

FUTURE OF HAMPTON ROADS, INC

Board Meeting

July 22, 2008

Town Point Club, Norfolk, Virginia

MINUTES

Present: Jim Babcock, Malcolm Branch, Jim Carr, Will Christopher, Durwood Curling, Phil Damuth, Midge Eason, Brock Field, Lynn Gordon, John Hadfield, Clyde Hoey, Alex Kajstura, Tim Kerr, Suzanne Puryear, Bert Schmidt, Vince Thomas, Harry Train and Bruce Williams

Vince Thomas opened the meeting at 10:02am.

The minutes of the Board Meeting of May 27, 2008 were approved as submitted.

The Board discussed the Orientation Meeting and commented favorably on its usefulness and on the quality of its execution. The Board agreed that the next session should be scheduled but not rushed. The next Orientation Session will be scheduled in the fall.

Jim Babcock discussed regionalism. He described the concept of a Hampton Roads Metropolitan Council as it emerged from the Hampton Roads Structure Project. We have not had a regional visioning project since the 1990s. Bert Schmidt stressed that we need regional visioning. Jim Babcock explained that HRCCE is the entity to accomplish that task. The Future of Hampton Roads did this in the 1980s. Plan 2007 did so in the 1990s. The visioning process used recently by the Hampton Roads Partnership as part of the implementation of Dubby Wynne's regional metrics program involved a relatively small committee, whereas the type of visioning contemplated by Bert Schmidt and our own study group would involve hundreds if not thousands of leaders and citizens and the process would best be designed by HRCCE. Durwood Curling suggested that we need to involve the Civic Clubs and service clubs (i.e.: Rotaries and Kiwanis and the like). The consensus was that Civic Clubs were a useless venue to approach. Clyde Hoey said we need to put together a speaker's bureau and we need to promulgate Jim Babcock's report. (Harry Train's comments for the record: we used the Babcock Report promulgation money to invest in the Transportation Poll.) Clyde added that we need a point paper for guidance. Jim Babcock will work up the text for a video or Power Point presentation and observed we do not have the money for a video.

Clyde Hoey talked about the HRCCE arena. The HRCCE is determining what their relationship should be with the MPO. This fall the HRCCE will host a summit – a benchmarking event. The MPO is hiring a public outreach official. The HRCCE is considering partnering with someone to bid on the MPO's RFQ.

The HRCCE has its' 501 (c) (3) approval. And they have qualified for Norfolk Foundation matching money. They have hired a full time staff person in Betsy McBride.

They have also hired a part time employee in the person of Susan Sharp. Todd Sullivan will come aboard on 1 August for R & D.

Lynn Gordon asked about a legislative caucus regional agenda study group. Bruce Williams asked if we have reached out to all of the entities that are involved – like the Urban League. He observed we have two chambers and that is a challenge. Who are our supporters for a regional agenda?

There followed a rather disorganized discussion of younger involvement in the Future of Hampton Roads which your recording secretary could not capture. The best I can do is record that the consensus seemed to be that younger people are those with kids. Brock Field suggested creating a young citizens council which would meet twice a year. Candidates could be drawn from the “Top Forty under Forty group.”

Jim Babcock moved that Future of Hampton Roads, Inc. recommend to the HRCCE that they prepare a proposal to put on a visioning process. This was seconded and approved.

Jim Babcock moved that the next board meeting be held in Williamsburg. This was seconded and approved with Durwood Curling voting “nay”.

There was next a discussion on the process for the election of new members to the board. It was decided to stick with the procedures stated in the bylaws. But out of cycle actions to add new board members could be taken as special exceptions when attractive candidates became available at times other than the nominating committee meeting in December. Jim Babcock moved to provide the Executive Committee at their October Meeting information on candidates and holes we want to fill. At that meeting we can also elect candidates. The motion was seconded and approved.

Jim Babcock proposed we invite Delegate John Cosgrove to speak at our next meeting. Ray Taylor should take this for action.

Chairman Vince Thomas adjourned the meeting at 11:25.