



Baylines

Newsletter of the City Council-appointed

Bayfront Advisory Commission

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

Bayfront Advisory Commission meets
Thursday, October 18, 2018
3:30 pm

Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center
2800 Shore Drive

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, Tori Rice Shore Drive Phase III –William Purcell

COMMITTEE REPORTS & UPDATES

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

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

PROJECT BRIEFINGS, OPEN DISCUSSION & COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC Public Comment Period

Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center renovations update

ADJOURN



Short-term rental idea sent to planners

A proposed ordinance governing short-term rentals in residential neighborhoods has been referred to the Planning Commission for eventual return to the City Council, B. Kay Wilson, deputy city attorney told the Bayfront Advisory Commission.

The latest iteration of the city's efforts to govern when homes are rented for fewer than 30 days, the proposal would require property owners to seek a conditional use zoning permit from the City Council, with some exceptions.

One such exception would "grandfather" owners whose properties were operating as short-term rentals as of July 1 and were registered legally and had paid applicable taxes by that deadline. Homesharing, in which an owner rents all or part of the property for no more than 30 consecutive days continues to live there during such rentals, can take place anywhere in the city, Wilson said, as long as they are registered and pay taxes.

This issue surfaced several years ago with so-called "event houses," which were leased out for large gatherings such as wedding and reunions. But the new proposal is broader than that. "We are not regulating event houses; we are regulating AirBnB (-type operations), Wilson said.

This has been a contentious issue for years as some property owners who use resort properties as a source of income clashed with some year-round resident owners over parking, noise, trash and renter behaviors. Within these groups are those who have used professional property managers to handle their rentals, those who operate AirBnB-type operations on their own, those who object outright to these rentals as incursions of commercial operations into residential areas and those who don't object as long as neighbors are not disturbed.

The controversy has boiled over in some neighborhoods into battles for control over civic leagues between the "rent heres" and the "live heres." That, in turn, has spilled in to the local political arena, with last year's General Assembly weighing in on Sandbridge and this year's City Council races producing heated rhetoric. A year-round Sandbridge resident told Baylines the saga "has created havoc. Friendships broken apart, neighbors no longer speaking to one another and even vandalism – wrecked mail boxes, campaign signs stolen, etc."

The proposal package sent to the Planning Commission represented months of discussions among the City Council, city legal and planning staff, property managers and residents. It involves zoning regulations and will be the subject of one or more public hearings before a commission recommendation vote, sending it back to the City Council, which also will hold at least one public hearing before a vote.

Deadlines loom for voter registration

Several deadlines occur this month ahead of the Nov. 6 general and special elections.

To register to vote for the first time, or the first time at the voter's current address, Monday, Oct. 15 is the deadline. Voters may register or change their registration (new name, new address, etc.) in person at the registrar's office, Building 14, at the courthouse complex, at Virginia Beach public libraries and at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Virginia Beach office.



Registration forms are available at the following city locations: public schools, Post Offices, community recreation centers and the offices of the clerk of the circuit court, city treasurer and commissioner of the revenue. Completed forms must be postmarked on or before Oct. 15, if mailed, or may be presented in person at the registrar's office, library or DMV by the deadline.

Online registration will be accepted by the Department of Elections at its web site, <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/voter-outreach/> until 11:59 p.m. Oct. 15.

Absentee voting. To receive an absentee ballot by mail, applications must be received by Tuesday, Oct. 30, 5 p.m. Locations for voting absentee in person are at the registrar's office (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays Oct. 27 and Nov. 3, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.) or at the Virginia Beach recreation centers at Bayside and Great Neck (Monday-Friday, Oct 22-Nov. 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays Oct. 27 and Nov. 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.)

In this election, voters will choose a U.S. Senator, a U.S. House of Representatives member from the 2nd District, Virginia Beach mayor, seven members of the City Council and six School Board members. Voters also will be asked to weigh in on two proposed amendments to the Virginia Constitution.

Further information is available at the city registrar's web site, www.vbgov.com/voter or by calling 757-385-8683.

Shuttle Route 35 renewal, tweaks recommended

City officials are recommending that the Route 35 shuttle between the Bayfront and Oceanfront be continued during the tourist season again next year, Brian Solis, transportation planner, told the Bayfront Advisory Commission.

A possible change would include extending the route up Atlantic Avenue to 89th Street with a turn-around near the Fort Story gate. In related news, two 14-passenger shuttle buses are to be delivered this month to allow members of the public without Defense Department vehicle decals to park outside the gate and ride to the lighthouses and First Landing historic sites. Once launched, plans call for the on-base shuttle to operate from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. January through March and 10-5 the remaining nine months of the year.

At the meeting, in response to a question, Solis said he did not expect the Route 35 shuttle to extend beyond its Pleasure House Road western terminus to the Little Creek gate. But other routes serving that base do use the Pleasure House stop for transfers.

Ridership in August on the 35 was nearly double that in August a year ago, the first year the shuttle was run as a pilot project. Route 35 had 6,638 riders in 2018, 3,395 the year before.

Comparison numbers are hard to make for a number of reasons:

- 2017 was a “pilot” year for the shuttle. It was brand new, vs. a second full season
- In 2017, it ran every 45 minutes, vs. every 30 minutes this year
- The route was between Vista Circle on the east side of the Lesner Bridge and the Oceanfront vs. Pleasure House Road and a tweaked Oceanfront route that made connections with other public transit connections easier
- Some technology access (like real-time arrival information on a cellphone application) was added. This year, the Atlantic Avenue shuttle piloted a cell-phone-pay option. This is being evaluated for next year.
- There was more marketing and access to shuttle tickets.

That said, BAC chairman Kal Kassir, Committee Chair Charles Malbon and other commission members requested greater attention to marketing Route 35 going forward. Acknowledging more ticket-purchase locations this year, suggestions were made to have Shore Drive businesses know details about the 35 so they can include it in their own marketing, making ticket-purchase locations more widespread and providing more detailed information to Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story families about this route.

Briefly . . .

New owners of the **Virginia Beach Resort Hotel and Conference Center** are expected to brief the Bayfront Advisory Commission in October about plans to close the hotel Nov. 1 during renovations that are expected to last until 2020 Also expected at the Oct. 16 BAC meeting is an update from **William Purcell**, senior project manager, on the upcoming Shore Drive Phase III construction project. That project stretches from the eastern side of the Lesner Bridge to North Great Neck Road ... Appointed assistant city attorney and liaison to the Bayfront Advisory Commission is **Victoria Rice**, a May graduate from Regent University School of Law ...

...Beginning in November, the BAC will move its monthly public meetings to the **Virginia Beach Tennis & Country Club** on Thomas Bishop Lane.

Bayfront Advisory Commission volunteers needed

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. Please indicate any special skills that you would bring to the commission's efforts as well as your contact information.