

Future of Hampton Roads, Inc
Board Meeting
May 30, 2006
Town Point Club, Norfolk, Virginia
MINUTES

Present: Chairman Vince Thomas, George Barnett, Barry Bishop, Jim Bradshaw, Mal Branch, Ed Brickell, David Clark, Art Collins, Minette Cooper, Durwood Curling, Phil Damuth, Midge Eason, Clyde Hoey, Jack Hornbeck, Doyle Hull, Will King, Robert Krebs, John Lawson, Ted Minor, Jim Pendergast, Suzanne Puryear, John Stone, Dan Sykes, Ray Taylor, Jake Tobin, Harry Train, Ray White

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:04. He welcomed Mr. Robert Krebs, a new member of the Board from Merrill Lynch in Virginia Beach.

Vice President Ray Taylor filled in for President McNider who was out of State on business. Ray reported on the Regional Structure project for Jim Babcock. Fourteen Study Groups are in various stages of progress and will report out over the next few months. As their efforts mature a new report will be issued. Ray also reported on the continuous editing of the Regionalist Papers. The Papers will be available on the FHR Web Site and may be viewed at <http://www.fhrinc.org/>.

Jack Hornbeck announced that the annual Chamber Inter Regional visit would be to Indianapolis on the 19th to the 21st of September 2006. He additionally indicated he would place a link to the FHR Web Site on the Chamber of Commerce Web Site. The Hampton Roads Chambers Web Site may be viewed at <http://www.hamptonroadschamber.com/>

Art Collins briefed the Board on the recent GAO review of Virginia Beach measures to address BRAC concerns relative to Oceana Naval Air Station, and on the current status of the Virginia Budget and the funding of Hampton Roads transportation requirements.

With budget negotiations stalled and transportation requirements unfunded, Chairman Thomas opined, "...here we are on the edge of greatness and our legislators don't seem to care. What can we do to get their attention?" Considerable discussion followed. Suggestions included:

- Meeting with our legislative caucus outside of Richmond.
- Creation or support of a PAC focused on specific issues.
- Creation or support of a PAC to promote credible opposition candidates. (The Board was reminded that this proposal would require a change in the FHR Charter.)
- Presentation of our concerns to the editorial boards of our local papers. Focus on the need for State transportation reform
- Conduct an email blitz

- Address the issue of redistricting

Admiral Train reminded the Board that it is not enough to suggest solutions to the issues that are of concern to the Region. The key question remains, "How do we organize to follow up on the suggested reforms necessary to make progress." Jake Tobin indicated that he would pose that question to the Board by email within the next week.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30