



Baylines

Newsletter of the City Council-appointed

Bayfront Advisory Commission

Members

- Kal Kassir, Chairman
- Scott Ayers
- Joseph Bovee
- Faith Christie
- Wally Damon
- Phillip A. Davenport
- Charles G. Faison, Jr.
- Capt. Joey L. Frantzen
- Walter Graham, Planning Commissioner
- Louis R. Jones, Councilman
- Charles R. Malbon, Jr., vice chairman
- David Redmond, Planning Commissioner
- Stacey W. Shiflet
- Martin A. Thomas
- James L. Wood, Councilman

Thursday, October 17, 2019

3:30 p.m.

Bayside Community Recreation Center
4500 First Court Road

Tentative Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and Introductions - Kal Kassir, Chair
Comments from Kal Kassir, Chair
Review and Approval of Minutes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Design Review – Joseph Bovee
Communications – Scott Ayers
Public Safety, Transit, Parking & Pedestrian Access- Charles Malbon

STAFF REPORTS & UPDATES

- Public Works projects briefing, Mark Johnson, public works director
- Comprehensive Plan progress – Mark E. Shea, comprehensive planning coordinator

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURN

Next meeting: Nov.21, 2019

**Photo credit: Patty Hood*

Voter registration deadline Tuesday

The deadline for registering to vote in the Nov. 5 general and special elections is at the close of business Tuesday, Oct. 5. Voters who have not voted in Virginia Beach, have changed their name since they last voted or have moved to a different district must register or update their information by that deadline.

In-person absentee voting is under way and will close Nov. 2.

The Nov. 5 elections will be for state Senate and House of Delegates seats, for the Clerk of Court, Soil and Water Conservation directors, Treasurer, City Council and School Board. The Treasurer, City Council and School Board elections are to fill unexpired terms; all other races are for full terms.

Voters in the Bayfront area have different candidates from whom to choose. In the 8th Senate District, which encompasses to northeast section of the Bayfront, incumbent William R. “Bill” DeSteph faces challenger Missy Cotter Smasal. In the 7th Senate District, voters will choose between newcomers Jen A. Kiggans and Cheryl B. Turpin.

House races are also contested. In the 82nd House District, incumbent Jason S. Miyares is challenged by newcomer Gayle H. Johnson, while the 83rd House District pits incumbent Christopher P. Stolle and newcomer Nancy D. Guy.



The Treasurer’s race has three candidates: V. Leigh Henderson, Laura Wood Habr and Ralph M. Parham II. The winner in this race will fill the unexpired term of John T. Atkinson, who retired. This term runs until Dec. 31, 2021.

Four candidates are on the ballot for the unexpired Rose Hall District School Board seat: Joel A McDonald, Stephen A. Johnston, Robert K. Dean and Jessica L. Owens. That term runs until Dec. 31, 2020.

In City Council races, three candidates are vying for the unexpired Beach District term that ends Dec. 31, 2022: Rosemary A. Wilson, Guy K. Tower and Richard W. “RK” Kowalewitch.

There are two candidates for the Rose Hall unexpired term that ends Dec. 31, 2020, They are Michael F. Berlucchi and C. Conrad Schesventer II.

Seven candidates vie for one of two seats on the Soil and Water Conservation Virginia Dare District board: Frances J. “Frank” Drumm Jr., Leslie A. Jones, Marsella S. Sanders, John A. Dickie, Doreen Bender Jackson, Bill W. Fleming and Russell H. Malbone. In the Clerk of Court election, incumbent Tina E. Sinnen is unopposed.

Write-ins are permitted in all races. In-person absentee voting takes place at the Voter Registration & Elections Building 14, weekdays from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays, at the Courthouse Fire Station Building 13 weekdays from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Other in-person polling places are the Bayside, Great Neck and Seatack recreation centers from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Saturdays. The Kempsville Treasurer’s office will accept in-person absentee ballots from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. weekdays only.

Commission urges no scooters along Shore Drive

The Bayfront Advisory Commission reviewed the staff presentation on the subject and listened to many comments from the public and voted unanimously to arrive at the following summary:

While electric scooters have a certain appeal and beneficial usage in many urban areas in the country and possibly our City they are not suitable to be operated safely on Shore Drive and the Bayfront section of Virginia Beach (including the sidewalks and multi-use paths) for the following reasons among others:

1. Conflicts with motorist, pedestrians, strollers, wheelchairs and runners
2. Limited enforcement resources
3. Public safety issues especially those inflicted by irresponsible users to both renters and the public
4. Limited continuity of sidewalks with width of only three feet.
5. The impending (early 2020) construction of Phase III of the Shore Drive roadway improvement projected to last approximately three years
6. Tremendous conflicts and safety issues arising from where scooters are parked and where they are dropped off by the users.



It has taken over 20 years of hard work and millions of dollars in public funds and still counting to rid the image of many fatal road accidents of the past and to improve the appearance of a major gateway to our City. That should be preserved.

The Bayfront Advisory Commission therefore respectfully recommends that, at this time, electric scooters placement and use be prohibited within the Shore Drive Overlay district.

This recommendation was forwarded to City Hall, where staff members are preparing proposed ordinances governing this activity. The City Council will be briefed on these proposals Tuesday, Oct. 15.

Shuttle ridership rises for third straight year

Ridership on the Route 35 Bayfront-Oceanfront shuttle increased nearly 15 percent during the 2019 season through August, according to figures provided by Hampton Roads Transit. The season, which ran from late May through the Neptune Festival in September, clocked 23,465 riders through August vs. 20,413 for the same period the previous year.

August ridership this season climbed 12 percent to 7,434 compared to the same month a year ago. The shuttle just completed its third summer season of operation.

Strategic plan briefing held

Bayfront Advisory Commission officers briefed the acting city manager's team and the commission's two City Council liaisons on the recently adopted 2019-20 BAC strategic plan. Commission Chairman Kal Kassir, Vice Chairman Charles Malbon and Communications Committee Chairman Scott Ayers met with Thomas Leahy, acting city manager; David Bradley, acting deputy city manager for infrastructure, and Mark A. Johnson, Public Works Department director.

Although the plan, adopted unanimously, contained more than two pages of issues to be addressed or monitored, the five highest-priority items are as follows:

1. Funding Phase IV of the Shore Drive roadway improvements from Shady Oaks to the western foot of the Lesner Bridge.
2. Landscape design of the Route 13-Shore Drive interchange.
3. Water issues, including stormwater and drainage, the Dewberry/Sea-Level-Rise Study, Lynnhaven City Marina development, the city wharf at Lynnhaven Inlet and a pedestrian walkway under the Lesner Bridge from Vista Circle to Page Avenue.
4. Sand replenishment along Ocean Park and Cape Henry beaches and Crab Creek and
5. Infill development, addressing the nature of the Bayfront, future look (commercial properties, vacation rentals, etc) and work with the Planning Department on the Comprehensive Plan revisions.

Lake Bradford/Chubb Lake stormwater open house Nov. 14

The Public Works Department has scheduled an open house meeting on the Lake Bradford/Chubb Lake stormwater project ([CIP 7-053](#)) on Thursday, Nov. 14 from 6-7:30p.m. at the Bayside Recreation Center at 4500 First Court Road. The city is seeking public input on residential and roadway flooding within the project study area. No proposed solutions will be presented during this meeting. A second public meeting will be scheduled to discuss solutions once a preliminary engineering report has progressed further.

The study area is adjacent to Joint Expeditionary Base- Little Creek and includes Chesapeake Beach, Church Point, part of Thoroughgood and a portion of Shore Drive. For a map of the project area, click here for the link to the city's [webpage](#)

There will be a 20-minute presentation at the beginning, to provide an update. Afterwards, stations will be setup so residents can speak with city of Virginia Beach representatives.