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Baylines

Newsletter of the City Council-appointed

Bayfront Advisory Commission

Members

- Kal Kassir,
Chairman
- Scott Ayers
- Joseph Bovee
- Faith Christie
- Wally Damon
- 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, April 18, 2019

3:30 p.m.

Brock Environmental Center

3663 Marlin Bay Drive

(Honest!)

Tentative Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

Welcome and Introductions - Kal Kassir, Chair

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Comments from Kal Kassir, Chair
Review and Approval of Minutes

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

OLD BUSINESS

PROJECT BRIEFINGS, OPEN DISCUSSION & COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

ADJOURN

**Raymie Shelton photo credit*

Next Shore Drive phase getting ready

The delayed Shore Drive Phase III improvement is on track to begin construction later this year or early next, Public Works officials told the Bayfront Advisory Commission. David Jarman, Transportation Division Manager, said “the critical path is real estate acquisition” for the \$27.5 million capital-improvement project from Vista Circle to North Great Neck Road. About 50 parcels will be affected, he said. Some will require easements; others, partial or complete acquisition.

Plans call for drainage improvements, curb-and-gutter, sidewalks, lighting and landscaping. Shore Drive will remain a four-lane divided highway, with improved safety and vehicle and pedestrian traffic flow. Plans call for the road to remain four lanes throughout construction, Jarman and Bill Purcell, project manager, said. Construction is planned to take three years.

BAC discussion raised the issue again of installing pedestrian-scale street lights as an enhancement to this phase, but not as a substitution for required lighting on this busy highway, which could delay the project again.

Another Shore Drive project, a \$600,000 improvement to the Shore Drive/Stratford Road intersection, is fully funded and expected to begin later this spring. This would involve a “fully functional” traffic light with pedestrian crossing signals, an emergency signal to accommodate Ocean Park Fire and Rescue, Jarman said, plus curb, sidewalk and drainage improvements.

Following that will be a **\$300,000 repaving of Shore Drive** from Marlin Bay Drive to the Lesner Bridge. These will take place because the scheduled \$14.5-million Phase IV project in that area has been delayed. Although the concept design was finished in 2008, actual design is not scheduled to resume until 2020 or 2021, the Public Works officials said. No funding has been allocated. Other Bayfront corridor projects include:

- Street and safety improvements on Pleasure House Road from Shore Drive to Lookout Road, \$3 million, design start July, construction 2022;
- Shore Drive, Phase II, from South Oliver to Treasure Island drives; \$24.3 million projected but not funded;
- Pleasure House Road from Northampton Boulevard to Shore Drive, \$1.3 million, design start July 2020, construction 2023;
- Diamond Springs Road sidewalk construction, replacing what Jarman called “goat paths” with 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalk, \$270,000, design pending, and
- Shore Drive and Lake Joyce sidewalks, \$230,000, not currently funded.



New leash law for dogs proposed

A proposal to require all dogs on city beaches to be physically leashed has become a hot-button issue along the Oceanfront, Bayfront and Sandbridge. The Police Department has scheduled a community forum to gather feedback **at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 10**, at the Law Enforcement Training Academy, 411 Integrity Way.

The meeting will be used to address a proposed change to [City Code Section 6.5 \(animals on the beach and adjacent areas\)](#) for the City Council's consideration. The proposed change would require all dogs to be leashed on City beaches at all times.

Other restrictions in the code would remain unaffected.

Virginia Beach Animal Control data indicates that out-of-control, off-leash dogs warrant a review of the policy that currently allows dogs to roam leash-free on the beach at certain times. In 2017, 18 incidents involved dogs that attacked people or other dogs and caused the victim to bleed. In 14 of those cases, the dogs were off leash. In 2018, there were 15 such incidents, 11 of which involved off-leash dogs. And last year, two unleashed dogs attacked and killed a small on-leash dog on the beach near 55th Street.

[City Code](#) currently allows dogs to be off-leash on the resort beach before Memorial Day weekend and after Labor Day weekend as long as the dogs remain under owners' control. During the summer (Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend), pets are limited to frolicking on the Ocean beach north of 42nd Street or in Sandbridge and on any other public sandy beaches only **before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m.**

Comment at the Bayfront Advisory Commission was sharply divided, as have been letters to the editor and postings on social media.

Fireworks decision pending



The fate of this year's Fourth of July fireworks on the Cape Henry stretch of the Bayfront is in the hands of city officials, who met with Bayfront Advisory Commission and civic league representatives to discuss merging it under city management.

The event, which draws tens of thousands of onlookers, had been funded and organized by the Cape Story-By-The-Sea civic league for decades. But increasing regulations and permits had made managing the fireworks too onerous for the local volunteers.

City officials, Council member James L. Wood and Steven Cover, deputy city manager in charge of public safety, met with Chairman Kal Kassir, CSTBS representative Empsy Munden and Shore Drive Community Coalition's Todd Solomon to discuss moving the administration under the existing fireworks program. It puts on several displays a week at the Oceanfront all summer.

"I am optimistic. I really am," Kassir told the BAC. "It is an important event in that the Bayfront is like a stage."

Mercedes Holland, representing the head of Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, said there are about 1,100 homes on base at Fort Story. "There's quite an audience there."

In addition, the campground at First Landing State Park is sold out most weekends in the summer, Kassir said. "It is the most heavily used park in the state system."

Moving this one event under the city's wing will streamline permits and administrative details that had become too daunting for the civic league volunteers. Another Independence Day fireworks display will continue under

the direction of civic leagues west of the Lesner Bridge.

Munden said she left the meeting with the impression that, “if they can do it, they’ll do it.”
A decision is expected in the coming weeks.

Indian Hill Road to get ‘speed tables’

Indian Hill Road is scheduled to have two traffic-calming “speed tables” installed, weather permitting, as early as this week. Speed tables, longer than a speed bump, raise wheelbase of a vehicle to reduce its speed. They are flat-topped, 3 to 3.5 inches tall and are 22 feet long.

These speed tables are to be installed on Indian Hill Road north of Ben Gunn Road and north of Bayville Road and represent the last of four steps the city’s program spells out to help reduce speeding in neighborhoods. The city’s traffic-calming program is reserved for residential streets with posted speed limits of 25 mph and involves a series of phases with increasing consequences for continued violations.

For details on the program and how to begin the process, click here:

<https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/public-works/traffic/Documents/Brochures/traf-calm-brochure-9-28-17.pdf>

Riverwalk funding in jeopardy

Bayfront Advisory Commissioners had hoped to designate leftover funds from the Lesner Bridge replacement for a “Riverwalk” project that would install a pedestrian walkway under the bridge, tying together the north and south sides of Shore Drive from Page Avenue to Vista Circle.

But Chairman Kal Kassir said the city manager is eyeing those funds for other city projects. He urged commissioners to push for using about \$500,000 in any leftover bridge money to build the walkway, which would provide a safe crossing of Shore Drive and connect residential properties along the Bayfront to restaurants and other attractions along Lynnhaven Inlet.

Bridge terrific for cardio ...

Looking for a scenic spot to get some free cardio exercises?
Look no farther than the new Lesner Bridge, commissioner Charles “Gee” Faison Jr. told BAC.

A one-way walk or bike ride on the bridge is 0.6 miles.
With scenic views from every angle, Faison said, “I don’t think there’s a better place on the East Coast.”