

Future of Hampton Roads, Inc
Board Meeting
November 27, 2007
Virginia Beach Tower Center

MINUTES

Present: Jim Babcock, Judy Begland, Barry Bishop, Will Christopher, David Clark, Art Collins, Minette Cooper, Phil Damuth, Brock Field, Lynn Gordon, John Hadfield, Clyde Hoey, Jack Hornbeck, Alex Kajstura, Tim Kerr, Will King, Robert Krebs, Bob Leber, Ted Minor, Jim Oliver, Suzanne Puryear, Bert Schmidt, John Stone, Ray Taylor, Vince Thomas, Jake Tobin, Ray White

Vince Thomas opened the meeting at 11:05 and introduced Steve Herbert, our host for the day. Steve is the Chief Development Officer of Virginia Beach.

Steve noted that Virginia Beach is currently considering major development projects at three key sites; the Rudy Loop (an economically powerful site on the ocean front), the Dome Site (8 acres between the ocean front and the Convention Center), and at the Convention Center site (a major hotel). Steve noted that Virginia Beach has little land left to develop. The South portion of the city has been set aside for agriculture. Planners see the answer to continued growth (currently at about 2% per year) to be increased density and mixed use projects. A long-term plan is in work, considering further development of the Dome Site, continued development of Town Center, and projects in Burton Station.

Steve further noted that Oceana is an issue that is receiving much attention. Transportation is an issue also. He observed that the Norfolk Southern right of way had been the catalyst for development in the past and he believed that would continue in the future. The payoff for risk taken in the development of Town Center have encouraged the city to move forward on other projects with renewed vigor. Q's & A's followed:

- Light Rail? – The City Council is considering options.
- Height restrictions on the new hotel? – The City is in discussion with Navy. Perhaps 24 to 30 stories.
- Preservation of Green Space? – A priority in Virginia Beach. The Agricultural Zone is an example.
- Educational Institutions participating? – They are part of the plan.
- Transportation? – Steve said, “ There is nothing more important for Hampton Roads”.

Vince Thomas thanked Steve Herbert and his staff for being our hosts and for providing an excellent briefing on Virginia Beach development projects.

The minutes of the FHR Board Meeting of 25 September 2007 and of the FHR Executive Committee meeting of 23 October 2007 were approved with corrections noted.

Jake Tobin introduced the following motion for the Treasurer:

Moved that the Treasurer be allowed to solicit voluntary, tax deductible contributions in the amount of \$200.00 from each member of the Board or their corporate parent to help cover our modest expenditures for calendar year 2008.

The motion passed by unanimous vote. Jack Hornbeck noted that we should review the latest IRS regulations on tax-deductible contributions to ensure that we were operating within current IRS guidelines. Jake noted that the Treasurer would review the regulations to ensure compliance.

President Taylor introduced the draft Resolution on Flow Control and opened the floor for discussion. John Hadfield reviewed the issue and answered questions. Flow Control is a concept in Law. It allows Cities to control how waste is disposed. It was thrown out in Court in 1994 and reinstated in 2007. Under Flow Control Cities and Counties will pay less for disposal – private handlers will pay more (in reverse of the result of the court case of 1994). Also under Flow Control, SPSA will no longer accept out of State waste. To date four out of eight jurisdictions have accepted Flow Control. The rest will vote in the next few months. A motion to accept and publish the Resolution was presented and seconded. The motion passed by majority vote with two abstentions (Jack Hornbeck and John Hadfield). A copy of the Resolution is attached for the record.

Chairman Thomas congratulated Joe Bouchard upon his recent election to the House of Delegates of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

John Stone briefed the Board on the latest developments relative to Redistricting. A Virginia Redistricting Coalition has been formed to press for a bi-partisan redistricting effort in 2011. Since neither party has control of the legislature, both have incentive to create a fair process. John is optimistic, and he will keep us posted as the process unfolds. A copy of a handout on the Virginia Redistricting Coalition is attached for the record.

Art Collins noted that a firm had been hired to seek candidates for his replacement as Director of HRPDC and for the Director of the Hampton Roads Transportation Authority. Art will retire in 2008. He also stated that an environmental impact study on transportation plans was in work, and that funding measures for the Transportation Authority might change in the next legislative session. The Transportation Authorities web site is up and operating at www.hrta-va.org.

Jim Babcock reported on the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce Interregional visit to Cincinnati in November. A copy of his report is attached for the record.

Jim Babcock also brought the Board up to date on the Regional Structure Project. A copy of the Steering Committee report is attached for the record.

Bob Leber has been appointed to Chair the State Workforce Development office. A staff has been hired and a Strategic Plan is in development. The Community College system is involved in the process. . Bob noted that the challenge would be in the funding of workforce development programs. He noted that Federal funding was going away and that the State will have to become involved.

Jim Oliver reported that the State Corporation Commission had approved the Articles of Incorporation for the Hampton Roads Center for Civic Engagement. An eighteen member Board of Directors has been assembled, a Board Retreat has been held, and a request for funding assistance has been submitted to the Norfolk Foundation. Jim is optimistic, noting that, "Hampton Roads needs this!"

Susanne Puryear requested that the Board consider endorsing a funding request to the Williamsburg Foundation for a grant to fund Williamsburg's inclusion in the next Planning Council Investment in Priorities report. The Investment in Priorities report has long covered Human Services issues in cities and counties on the Southside of Hampton Roads but has not yet covered the Peninsula. The Board approved sending a letter of support to the Williamsburg Foundation on behalf of the Planning Council.

Ray White noted that Counties in North Carolina have been considering regional matters and how economic development efforts in North Carolina might be coordinated with Hampton Roads efforts. He would like to explore how such cooperation might be facilitated.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45'

BET