

Future of Hampton Roads, Inc
Board of Directors Meeting
September 26, 2006
Town Point Club
Minutes

Present: Chairman Vince Thomas, Jim Babcock, George Barnett, Jim Bradshaw, Malcolm Branch, David Clark, Art Collins, Minette Cooper, Craig Cope, Phil Damuth, Midge Eason, Clyde Hoey, Doyle Hull, Will King, Jim Koch, Suzanne Puryear, Ray Taylor, Harry Train, and guest, Louis Guy

Chairman Vince Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:04 and turned the meeting over to Ray Taylor, who presided in the absence of President Anna McNider. The minutes of the July 25 Board of Directors Meeting were approved.

Clyde Hoey invited the members' attention, and thanked Vince for sending, the letter to the General Assembly urging action "on fixing the transportation problems facing our businesses, their employees and all Virginians."

Jim Babcock gave an update on the Regional Structure Project that he leads. The project is now in Stage II, which is developing recommendations, and most of the study groups are well along. The target date for completing the reports is the end of October, and the full report should be completed by year-end. Phase III will be presenting the recommendations to the regions decision makers. He reminded the members that there are over 30 organizations represented on the steering committee.

John Stone reported on issues related to redrawing the electoral boundaries of the General Assembly. The party in power, be it Democratic or Republican, redistricts to create safe seats and preserve the dominance of the party in power. In the last general election less than half of the House of Delegates were in contested elections, and more than half obtained more than 90% of the vote. This type of partisanship results in voter apathy and reduced voter turnout, low media interest in the elections, and a public that is not well informed. John has agreed to head a committee to draft a resolution to present to public interest groups and educate the public before 2010, which is the next redistricting year. It was moved, seconded and approved to proceed with the project.

Art Collins discussed the status of bills introduced in the special session of the General Assembly, which is addressing transportation funding. A minimalist bill on funding was reported out of the Transportation Committee, but faces a low probability of getting out of the Finance Committee. Delegates are therefore protected from having to vote one way or the other. Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia are the only areas of the state that really care. Delegates are aware that federal funds will be lost if there is no sustainable state funding. The major projects, including Rt. 460, will not be funded. The only project that might survive is the Midtown Tunnel, funded by tolls on it and the Downtown Tunnel. It will be four years before there is another opportunity to address the major issues.

Ray Taylor commented on the lack of membership from the Peninsula on the Future of Hampton Roads, Inc. Board of Trustees.

Vince Thomas reclaimed the gavel to discuss new business, and reported that Anna McNider has business conflicts, which make it difficult for her to remain as President. Admiral Ray Taylor has agreed to be nominated for President at this time, and Anna would like to stay involved and agrees to be considered for First Vice President. David Clark moved, and Jim Babcock seconded, that Ray Taylor be elected to President, and Anna McNider to First Vice President, for terms to expire in January 2008. The motion was unanimously approved.

Vince next mentioned that speakers would be invited for board meetings, and welcomed Jim Koch, professor and former President of Old Dominion and one of our directors, to start the tradition. Jim gave a presentation from the newly published "State of the Region" report on the economic cost of traffic congestion in Hampton Roads by the year 2015. The report generated a lot of discussion about transportation problems in the region.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23.