

Future of Hampton Roads, Inc
Board of Directors Meeting
July 25, 2006
Town Point Club
Minutes

Present: Chairman Vince Thomas, President Anna McNider, Jim Babcock, George Barnett, Jim Bradshaw, Ed Brickell, David Clark, Art Collins, Minette Cooper, Phil Damuth, John Hadfield, Clyde Hoey, Doyle Hull, Will King, Robert Krebs, John Lawson, Jim Pendergast Suzanne Puryear, Dan Sykes, Ray Taylor, Harry Train

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:03, welcomed the attendees and he stressed the vital importance of effective regional cooperation for metropolitan Hampton Roads in order to be able to benefit from our superb natural resources. He then turned the meeting over to President McNider.

President Anna McNider also welcomed all attendees and thanked Vince Thomas for his untiring work. She, then, proceeded with the Agenda:

The first order of business was approval of the minutes of the May 30, 2006 Board of Directors Meeting. The minutes were approved as amended.

Jim Babcock thoroughly briefed attendees on the status of the FHR Regional Structure Project (RSP). The planning committee met on July 11, and status reports were received from nine Study Groups. Highlights included: (1) 13 study groups are continuing their research work apace; one group has finished; the regional public participation study group is unearthing new ideas; the HRP study group now includes HRP personnel; the Metropolitan Council study group has taken on some of the very core issues of regionalism; and the MPO study group continues with a series of stakeholder interviews, (2) owing to the depth of study group activities and the impacts of summer vacations, Jim has extended the completion date for study group work from late August to the late November timeframe, (3) Jim will take all completed study group reports as inputs for the final editing of the RSP Report No. 2, which he hopes to complete by the end of the year, and (4) Jim has urged everyone to prepare to assist with the third and final phase of the FFIR Regional Structure Project, namely the Implementation Phase, starting next January.

Art Collins, reporting on transportation with news from the Planning District Commission (PDC) and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). In the area of regional transportation, he noted that the MPO evaluated its recommended plans in light of the recently approved state budget that did not fund transportation; they decided to continue supporting their original transportation plan. The state Senate wants a statewide effort in the special session, while members of the House of Delegates are more inclined to follow the leadership of the Speaker--who is not inclined to support new revenue for transportation. If something isn't done this time, some of the current projects will not get done. All of the planning for the third crossing would have start over. Art also pointed out that federal grants of \$65million and \$20 million will be lost if no state finding is approved. Vince pointed out the difficulty of in moving containers in and out of Hampton Roads, particularly in view of the port expansion

Minette Cooper, Clyde Hoey and others talked about alternatives such as an email blitz, letters, and personal visits to legislators that could be undertaken by Future of Hampton Roads, Inc. Clyde, assisted by Minette, agreed to work on a letter and plans of follow-up visits—to be done by September.

Discussions continued on the subject of regional transportation. The idea of *forming a* PAC to promote elected representatives inclined to and able to promote transportation projects in Hampton Roads was discussed. Broadly, it was viewed that transportation needs to be better addressed but that the PAC idea was not something for FHR to do alone

Ray Taylor briefed attendees on the status of the Regionalist Papers. Highlights included: (I) II Draft paper and three regionalist reference papers are on the FHR website, www.fhrinc.org, (2) progress on the papers has much slowed down for two reasons--most contributors are consumed with work on their respective RSP study groups, and these same study groups are providing much new information that in turn requires updating

of the existing draft regionalist papers, and (3) comments from the floor about the worth of these papers to the study groups and in general were welcomed.

In discussing FHR membership from the Peninsula, there was general agreement that the Peninsula was underrepresented on the board. Anna asked Clyde Hoey and John Lawson to help identify potential members. It was also suggested that we resume holding meetings on that side of the roads.

Harry Train briefed all attendees on the new status of the lease for the FHR office space. FHR is taking over the lease from SAIC effective September 30, 2006. That is when Harry Train's retirement from SAIC is effective. FHR costs will be \$415.56 per month, up from \$400 per month, and liability insurance will no longer be required, saving FHR \$1,000 per year. Harry distributed a one-page summary of the new leasing arrangements, and attendees voted to approve the new leasing plan.

Ray Taylor suggested attendees consider the idea of FHR giving formal (nonmonetary) support to a local group working to promote the idea on Fort Monroe becoming a national park. This idea was discussed and defeated.

John Hadfield talked about the recent disagreements between SPSA and the City of Chesapeake. He provided a letter with background information, which will be mailed from the FHR office to the directors.

Due to time constraints, the topic of Redistricting on the Agenda was set aside to await a time when John Stone could be present. The John Stone Paper on Redistricting was distributed to all attendees. Ray Taylor noted that the League of Women Voters is also looking at this topic and that John Stone was in touch with them.

Vince Thomas provided closing remarks. He thanked Jim Babcock and Art Collins for their work, and he thanked everyone for caring and being involved in regional and community matters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 am.