

RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 8, 2006

Members/Alternates Present

Chris W. Archer (M)..... County of Henrico
Edward B. Barber (M), TreasurerCounty of Chesterfield
W.R. Britton, Jr. (A) County of Charles City
Malvern R. Butler (M), ChairmanCounty of Goochland
Amy M. Cheeley (M).....County of Hanover
Kathy C. Graziano (M)City of Richmond
John C. Grier (M).....City of Richmond
Jerilynn T. Grigsby (M) County of Henrico
Frank M. Hartz (M).....County of Goochland
Harvey L. Hinson (A) County of Henrico
Russell E. Holland (M), Vice ChairmanCounty of Powhatan
Michael L. Holmes (M), Secretary County of Charles City
David A. Kaechele (M)..... County of Henrico
R. M. “Dickie” King, Jr. (M)County of Chesterfield
Sherman W. Litton (M).....County of Chesterfield
Eugene A. Mason (M).....City of Richmond
Kelly E. Miller (M)County of Chesterfield
Elizabeth W. Moorhouse (M)County of Hanover
William J. Pantele (M)City of Richmond
George K. Roarty (M).....County of Chesterfield
Robert R. Setliff (M).....County of Hanover
Millard D. Stith, Jr. (A).....County of Chesterfield
Frank J. Thornton (M)..... County of Henrico
Stran L. Trout (M)..... County of New Kent
Carson L. Tucker (A)County of Powhatan
Arthur S. Warren (M)County of Chesterfield
David T. Williams (M)County of Powhatan

Members Absent

Robert R. Cosby (M).....County of Powhatan
James B. Donati (M) County of Henrico
Thomas W. Evelyn (M) County of New Kent
Richard W. Glover (M)..... County of Henrico
John E. Gordon, Jr. (M)County of Hanover
Renny B. Humphrey (M)County of Chesterfield
William Russell Jones, III (M).....City of Richmond
Angela L. LaCombe (M).....Town of Ashland
Patricia S. O’Bannon (M) County of Henrico
Ellen F. Robertson (M)City of Richmond

Others Present

John Amos RRPDC Legal Counsel
Mark Douglas..... Thalhimer/Cushman & Wakefield
Kim Hynes CVWMA
George Homewood County of New Kent
Jon Luginbill Metropolitan Richmond Sports Backers
John Mitchell CVWMA

Staff Present

Paul E. Fisher Executive Director
Jo A. Evans Assistant Executive Director
Julie H. Fry..... Executive Secretary
Daniel N. Lysy Director of Transportation
Jackie S. Stewart Director of Planning and Information Systems
Peter M. Sweetland Finance and Contracts Administrator
Patricia A. Villa Communications Coordinator

Call to Order

Chairman Butler called the regularly scheduled June 8, 2006, RRPDC meeting to order at approximately 1:10 p.m. in the RRPDC conference room. Chairman Butler then led the Commission in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Certification by Commission Executive Director of Meeting Quorum

Mr. Fisher certified that a quorum of 27 members/alternates was present.

B. Requests for Additions or Changes in Order of Business

Chairman Butler stated there would be a change in the order of business to allow Mr. Pantele to present a report from the Office Space Sub-Committee. This will be added under Other Business. There were no other changes or additions.

C. Open Public Comment Period

As there were no requests from the public to address the Commission, Chairman Butler closed the public comment period.

D. Approval of Minutes, May 11, 2006 Meeting

Mr. Holmes presented the minutes of the RRPDC meeting held on May 11, 2006. Mr. Fisher indicated an error on page 7 of the minutes showed Mr. Trout from Charles City County instead of New Kent County. The minutes have been corrected for filing. On motion made by Mr. Holmes and seconded by Mr. Williams, the minutes were approved as corrected.

E. Approval of April 2006 Financial Reports

Mr. Barber presented the financial reports for April 2006. On motion made by Mr. Barber and seconded by Mr. Holland, the April financial reports were unanimously approved as presented and accepted for audit.

F. Chairman's Report

Chairman Butler indicated he would have a report at the conclusion of the meeting.

G. Executive Director's Report for April/May 2006

Mr. Fisher presented the written staff status report, a copy having been included in the agenda, and urged the Commission members to read the report which details activities staff has undertaken in each of the localities over the past month.

He also reported that the fifth annual Regional Planning Commissioners Forum will be held on June 9, 2006. It is being hosted by Goochland County and being held at the Capital One complex.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Yeas and Nays Report

Ms. Villa presented a summary of legislation passed during this year's General Assembly. Bills of interest to the region that were vetoed by the governor included: idle machinery and tool tax bills (HB 1290, SB 260); bills concerning appointment of members to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (HB 673, SB 304); and a concealed weapons bill (HB 1106).

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nominating Committee Report and Election of FY 07 Officers

Chairman Butler asked Mr. Trout to give the report of the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Trout presented the report from the Nominating Committee (Mr. Trout, chairman; Ms. O'Bannon, Mr. Setliff). The committee had met and determined the following slate of nominees for FY 07 officers based on established jurisdictional rotation:

Russell E. Holland, Chairman	Powhatan County
R.M. "Dickie" King, Vice Chairman	Chesterfield County
Michael L. Holmes, Treasurer	Charles City County
William J. Pantele, Secretary	City of Richmond

Chairman Butler asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There being none, on motion made by Mr. Trout and seconded by Mr. Setliff, the nominations were closed.

The recommendations for FY 07 officers as presented by the Nominating Committee were approved by acclamation. The new officers will be sworn in at the July Commission meeting.

B. Metropolitan Richmond Sports Backers

Chairman Butler called on Mr. Fisher to introduce the guest speaker.

Mr. Fisher indicated during the last Commission meeting there had been discussion on numerous sporting and other events being held in the region. Henrico County had suggested that a future Commission meeting be held at Richmond International Raceway (RIR). Staff had contacted RIR, and the meeting facilities had not been available for the June Commission meeting. However, staff is looking at alternative dates.

As a result of that discussion, and in speaking with Chairman Butler, staff had invited Mr. Jon Lugbill, Executive Director of Metropolitan Richmond Sports Backers, to give a presentation on the various initiatives undertaken by the group.

Mr. Lugbill stated the Sports Backers group had been recognized recently as the leader in its industry by receiving the National Association of Sports Commissioners' 2006 Member of the Year award. This award was given based on the following criteria:

- Quality of the sporting events brought to the community
- Benefits received by the community from these events
- Economic benefits brought to the community from these events

Mr. Lugbill offered an overview of the group's partnership with other non-profit organizations to bring sporting events to the region and how the group markets these events to bring in participants and spectators from outside the region.

In response to questions from Commission members, Mr. Lugbill stated economic impact studies have been done, and will continue to be conducted, on various events to determine economic benefits brought into the region from participants outside a 50-mile radius. He invited Commission members to contact him with suggestions or ideas on events here in the region with which Sports Backers could become involved.

Mr. Pantele offered congratulations to Mr. Lugbill on their recent award and the efforts of the group to bring these types of benefits into the region.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Announcements

There were no announcements.

B. Committee Reports

Chairman Butler asked Mr. Pantele to report on the recent meeting of the Office Space Sub-Committee.

Mr. Pantele reported that the committee (comprised of himself as chair along with Mr. Holland and Mr. Barber) had worked with staff and Mr. Mark Douglas, Thalheimer/Cushman & Wakefield, to develop a list of approximately 43 potential properties to consider, including the current location. Staff had narrowed the list based on factors such as cost, accessibility to public transportation, availability of parking, and location. Two properties were identified as meeting the needs of the Commission. One is located in Stony Point II Office Park, which is a modern office building similar to the current location, located off Huguenot Road. The other is located at 224 East Broad, in the old United Way building. Both are within Richmond city limits. The committee, along with staff, visited both locations and determined the Stony Point site was preferable to meet future needs of the Commission and Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA). It is the committee's recommendation that further negotiations be pursued on the Stony Point site while keeping the downtown site option open. The cost of the Stony Point location is slightly less than the current location; however, space build-out will need to be considered. More detailed information will be brought to the Commission at the July meeting.

Mr. Holland stated he had been approached with concerns as to why the current location was not suitable, and he confirmed the current location would not meet future staff space requirements. Mr. Pantele confirmed that both properties were served by public transportation and are within Richmond city limits. Chairman Butler stated as part of MPO federal funding requirements, the public must be assured access to MPO meetings via public transportation.

Mr. Miller asked for more information on future space needs. Ms. Evans stated that since moving into this location in 1989, staff had grown by seven, and there were three additional Commission members. Office space per employee has dropped since acquiring additional space in 2000. There is no additional square footage available to RRPDC in its current location. Meeting space needs (HVAC noise in the board room) have not been addressed by the current leasing agent. There are also production space needs being faced by staff.

Mr. Williams asked if the lease costs would be less than is being paid now. Mr. Pantele stated based on preliminary considerations, the cost per square foot is less, but the cost would fluctuate some following build-out negotiations. He stated further that the term of lease would also be brought into consideration. At this time, a lease of 7-10 years was being considered.

Mr. Pantele indicated the current lease expires in May 2007, and the Stony Point space is being vacated in November 2006. This would allow ample time to prepare the Stony Point space for occupancy by CVWMA, as their lease expires in January. Mr. Barber stated the current occupants of the Stony Point space are moving only because they have outgrown the space, and they are moving into another location within the same office park.

Ms. Evans answered a question regarding the amount of square footage that would be required by RRPDC and CVWMA. She stated there would be a need for about 20,000 square feet. Mr. Holland also added he had verified the space is in compliance with all ADA requirements.

Chairman Butler noted the committee will meet again in two weeks and would have additional information to present to the Commission at the July meeting.

Mr. Fisher stated that staff has been proceeding with negotiations under the assumption that CVWMA will be sharing space with RRPDC. CVWMA will be presenting this information to its executive committee on July 10. John Mitchell, executive director of CVWMA, stated it would be to their advantage to share space with RRPDC. Their board will meet in August and can take action on these negotiations at that time.

C. For Your Information

Items included for the Commission's information:

1. Letter of thanks from Alisa Bailey, president and CEO of Virginia Tourism Corporation, for adoption by RRPDC of a resolution of support encouraging the expedition of a feasibility study and future development of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Butler took this opportunity to thank the Commission for the opportunity to serve as chairman over the past year. He stated he appreciated all of the input and cooperation of the members in trying new approaches and new ideas in regional planning under his chairmanship. He is very thankful to be working within a region that is growing and expanding.

Chairman Butler also thanked staff for their help over the past year.

He further stated it has been an interesting year as he's traveled around the state, seeing each area and how each area is progressing, and learning from these observations.

Chairman Butler stated it had been a privilege to serve as chairman and wished the Commission continued success.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Butler adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:05 p.m.

Paul E. Fisher
Executive Director

Malvern R. Butler
Chairman