

Future of Hampton Roads, Inc

Board Meeting

April 27, 2008

Town Point Club
Norfolk, Virginia

MINUTES

Present: Jim Babcock, George Barnett, Clay Barr, Judy Begland, Barry Bishop, Joe Bouchard, Mal Branch, Jim Chapman, Will Christopher, David Clark, Minette Cooper, Midge Eason, Don Goldberg, Clyde Hoey, Jack Hornbeck, Doyle Hull, Will King, Jim Oliver, Suzanne Puryear, Ray Taylor, Vince Thomas, Harry Train, Jake Tobin, Bill Van Buren, Bruce Williams. Also attending was Dwight Farmer, the Executive Director of HRPDC and the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Vince Thomas opened the meeting at 10:11. He thanked all for attending and praised the membership for their persistent efforts to improve the competitiveness and quality of life in Hampton Roads.

The minutes of the FHR Board meeting of March 22nd, 2008, were approved.

Vince Thomas and Jake Tobin presented the Executive Committee's recommendation for changes to the FHR Mission Statement. Following considerable discussion, further modifications were made to paragraph 10 of the statement. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Mission Statement as recommended by the Executive Committee and amended by the Full Board. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of those present. A copy of the approved statement is attached for the record.

Ray Taylor announced that now that the revised Mission Statement has been approved we will proceed to update the By-Laws. He anticipated that this effort would begin in June. Additionally, Ray indicated that an orientation session for new members would be held in June. All interested Board members will be invited to attend. Topics covered at the orientation will include, the history of FHR and its past accomplishments, Board and Executive Committee membership, organization and administration, finances, the Regional Structure project, study groups and processes, the Regionalists Papers, HRCCE, and the By-Laws.

Will Christopher, a 2005 Graduate of LHR and a member of the FHR Board since 2007 gave a presentation on communicating across generations, specifically directed toward finding, recruiting, challenging, and retaining young Board Members to non-profit organizations. In discussion that followed the presentation Will suggested that the Board form a panel of young members to take on a project. President Taylor agreed to create a sub-committee to move ahead on this suggestion. A copy of the presentation is attached for the record.

Vince Thomas welcomed and introduced Dwight Farmer, and congratulated him on his recent promotion to be the Executive Director of the HRPDC and of the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Dwight noted that the MPO was created in 1962 and implemented in 1965 in urban areas with populations above 750,000 to develop transportation plans. He noted further that Federal law places requirements on transportation decisions that must be met before federal funding is made available. He praised the efforts of Vince Thomas and Ray Taylor to bring MPO issues to the fore. He said that beginning in June and continuing over the next nine months, changes in procedures, structure, and By-Laws would be made to create a clear distinction between the authority and responsibility of the MPO and that of the PDC.

Jim Babcock reported that he had recently briefed the Chief Administrative Officers on four of the Study Group reports from the Regional Structure Project; The Commission on Local Government Operation (urging consolidation of community services), The Workforce Investment Boards (urging merger of the two current organizations), Regional Tourism (urging the creation of a regional strategy), and the Dillon Rule (urging changes in City Charters to ease Dillon Rule restrictions). Jim also noted that the Steering and Planning Committees of the Regional Structure Project had met to review project results and develop a list of action items and issues deserving future effort. Jim stated that he was well pleased with what they had accomplished and recommended that the Steering Committee and the Planning Committee now be dissolved.

Jim Babcock also presented two papers for approval. One offered an action plan recommended by the Planning Committee to provide publicity for Structure Project recommendations. The other, also born of the Planning Committee recommendations, proposed the creation of a study group on a Regional Legislative Agenda. Following considerable discussion and recommendations for modification both papers were approved by unanimous vote of the members present. The papers are attached for the record.

Jim Oliver reviewed the status of Hampton Roads Center for Civic Engagement. He stated that their goal was to create a new public commons where issues can be discussed in an organized and constructive way. Jim thanked FHR for its financial support. He said that a working committee had been formed headed by Chris Bonnie (sp?) and that HRCCE was working with the MPO to help them enter the forum. HRCCE has received grants from the Norfolk Foundation, the Landmark Foundation, Jane Batten, and the Virginia Beach Foundation. Betsy McBride will become the Executive Director of HRCCE on the 1st of July. The budget has been developed and their designation as a 501C(3) organization is expected soon. The web site is up and operating at www.HRCC.org.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:56.

BET 5/28/08