

Future of Hampton Roads, Inc
Board Meeting
September 23, 2008
Town Point Club, Norfolk, Virginia

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Vince Thomas, Vice Chairman Jim Babcock, George Barnett, Clay Barr, Judy Beglund, Will Christopher, David Clark, Minette Cooper, Philip Damuth, Midge Eason, Brock Field, Lynn Gordon, John Hadfield, Clyde Hoey, Alex Kajstura, Tim Kerr, Ted Minor, Susanne Puryear, Bert Schmidt, John Stone, Jim Carr, Bruce Williams, Durwood Curling, Barry Bishop, and Ray Taylor

Chairman Thomas called the meeting to order at 10:05. He introduced and welcomed our guest speaker, Dana Dickens, President and CEO, Hampton Roads Partnership.

The Minutes of the Board Meeting of July 24, 2008 could not be reviewed and approved, because Ray, embarrassingly, forgot to review them. This task will be passed along to next month's FHR Executive Committee meeting.

Dana Dickens provided a stirring and passionate discussion on the general topic of regional cooperation. He stressed the importance of such activities as Hampton Roads is stronger working together as a cohesive region. Dana cited examples of where this is being accomplished effectively and additional examples of where else this needs to be developed. He briefed the FHR Board on additional topics as summarized below:

- A long term Regional Transit Study is underway that, among other goals, will begin to identify where the next generation of region-wide "rail stops" should be built based on current and anticipated density. This study will advance the planning process of mass transit needs, centered where people live and work, and could affect future zoning decisions away from a scattered development approach. More roads are not the only solution to Hampton Roads' transportation problems.
- The blossoming of regional legislative caucus activities last year included the first ever joint meetings of the Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia (NoVA) caucuses, to solve state-wide problems. The expectation is that this productive activity will continue to grow during next year's GA session despite the uncertain economy and related election-year issues.
- The launching of a new, world-class "Global Logistics Park" concept, in the Isle of Wight/Suffolk area (460-58 corridor) and/or on the Peninsula in James City County. The logistics park concept is a co-located collection of ready-to-build distribution centers that permit economies of scale and that, regionally, require less total transportation and reduce scattered infrastructure expenses. This center would support significant Port growth and encourage mixed use development, including residential, retail and office. It is modeled after the five-jurisdiction Alliance TX collaboration (generating \$36Billion in 10 years). Dana viewed this as a regional project which would require a "deep-pocketed developer" and multi-jurisdictional shared resources and investment and result in shared revenue and

economic benefits region-wide. This regional collaboration is difficult as “elected officials fear punishment at the ballot box”.

- Governor Tim Kaine will soon announce the “Hampton Roads Performs” project. Drawing upon the prior work of the Council on Virginia’s Future organization, which developed Virginia Performs <http://www.vaperforms.virginia.gov>. Hampton Roads will be the first regional test case of their work, developing Hampton Roads-specific metrics and measurable regional performance factors related to quality of life and economic strength, accruing current data and developing historical trends, and displaying them online in a public-friendly way. The data will provide an assessment of the region’s current strengths and weaknesses as well as a snapshot of regional activities in place. The project could become one that serves to define the region’s vision by bringing together organizations to work on those critical few issues to address weaknesses and/or the region’s legislative agenda. Data would be compiled from The Planning Council, HRPDC, higher education surveys, etc.
- Dana introduced Missy Blankenship (Missy@HRP.org) as the new Communication Manager for HRP who has been tasked with taking every opportunity to reinforce acting as a region, seeking out regional “champions”, educating the 1.6 Million citizens of the region’s importance and telling regional cooperation stories, “catching people doing something jointly” such as:
 - the Emergency Communications (911) Center of Williamsburg, James City County, York County and Poquoson, operating a joint dispatch and emergency operations system, saving over \$5Million in taxpayer’s money and providing a collaborative system that far exceeds anything the individual localities could have accomplished separately.
 - the closing of the Ford Motor Co. plant which physically sat in Norfolk but everyone in Hampton Roads felt the ripple effects from the suppliers in Chesapeake, Virginia Beach, Portsmouth and the Peninsula to every other jurisdiction where employees lived and shopped.
 - the converse is true of the effects felt by the Ford closure: regardless of where the new business sits, the entire region benefits.
- HRP continues to focus on new investments in Modeling & Simulation, citing the industry’s average salary of \$83,000 as true economic importance to the region. The recent ModSim World event at the Virginia Beach Convention Center attracted over 700 participants, including many from Canada.

In short, The FHR Board much appreciated this excellent presentation.

Brock Field and George Barnett briefed the Board on the Second FHR Orientation session conducted last month. They both, along with others, urged that these Orientation sessions be conducted at least two times per year. We will schedule the next Orientation for next February or March 2009.

John Stone and Lynn Gordon briefed the Board members on their previously distributed proposed FHR Redistricting Resolution. Discussion ensued in strong support of their plans. A motion to approve from Jim Babcock was seconded, and the proposed FHR

Redistricting Resolution was approved. This Resolution will be mailed, in particular, to all regional legislators and to local newspapers.

Jim Babcock summarized the status of the Regional Structure Project. In particular, he reported that the third and final RSP report is being developed and that it will summarize all the examples of new regional cooperation measures that were inspired by this four-year long FHR activity and also outline what should be the next generation of steps, for example, the possible creation of a Hampton Roads Metro Council in one form or another. Everyone applauded the work accomplished by Jim and his team.

Phil Damuth briefed the Board on an emerging “Leadership Alumni” organization that has its eyes on advancing regional coordination. This organization to be composed of graduates of CIVIC, Leadership HR, and Leadership Peninsula courses could become an avenue for the slightly younger set of civic-minded citizens to speak out and to help row the boat. Dan Bell is currently spear-heading this effort. Phil Damuth is making arrangements for Dan Bell to brief the FHR Executive Committee next month.

Clyde Hoey briefed the FHR Board on HRCCE activities. In the near term HRCCE members will attend the national Deliberative Democracy and the International City/County Managers Association conferences, and in the mid-term, HRCCE expects to produce its second regional survey (civic health) and to conduct a regional Summit on the subject of Civic Engagement matters.

Ray concluded the meeting with two announcements: (1) The Nominating Committee will commence its annual work next month to develop a slate for new Board members by December, and he solicited nominees, and (2) The next FHR full Board meeting on November 25 will be conducted in WILLIAMSBURG. Details to follow.

One open floor item was tabled by Jim Babcock. Jim recommended that FHR Board obtain a briefing on the status of important SPSA decisions that lie ahead. We will look into doing just that early next year.

Vince Thomas closed the meeting with sincere thanks to Dana for his presentation and for all Board members and their work. Vince Thomas adjourned the meeting at 11:35.
