

Future of Hampton Roads, Inc  
Board Meeting  
March 27th, 2007  
Suffolk Garden Inn Hotel, Suffolk, Virginia

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Vince Thomas, President Ray Taylor, Jim Bradshaw, Craig Cope, Clyde Hoey, Art Collins, Minette Cooper, Durwood Curling, Jack Hornbeck, Dan Sykes, Jake Tobin, Judy Begland, Joe Bouchard, Robert Leber, Tim Kerr, Don Goldberg, Paul Kirchoff, Will Christopher, David Clark, Doyle Hull, Robert Leber, Daniel Sykes, Jim Bradshaw, Susanne Puryear, Alex Kajstura, Philip Damuth

Chairman Thomas opened the meeting at 10:10. He introduced the new board members for 2007.

Judy Begland – President Southside Workforce Development  
Joe Bouchard – Zell Technology – Homeland Security  
Don Goldberg – D.D. Jones  
Dottie Jordan - Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce  
Will Christopher – Christopher Consulting  
Tim Kerr – Chesapeake Alliance  
Paul Kirchoff – Damuth Trane  
Robert Leber – Northrop Grumman

Ray Taylor thanked Jim Bradshaw and Tom O’Grady, for hosting FHR in Suffolk.

Jake Tobin followed up on items from the annual meeting in January. The 3 other nominations for the board were:

Judy Begland - accepted and is at the meeting  
Dr. Carol Myers - interested but has a time conflict.  
Dr. Courtney McBath - to be contacted

Ray Taylor proposed Lynn Gordon for membership on the Board. Lynn is with the League of Women Voters of South Hampton Roads. There was a motion to accept Lynn to the Board. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the members present.

The board received a special briefing on economic development in Suffolk by Tom O’Grady, Director of Economic Development, City of Suffolk.

The presentation consisted of Suffolk Profile, Median Household Income, Regional Comparison, Population and Employment Projections, Economic Activity over last 6 years, Major and Expanding Businesses, and Major Business Announcements.

During Q's and A's, Minette Cooper inquired about the impact of the Arts on economic development in the region. Art Collins congratulated Suffolk for learning from other city's mistakes and executing controlled planned growth. Vince Thomas added his congratulations and again thanked Tom for hosting FHR in Suffolk.

Robert Leber asked about workforce development. He noted that educational institutions in the area are not developing technicians for modeling and simulation to the degree needed. They have been working on acquiring grants for developing this untapped resource. The grants will help the local higher education institutions develop curriculum for the mid-level technician demand.

Judy Begland noted that we are seeing increased cooperation in work force development between the Peninsula and Southside.

The minutes of the for the January 27 board meeting were approved

Vince Thomas commented on the Regional Structure project and presented an overview of the various study groups for the benefit of new members. The study groups are taking on a life of their own. Vince noted that Ray Taylor has been setting up meetings and briefings on the MPO with organizations and people throughout the community. People all over the county acknowledge our PDC as one of the best. Study groups reports are posted on the website. Jim Babcock will be giving a full update during the May meeting.

Art reported that the transportation initiative recently passed by the General Assembly provided \$168 million of the \$200 million requested. Implementation of the Transportation Authority with authority to imposes taxes throughout the region will be a challenge that will require approval by 7 of the 12 effected cities and counties. Concerns include the weighing of votes among jurisdictions. Hopefully the bylaws will be able to address this issue. Art noted that after 21 years this bill is all we have to work with; but at least it is a start

There followed a discussion on the current plans for the conversion of Fort Monroe as the result of BRAC. Discussion revolved around the formation of an FHR position statement on the issue. Consensus was that whatever was done would have regional impact, and that we needed to know more about the process and the proposed plans before we weigh in. The Hampton Federal Area Development Authority (FADA), among others, is working the issue. It was agreed to seek a presentation from Hampton on this issue. A paper on the FADA is attached for the record.

Robert Leber asked that the Board approve a letter in support of a Regional Workforce Development grant initiative. Following discussion, the Board approved the letter of support. The letter is attached for the record.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45.