Hannum said the Skirmish at James's Plantation event will be held on February 15, at 11:00 a.m. He said the Nimmo Church has approved the event, which will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the church. The \$350 approved above this evening will be used to rent the Fellowship Hall.

Mr. Reed reported on the progress with planning for the 250th anniversary of the Skirmish at Kemps Landing event on November 15 and 16. Mr. Reed said the 7th Virginia Regiment is taking the lead for planning for the event. A virtual meeting was held today with 7th Virginia Regiment representatives Drummond Ball and Mike Cecere and with Parks and Recreation staff to discuss the details. He said today's discussion indicates that Parks and Rec. is going to be very accommodating when working with this event. He thinks the overnight encampment will be handled through a special events encampment permit.

Mr. Reed said Parks and Rec. will make initial contact with the Fire Marshall and Police Department to check on any concerns. Eventually an application will need to be completed with all the required details. Mr. Reed said he thought the meeting with Parks and Rec. was positive. There wasn't much that they said couldn't be done.

Mr. Ball said he tried to allay any concerns they might have. He suggested they talk with Chesapeake Parks and Recreation regarding any safety concerns and the focus on educational efforts.



Mr. Ball said the event will be held at City View Park. It is on the very road that Governor Dunmore would have used. Mr. Ball noted it is four miles from where the skirmish happened. Tallwood Elementary, which is adjacent to the park, will be contacted by Mr. Ball. He said they would like to involve the students the day before the event to provide some educational opportunities. He said they would also like to borrow the school's parking lot nearest to the park for re-enactor parking during the event.

Civil Liberties and Rights

Sharon Felton reported on the upcoming commemoration for Willis Augustus Hodges. She said there will be an outside presentation, as well as an inside presentation. She said they have reached out to legislators and the faith-based community to help spread the word. Ms. Felton said that Dr. Newby-Alexander is an excellent speaker. Ms. Felton noted that they are hoping to get a family member of Willis Augustus Hodges to attend and speak. She encouraged members of the committee to come with friends.

Dr. Hannum said the Virginia History Day District 6 event will be held Saturday, March 22 at the Virginia Air and Space Museum. Judging begins at 10:00 a.m. The awards ceremony will be held from 2:30 - 3:15. He said they are looking for judges. There are two training sessions for judges if members are interested. Students can submit projects (papers, storyboards, or videos).

Indigenous Peoples

The Nansemond Indian Nation Pow Wow will be May 17, 2025, at Mt. Trashmore. Mr. Reed is working with Chief Anderson to get the necessary paperwork from the Nansemond Indian Nation to process the VB VA250 Committee's financial contribution.

Events

Boardwalk History Festival 2026

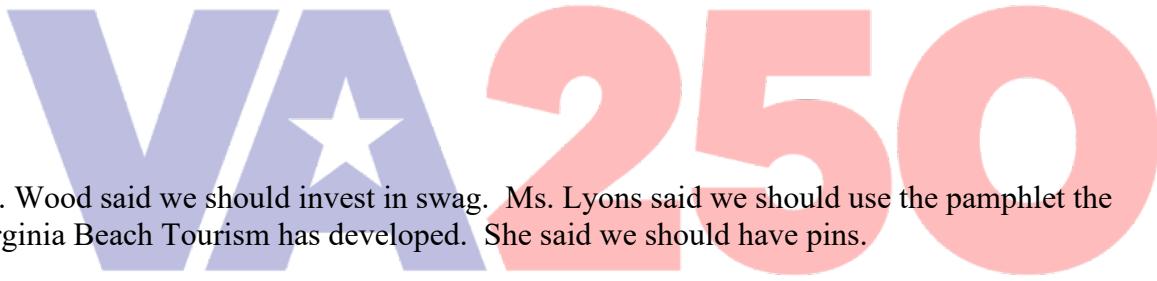
The event will be held July 4th, 2026. Mr. Wood said we will need lots of groups to help with the Boardwalk History Festival in 2026. Please send information to Mark Reed about any organization that you think would be interested in participating. The event will be presented by Beach Events.

End of Meeting Discussion

Mr. Wood said we have three events coming up in February. He suggested we cancel the February meeting. Committee members were in agreement with the suggestion.

Jimmy Wood made a motion to increase funding support for the February 8 historic marker ceremony to \$2,500. He said that way we have a safety net of \$500 in case New Jerusalem Ministries asks for more than expected for the rental fee. Becky Livas seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.

Mr. Ball said he was at an event at Chimborazo that was commemorating Arnold's raid. He said Henrico County had a table with their VA250 info that tells what Henrico County is doing to commemorate it. Plus, there were give away items like chapstick.



Mr. Wood said we should invest in swag. Ms. Lyons said we should use the pamphlet the Virginia Beach Tourism has developed. She said we should have pins.

Mr. Wood said the question is do we want to allocate more for the creation of some VB VA250 swag. Michael Winner volunteered to research swag. He will report back in March.

Florence Reese suggested we should have a banner.

Patrick Hannum said we should involve Cheryl Wilson of VA250 and get her excited about Kemps Landing.

Jimmy Wood said if it is an event where you are on the committee or you attend, could you take pictures, start doing a head count, and let Christi Lyons know.

Adjournment

Mr. Wood noted the next meeting of the VB VA250 Committee will be on March 13, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.