

**Virginia Beach VA250 Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Approved August 14, 2025**

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10 July 2025, 5:30 PM  
Department of Planning and Community Development  
Building 3, 2403 Courthouse Drive, Conference Room 110

**ATTENDEES:**

**Members:**

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

C. Drummond Ball, Suzanne Camden, Al Chewning, Robert Dozier, Patrick Hannum, Kevin Kattwinkel, Becky Livas

Council Liaison: Worth Remick

Staff Liaison: Mark Reed

City Staff: Ellie Dauernheim

Public: Sandy Bowie  
Florence Reese  
Cal Verity

**Welcome**

Jimmy Wood, Chair, opened the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Mark Reed introduced Ellie Dauernheim, a recently hired Planner in the Department of Planning and Community Development. She is a recent graduate of the University of Mary Washington with a degree in Historic Preservation.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2025**

Mr. Wood asked the members to review the minutes of the June 12 Virginia Beach VA250 Committee meeting. Al Chewning made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Patrick Hannum seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Presentation on Kempsville Family Fun Fest**

Mr. Wood said Mr. Cal Verity had requested to speak to the VB VA250 Committee about the Kempsville Family Fun Fest being planned for September 20, 2025.

Mr. Verity said the event is to benefit various organizations. He said various service clubs, Lions, Kiwanis and Rotary Club of Hampton Roads are supporters. The Medical Eye Bank is acting as the biggest sponsor.

Mr. Verity said Emmanuel Episcopal, Kempsville Baptist, Tidewater Korean Baptist Church, and New Jerusalem Ministries are supporting churches and will be providing some of the spaces for the event.

Mr. Verity said they are sitting on the edge of having enough money. They are working on the city permit. They think they have a good event that is community event. They have 600 to 750 families in the area and up to 2,500 people are expected to attend. He said the Kempsville High School Entrepreneurship Student Group are working with them. They are also working with the Explorer Police Group. Churches and church clubs are participating. The goal is to promote the spirit of volunteerism with students.

Mr. Verity noted that community club members are getting older. The goal is to go into the community to demonstrate what community clubs can do.

Christi Lyons asked how much revenue they are expecting on bringing in. Mr. Verity said they have fixed expenses of \$6,000 and they are short \$100 from achieving that. He said on the Fest day, if the vendors and people they are expecting attend, they are anticipating being able to make several donations. He said 25% of the profit will go to the Lions Club.

Mr. Wood asked if they have a rain plan. Mr. Verity said their weather plan is to have a rain date two weeks after.

A question was asked about their deadline to make the decision to go forward. Mr. Verity said it has to be made by the end of the month. He said he would like to see \$2,000 come in to be able to move forward. He said an article is written for the Kempsville Living Paper. Once the event is a go, it can be published.

Dr. Hannum noted that this is the same date as the Oceana air show. Mr. Verity said the members of the Committee felt it was an okay competition. Not everyone attends the air show. The event would not conflict with traffic in Kempsville.

#### **Presentation to City Council – June 17, 2025**

Mark Reed said Jimmy Wood did an excellent job with the June 17 City Council presentation. He informed Council about what the committee has been doing. Mr. Wood explained some additional resources are needed to accomplish everything. Council requested additional information about the funding that is needed.

Mr. Reed said the City Manager would work with him to provide the information. Staff is working on outlining the need for additional resources and what that will accomplish. Once the City Manager has reviewed, it will then go to Council in the form of a City Council staff report.

Included in the request is funding to participate in Sail250 Virginia. Mr. Wood and Ms. Lyons are looking to get Virginia Beach involved. They potentially could hold a Captains reception. As many as 250 people could attend along with the captains of the ships.

Mr. Wood told Council that Beach Events needed additional funds to put on a History Festival at the Boardwalk and to do enhanced programming for 2026's July 4 celebration.

Mr. Wood also said the VB VA250 is looking to encourage the whole community to have flags out during 2026. He suggested that potentially a large flagpole and flag could be erected at Mt. Trashmore.

Mr. Wood said he thought it went well. He said there was a lot of engagement from Council.

Council Member Remick said Mr. Wood did a great job.

### **VB VA250 Committee FY25 Annual Report**

Mr. Reed said that an annual report for the Committee's activities in FY25 is due to City Council by the end of August. He said he is asking the VB VA250 Committee to review and provide provisional approval of the report today as it needs to go to Planning Department leadership by August 8.

Mr. Reed said there is a template that needs to be followed for the Annual Report. The draft presented is generally following that template.

Kevin Kattwinkel asked if VA250 was a National Conference. Mr. Reed responded that it was. He said there were representatives attending from almost all 50 states. He noted that Virginia took the lead as the National 250 effort was not as active in the beginning.

Mr. Kattwinkel referenced page 7 of the report. He said he didn't want to refer to what would be presented in the Countdown to 250 as facts. He felt it should be about accounts to enlarge on facts.

Council Member Remick said he attended the Patrick Henry event at the oceanfront. He said it was poorly attended due to rain. He noted that we need to have rain dates for these events if possible. He said we need to coordinate with Beach Events with William Younce.

Mr. Kattwinkel made a motion to approve the Annual Report with the adjustments that were discussed and understanding that some minor editing will be done. Robert Dozier seconded the motion. Provisional approval of the VB VA250 Committee FY25 Annual Report passed.

### **Past Events**

Mr. Reed said the VB VA250 Committee had a table at the Independence Day Virginia Beach 5K Race at Mount Trashmore on July 4. He said that VB VA250 was a Silver Sponsor of the event. Mr. Reed said Committee members Bobbie Gribble and Kevin Kattwinkel gave out information and swag. He said most people that came up to the table were curious about what Virginia Beach VA250 is. Mr. Reed said Chris Pieczynski participated in the race and the VB VA250 graphic had good placement on the race participant t-shirt.

## **Upcoming Events**

Mr. Reed briefly noted upcoming events for VB VA250. The events were:

- “Racing the Night” play at 13<sup>th</sup> Street Virginia Legends Stage – July 24 – August 16 – Thursday, Friday, and Saturday
- National Lighthouse Day – Cape Henry Lighthouse, August 7
- Marquis de Lafayette at 17<sup>th</sup> Street Park – August 16
- Battle of the Virginia Capes – September 6
- 1776 – The Musical – February 27, February 28 (2), March 1

## **Old Business**

Under Old Business, Mr. Reed said the initial draft staff report for City Council provides a recommendation to create a separate committee for that the Flags of Freedom initiative. He said it suggests a committee of business leaders, citizens, and government representatives.

For the Countdown to 250 initiative Dr. Hannum noted that the subcommittee will be meeting to discuss this in detail.

There then was discussion about the Kempsville Family Fun Fest presentation. Becky Livas said it seems that the most we should give them might be \$2000 or less to help them bridge the funding gap.

Ms. Lyons said that they shouldn’t raise money to give the event proceeds to another non-profit.

Mr. Kattwinkel said the event doesn’t really fit our mission.

Mr. Dozier said he wasn’t sure they would be able to get the attendance they are predicting.

Mr. Chewning said it seems more like a community fall festival type of event than a history-oriented event.

Mr. Wood said based upon what was presented, they aren’t sure what was going to happen. He said he would like to see if they are able to get it off the ground without this committee’s support. Then, if we have money left over, we could consider providing some funds for them.

Bobbie Gribble made a motion to defer the funding decision until later.

Mr. Kattwinkel made a substitute motion to decline the funding request. Ms. Livas seconded the motion. There was further discussion.

There seemed to be a majority that wanted the motion to decline to be the primary motion. Mr. Wood asked all in favor of making this the primary funding motion to vote Aye. The vote passed.

Mr. Wood called the question to vote on the motion to decline funding the event. The motion carried by a vote of 7 to 2 to decline funding the Kempsville Family Fun Fest, with Ms. Gribble and Mr. Wood voting against the motion.



Council Member Remick reminded the Committee that we want to contact the schools to get students involved with VA250 in the coming school year. Mr. Wood said he had not talked with Ms. Felton and asked Mr. Reed to get in touch with her.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Subcommittee Meetings/Reports**

Dr. Hannum reported for the Conflict and Independence subcommittee. He said Mr. Reed will set up a meeting in the next 2 weeks with Parks and Recreation to discuss the Skirmish at Kemp's Landing event scheduled for November 15 and 16. He said we had a meeting scheduled for today that was cancelled due to rain.

Mr. Reed said the National Park Service acknowledged receipt of his letter regarding the request for relocation of the Battle of the Capes interpretive sign. They said they would review it and respond.

Dr. Hannum said he rode his bicycle up and down the oceanfront. He asked those who worked down there where they thought it should go. He said they recommended it go to the north end, between 35th and 38th streets. The views would not be blocked as the vegetation is lower in that area.

Mr. Wood asked what the next steps would be. Mr. Reed said if he has not heard from NPS before the next meeting, he will get back in touch with them. Dr. Hannam said the Cape Henry Society does not want this sign placed with the Cape Henry cross. He doesn't think we really want to put more at Cape Henry with access being so restrictive. Council Member Remick said Rudee Park might be a place to also consider.

Visitor Florence Reese spoke up about the proposed plaque documenting Princess Anne County revolutionary officers. She said the plaque is ready to go. She said we need to decide if we have just militia officers (80) or if we include men who were not officers (115). She said they aren't just militia officers. They served in Continental, Militia, Navy, and Virginia state units.

Dr. Hannum suggested limiting it to officers. He said enlisted records are rather poor. He noted it is rare that you can determine where a person enlisted unless there is a pension record that states who they enlisted under. He said the records are more complete for officers.

Mr. Wood said we should have a statement that the list is not complete. He asked Mr. Reed to draft an introductory statement. He said we still have the overarching issue of where to place the sign, but he likes the fact that this is something tangible and longer lasting. He said it would be the VB VA 250 Committee's gift documenting Patriots from here who fought for independence.

Suzanne Camden asked if there was another source for funding. Council Member Remick said that Cultural Arts has funding for placemaking, so it could include history like this.

Civil Liberties and Rights and Indigenous Peoples

Mr. Wood noted that we are low on people from these subcommittees today and neither of the chairs are in attendance. He said he will defer discussion on these until the next meeting.

For the Events subcommittee, Mr. Wood noted that both the Boardwalk History Festival and July 4, 2026 celebrations were covered under the Annual Report.

Ms. Lyons then discussed another potential event. She said the entire 30 ship fleet for Sail250 Virginia will be anchored around Lynnhaven Bay on June 18, 2025. She said there may be an opportunity to host a reception for the ship captains. She said the captains will be brought ashore and we would like to fund the reception.

Ms. Lyons said she has had conversations with the Virginia Pilot Association and Sail250 Virginia about this. In addition to the reception there could be boats chartered that could take up to 40 people at a time around the anchored ships.

Ms. Lyons said Sail250 Virginia is excited about the potential event. They have put the Virginia Beach anchorage on their website. Ms. Lyons said she would spearhead the effort if we could get the funding. She said we are asking for \$25,000.

Council Member Remick said the morning of June 19 they will do the sail to Norfolk. He said this one will bigger and better than previous sail events. He suggested potential sponsors for a Virginia Beach event could be Dominion Energy, Sentara, and Port of Virginia.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Wood said the next meeting of the VB VA250 Committee will be on August 14, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.