

Future of Hampton Roads, Inc
Board Meeting
November 25, 2008
Municipal Center, Williamsburg, Virginia

MINUTES

Present: Vice Chairman Jim Babcock, Will Christopher, Minette Cooper, Philip Damuth, Brock Field, John Hadfield, Clyde Hoey, Kim Humphrey, Joe Montgomery, Jim Oliver, Suzanne Puryear, Bert Schmidt, John Stone, Ray Taylor, Harry Train, Ray White, Bruce Williams, and guest Vanessa Torres.

President Taylor, in the absence of Chairman Vince Thomas, called the meeting to order at 10:06, noting that Vince Thomas has been hospitalized for several days. President Taylor also informed the Board members that Lynn Gordon's husband has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Ray then introduced mayor Jeanne Zeidler who welcomed the Board to Williamsburg. Mayor Zeidler then introduced her Economic Development Manager Michele DeWitt, who briefed the Board on economic development activity around the city. Jim Oliver asked what issues the city was confronting in the area of economic development. She replied that the economy was the biggest issue - stating that one can not let one community fail. Transportation needs were the second major issue. Jim Babcock commented that we need a regional tourism plan. Minette Cooper commended the Cultural Map of the Peninsula. There was a brief discussion of tourism "brands".

President Taylor then introduced guest Vanessa Torres from the FBI. She is attending the meeting as a candidate law enforcement member of the Board. Jim Oliver suggested that the Board receive a law enforcement briefing.

The minutes of the Board Meeting of September 23, 2008 were approved as submitted.

John Stone discussed the Future of Hampton Roads Redistricting initiative. Copies of our Redistricting Resolution were distributed to legislators. The recipients have been silent. Voters in California have passed a redistricting referendum. John will continue to pursue the redistricting initiative. Perhaps WHRO might put together a vehicle to promote redistricting. The Chambers of Commerce have included redistricting in their legislative programs.

The Hampton Roads Partnership is working a joint letter on Transportation Policy with Northern Virginia.

Jim Babcock proposed the distribution of Report Number 3. Harry Train seconded the motion. Jim will brief the Mayors and Chairs in January. Jim commented that the Metropolitan Planning Organization is one of our huge successes. The Hampton Roads

Partnership is responding to our recommendations regarding their operations. The recommendation to create a Hampton Roads Metropolitan Council is in report number 3 and will be briefed to the Mayors and Chairs. Jim noted that it doesn't have to be a regional council. It could be the MPO, or the Hampton Roads Partnership. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the members present.

The Leadership Hampton Roads Alumni Web Site will change its title to Hampton Roads Informs. FHR Inc. has been asked to support this financially at the \$300 - \$500 level. This is a vehicle to encourage and support the work of younger community leaders. It was moved and seconded that FHR Inc. "support the concept", of Hampton Roads Informs and commit to it's funding at the \$300 - \$500 per year level. John Hadfield asked if we were not overlapping the efforts of HRCCE. He was assured that that was not the case. The motion was passed.

HRCCE is preparing a survey to measure the civic health of the region. This will establish a benchmark as we move forward and will form the basis for the HRCCE forum planned for March 2009.

Harry Train, in Jake Tobin's absence, briefed the Board on the information to be presented to the nominating committee in December. He pointed out that the by-laws permit up to 55 members on the Board. The current membership is 56 plus the Lead Hampton Roads intern, Jim Carr. He identified seven members who might be dropped, five of whom will be proposed for emeritus status, and he identified six candidates who have been vetted and contacted to ascertain their willingness to serve. Finally, there was discussion of the demographics of the Board. It was the sense of the Board that members cite their home address as their regional affiliation.

Ray White briefed the Board on current activity in Northern North Carolina.

In Dwight Farmers absence, Ray Taylor updated the Board on the MPO. There is draft legislation to help the VDOT component of the MPO do a focus audit on the MPO. There are about 15 bills on transportation already submitted to the General Assembly. Some bills would abolish the Hampton Roads Transportation Authority. HB 1579 repeals the HRTA and creates the concept of capturing the economic benefits of the ports, i.e. air, sea, and surface.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:52.