

Future of Hampton Roads, Inc
Board Meeting
28 November, 2006
Town Point Club, Norfolk, Virginia

MINUTES

Vince Thomas called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to Ray Taylor, President. The minutes of the September 26th meeting were approved.

Vince then introduced Dana Dickens, Hampton Roads Partnership President and CEO. Dana stated that although each Hampton Roads community is unique, collectively they form a highly competitive region. Though there is some bickering between communities, there is an increasing effort to work together. He then identified the major goals for 2007.

1. Economic Development – Target Modeling & Simulating Companies

These high tech companies offer higher salaries and provide spin off industries. The companies save the military millions of dollars a year by providing war games without actually having to put men and equipment in harms way. Dana recommended that they work with companies that will take that technology out of the DOD arena and apply it to the private sector for medical, transportation, modeling for a city's development, and many other applications.

2. Campaign To Think Regional Citizenship

The Hampton Roads region is more interdependent than many citizens think. The recent closing of the Ford Motor plant is an example where the whole region is affected by an adverse economic development outcome. The campaign will show the benefits of the region's communities working together. The slogan "**Hampton Roads, America's First Region**" will be promoted at the annual meetings of the HR Partnership and other regional groups in the coming months.

3. Updating the Strategic Plan

In 2007 the HR Strategic Plan will be updated using a performance accountability model and identifying 4 or 5 indicators that will move Hampton Roads.

Dana stated that during this past year, the HR Partnership worked diligently for transportation improvements. Kemper and Associates was hired as lobbyists to the General Assembly. Emphasis was placed at educating the local legislators about the needs for transportation improvements and different methods for funding.

Members of the Future of Hampton Roads Board then discussed the lack of General Assembly support and what needs to be done. Several members supported taking the gloves off and start confronting local legislators about the lack of support for transportation. Recommendations included uniting the local PACs and coming up with a list of issues that Hampton Roads needs. Then taking the list to our local legislators and telling them if they didn't support the list, then the

PACs would not support them financially or publicly and could go as far as finding a candidate who would support the issues and back them instead.

It was also brought out that adjacent North Carolina and Maryland have much higher gas taxes but the price for gas is about the same as Virginia. It appears that if Virginia raises the gas tax, local gas stations would have to remain competitive and keep their prices competitive.

Dana also brought out the fact that the HR Partnership is working on the BRAC situation. They are actively trying to stop “poaching” from other states and communities trying to take ships from Hampton Roads (i.e. Florida). Furthermore, the Partnership will be encouraging the military to consolidate more assets in Hampton Roads rather than other regions.

Old Business

1.Regional Structure Project

Jim Babcock stated that seven of the groups have completed their reports and the remaining will finish theirs in the coming weeks. Each study group’s Chairman will make a presentation on Saturday, December 2nd at a special meeting to be held at the HRPDC. The reports will be printed and presented to the Future HR Board early next year.

Ray Taylor then discussed Phase III implementation plans. The Commonwealth needs to send more money to the MPOs in Virginia. He noted there are approximately 400 MPOs in the United States of which 250 are active and are advancing an agenda. His group recommends three goals:

1. Strengthen political and financial effectiveness of the MPO
2. Look at expanding MPO membership to perhaps include representatives from the Virginia Port Authority, Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation, and the like.
3. Offer additional training for MPO members.

Clyde Hoey reported that his group would recommend a News Bureau be incorporated into the HR Partnership. He recommended 2 people be hired with a budget of \$100,000 to be paid by the region’s jurisdictions. The News Bureau would be the point group for crisis situations and to answer regional questions. Board members questioned whether Mayors and politicians from communities would allow someone else to be interviewed about situations occurring in their jurisdictions.

1. Redistricting

John Stone was not in attendance and this will be discussed at a later meeting.

2. Hampton Roads MPO and PDC news

Art Collins reported that he had nothing new to report since the issues already discussed were ones he was going to discuss.

New Business

Request for voluntary Board Member contributions

Ray Taylor stated that Harry Train had requested the Board look at increasing the annual membership contribution from \$200 to \$300 per year to pay for rising costs. Discussion occurred about members who do not pay but still participate and members who pay on their own without company participation and how it could become a burden. There were also concerns about new members having to pay such a high amount.

Art Collins recommended that research be done to relocate the office and perhaps share office responsibilities with another firm to save money. Everyone agreed that would be a good idea.

The annual meeting will be held on January 23rd at the Town Point Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 AM.