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# Baylines

*Newsletter of the City Council-appointed*

## ***Bayfront Advisory Commission***

### Members

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

**Thursday, January 17, 2019**

**3:30 pm**

**Virginia Beach Tennis and Country Club**

1950 Thomas Bishop Lane

### **Tentative Agenda**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Welcome and Introductions - Kal Kassir, Chair

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Comments from Kal Kassir, Chair  
Review and Approval of Minutes Nov.

#### **STAFF REPORTS & UPDATES -- Mark Shea, Victoria Rice**

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES**

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Election of officers, 2019

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Update on former Virginia Beach Resort Hotel -- Duane Gauthier

#### **PROJECT BRIEFINGS, OPEN DISCUSSION & COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC**

Expansion of Leaping Lizard Café for tasting room – 4408 Shore Drive  
Pleasure House Brewing and Open-Air Market -- 2032 Pleasure House Road

#### **ADJOURN**

*\*Photo credit: Katie Hecht*

**Former mayor Louis Jones speaks at the dedication ceremony for the new Lesner Bridge.**



**Former mayor Louis Jones speaks at the dedication ceremony for the new Lesner Bridge.**



**From left, former City Manager James Spore, Council member James Wood, Mayor Bobby Dyer, former Mayor Louis Jones, Council member Sabrina Wooten, Former Mayor Will Sessoms, City Manager Dave Hansen.**

## *Recount affirms Nov. 6 City Council election results*

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The historic recount of election results for three City Council brought no changes to the results announced after the Nov. 6 election. Although the numbers changed slightly, the results stood, with incumbents Louis Jones and John Moss returning to the council and David Nygaard unseating incumbent John Uhrin. Jones represents the Bayside District, Nygaard the Beach District. Moss was an at-large candidate. Uhrin is contesting that outcome in court.

In Virginia Beach, district candidates for council and school board offices must live in the area from which they are running although voters citywide cast ballots for district candidates as well as for those running at large and for mayor.

The recount, which was certified by a circuit court panel, will cost the city about \$150,000. The city must pay because election day vote totals in the three races were so close.

Tuesday, Jan. 8, is the first scheduled meeting for the newly constituted City Council.

## *Longtime City Treasurer retires; election to be set*

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Bayfront resident John T. Atkinson has retired as City Treasurer after nearly 41 years in that constitutional office. He was elected to his 11<sup>th</sup> term a year ago.

The City Council will set a special election to fill the balance of this term, possibly as early as Tuesday, Jan. 8. Leigh Henderson, the office's chief deputy, was sworn in Dec. 28 as interim treasurer. With 18 years' experience in the treasurer's office, she has said she plans to be a candidate to fill the job permanently in the special election.

## *Pilot bridge editorial draws comment*

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The following Letter to the Editor appeared in the Sunday, Jan. 6, edition of The Virginian-Pilot:

Your editorial "Public art display in Hampton Roads" (Hits & Misses, Dec. 29) referencing the Lesner Bridger is a misinformed attempt to create a controversy out of nothing. By my count fewer than a dozen letters to the editor expressed their dislike of the artwork or the bridge lighting elements, which we respect, but that doesn't equate to almost half the people according to your math. The artist was selected from more than 60 entries in a nationwide public search that was ably managed by the Virginia Beach Office of Cultural Affairs, Public Art Foundation and many volunteer art patrons with the understanding that any form of art has its critics. The artist inspiration was captured from the history of the Lynnhaven River, where a trench was dug to allow canoes passage to the Chesapeake Bay to fish. It is equally worth a mention that the "Canoes" were fully funded privately by local folks, civic leagues, small businesses and generous corporate donors.

As to the lighting element of the bridge, the Lesner Bridge design firm and the Virginia Beach Department of Public Works, who managed the project superbly, conducted a design charrette attended by more than 200 citizens who were tasked with collectively selecting their favorite design, color and shape of the railing, retaining walls, pilings and the lighting system.

On recommendations from the Bayfront Advisory Commission and so many others, City Council wisely requested its staff to replace the decaying bridge with a signature-designed bridge, which is more appropriate for a major gateway to the

city, rather than a standard VDOT concrete overpass. We believe that is exactly what we got to showcase the magnificent Chesapeake Bay.

Your assessment that public art improves the quality of life is definitely a “Hit,” but your comment on the Lesner polarizing the public is a “Miss.”

Kal Kassir, Chairman  
Bayfront Advisory Commission

## Artists sought for Recreation Center murals

Tuesday, Jan. 8, is the deadline for artists to submit applications to apply for the right to provide original and site-specific murals for the foyer entrances of the Bayside, Great Neck and Princess Anne Recreation Centers. The Office of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with Parks & Recreation, is seeking three qualified Hampton Roads regional artists or artist-led teams to apply.

Artists may submit for more than one recreation center, but can only be awarded one, because all three murals will be completed simultaneously. For more information and to submit an application, visit [www.vbpublicart.org/for-artists](http://www.vbpublicart.org/for-artists).

## *Short-term rental public hearing slated*

The City Council has advertised for a public hearing at its Jan. 15 meeting for a series of ordinances governing short-term rentals, a controversy that has raged for several years.

## *Bayfront Advisory Commission volunteers needed*

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Citizens and businesses interest in volunteering on BAC committees, tasks forces and special subcommittees should communicate their interest to Scott Ayers, BAC vice chairman, via the commission’s email address, [bayfrontadvisorycommissionvb@gmail.com](mailto:bayfrontadvisorycommissionvb@gmail.com). Please indicate any special skills that you would bring to the commission’s efforts as well as your contact information