

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
December 9, 2008

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a Special Meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 5:15 p.m. in the Glen Echo Building Conference Room, Henrico County Eastern Government Center, 3810 Nine Mile Road, Henrico County Virginia. The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

PRESENT

The Honorable David A. Kaechele, Chairman
The Honorable Patricia S. O'Bannon, Vice-Chairman
The Honorable James B. Donati, Jr., Varina District Supervisor
The Honorable Richard W. Glover, Brookland District Supervisor
The Honorable Frank J. Thornton, Fairfield District Supervisor
Mr. Virgil R. Hazelett, P.E., County Manager
Mr. George T. Drumwright, Jr., Deputy County Manager for Community Services
Ms. Angela N. Harper, FAICP, Deputy County Manager for Special Services
Mr. Leon T. Johnson, Deputy County Manager for Administration
Mr. Robert K. Pinkerton, P.E., Deputy County Manager for Community Operations
Mr. Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager for Community Development
Mr. Barry R. Lawrence, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Mrs. Tanya B. Harding, Deputy Clerk to the Board
Mr. C. Michael Schnurman, Legislative Liaison
Mr. Joseph P. Rapisarda, Jr., County Attorney
Mrs. Tamra R. McKinney, Director of Public Relations & Media Services
Mr. Fred C. James, Media Specialist, Public Relations & Media Services
Mr. John A. Vithoulikas, Director of Finance
Mr. Ralph J. Emerson, Jr., Director of Planning
Mr. David D. O'Kelly, Jr., Assistant Director, Department of Planning
Ms. Leslie A. News, Principal Planner
Mr. Edward L. Priestas, Director of Public Works
Mr. Michael A. Jennings, Traffic Engineer
Mr. Jon B. Tracy, Director of Real Property
Mr. Steve Price, Assistant Director of Real Property
Mrs. Karen K. Mier, Director of Recreation and Parks
Mr. Neil Luther, Assistant Director of Recreation and Parks
Mr. Steve Hart, Capital Projects Manager, Recreation and Parks
Mr. John F. Berry, President and CEO, Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau
Ms. Melodie N. Martin, Staff Writer, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*
Mr. Tom Lappas, Publisher/Editor, *Henrico Citizen*

Mr. Hazelett recognized Mr. Berry, who thanked the Board for its support of the Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau (RMCVB) during 2008 and noted that the organization had achieved several major milestones under Mr. Kaechele's leadership as RMCVB Chairman. Mr. Berry pointed out that RMCVB was celebrating its 25th anniversary and served as a model for other convention and tourism bureaus in Virginia and the mid-Atlantic region. He presented a small gift to the members of the Board and key staff, a pewter "Richmond cup" commemorating RMCVB's 25th anniversary. He thanked the Board for all it does for the County, the Richmond metropolitan region, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. Kaechele credited Mr. Berry with RMCVB's successful year and thanked him for doing a great job.

Mr. Hazelett asked the Board if they had any questions for Mr. Berry. Mr. Donati asked about the status of hotel tax revenues generated in Henrico. Mr. Berry provided some brief statistics and noted that there were new hotel properties in the County. In response to a question from Mr. Thornton, Mr. Berry acknowledged that spiking gasoline prices earlier in the year had hurt business travel and tourism but that the region had held its own in terms of conventions. He advised that the new Bass Pro Shop off of I-295 in Hanover County had served as a tourism magnet since opening on October 1.

Mr. Thornton asked if Mr. Berry had any suggestions as to how the region can improve its tourism efforts. Mr. Berry referred to several recent enhancements, including new signage at Richmond International Airport promoting local businesses and attractions. He responded to a comment by Mrs. O'Bannon regarding a phone call she had received earlier in the day relating to Civil War trails. Mr. Berry confirmed for Mr. Kaechele that approximately 50 percent of the hotels in the region were already sold out for the Presidential Inauguration. Mr. Hazelett advised that the County was considering using the Glenside Drive Park and Ride lot to shuttle people to the Staples Mill Road Amtrak station for the Inauguration. Mr. Berry commented further on transportation logistics for the Inauguration and complimented the Board on its commitment to regional cooperation.

Mr. Kaechele thanked Mr. Berry for the gifts and for the update. Mr. Hazelett stated that since it was now past 5:15 p.m. the Board would move into the scheduled item on the agenda.

Twin Hickory Park Revised Master Plan and Western Maintenance Facility

Mr. Hazelett recognized Mr. O'Kelly, who reviewed the proposed plan of development (POD) for the Twin Hickory Park Revised Master Plan and Western Maintenance Facility (see enclosed copy of slide presentation). Mr. O'Kelly discussed site location and access; explained features identified on the revised master plan; and addressed the layout, elevations, and design of the proposed maintenance facility. Mr. Kaechele remarked that some citizens had expressed concerns regarding the location of the maintenance facility and that the Department of Planning and

Division of Recreation and Parks had worked with the community to alleviate these concerns by proposing additional buffering of the facility to make it less visible from Shady Grove Road. Mr. O'Kelly clarified for Mr. Donati how the maintenance facility would be used.

Mr. Luther reviewed slides of the park's December 1999 approved master plan and the revised master plan. He noted that the park would largely have passive uses given the site's topography and the existence of wetlands on the site. He also discussed the amenities planned for the park and pointed out that the former HHHunt Twin Hickory sales center on the site had been turned over to the County. In response to questions from Mr. Kaechele, Mr. Luther clarified that the original park site contained 47 acres but that the County had purchased an additional 1.8 acres for a net of 48.5 acres; where wetlands were located on the site; that the proposed 5,700 square foot Western Maintenance Facility was the same size as the Woodman Road Maintenance Facility; and that the new maintenance facility would support County operations from I-295 west, including service to 125 athletic fields, 25 parks, and 19 school sites. In response to further questions from Mr. Kaechele, Mr. Luther stated that the park had been approved for funding in the 2005 bond referendum and was scheduled to open in 2011 and that the Western Maintenance Facility would be funded through the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). In response to another question from Mr. Kaechele, Mr. Hazelett clarified that the POD for the proposed maintenance facility will come directly to the Board for approval on January 27, 2009 rather than first going to the Planning Commission since the facility will be public.

After pointing out that some citizens had expressed concerns that the proposed maintenance facility would increase traffic on Shady Grove Road, Mr. Kaechele inquired as to whether any future improvements to the road

were planned. Mr. Priestas responded that although no funding is currently available for this purpose, improvements have previously been made to this section of Shady Grove Road.

Mr. Kaechele invited questions from other members of the Board. In response to a question from Mr. Glover, Mr. Luther stated that the Western Maintenance Facility will not have any gasoline pumps and that County maintenance vehicles will continue to be fueled at the Woodman Road Maintenance Facility. In response to a question from Mr. Kaechele, Mr. Luther noted that the new facility will generate a minimal level of traffic and staff has projected the new facility will add approximately 65 trips per day to the 3,400 vehicles per day currently travelling along this section of Shady Grove Road. Mr. Jennings also commented on these projections. Mr. Hazelett and Mr. Luther clarified for Mrs. O'Bannon the field maintenance responsibilities of the Division of Recreation and Parks as opposed to the right-of-way maintenance responsibilities of the Department of Public Works. Mr. Luther remarked that detailed responses to transportation related questions raised by citizens had been posted on the Division's web site.

In response to another question by Mr. Kaechele, Mr. Luther cited the total acreage and number of facilities that will be maintained by the Western Maintenance Facility crew versus the Woodman Road Maintenance Facility crew. In response to a question from Mr. Glover, Mrs. Mier stated that the economic impact of the County's athletic fields during the past year had been \$30 million and that the Division of Recreation and Parks currently maintains 3,690 acres of parkland.

Mr. Hazelett briefly reviewed items on the evening's regular meeting agenda. He noted that applicants had requested deferrals for two of the zoning cases and that staff had prepared a script for the Board to follow in considering an amendment to the proposed resolution authorizing the County's acquisition of property at 1303 Mormac Road. Mr. Hazelett reminded Board members they would

be wearing Santa Claus caps at the meeting during a presentation by the County Government Christmas Mother to the Henrico Christmas Mother, Mrs. Karen W. Moore.

Mr. Rapisarda reminded Mr. Hazelett that an ordinance authorizing increased taxicab rates was among the items on the evening's public hearing agenda. Mr. Hazelett remarked that the governing bodies in Chesterfield and Hanover Counties as well as the City of Richmond would be acting on an identical ordinance, which was scheduled to take effect in all four jurisdictions on January 1, 2009. In response to a question from Mr. Thornton, Mr. Hazelett explained how this proposed ordinance had originated and been brought forward for the County's consideration. Mr. Rapisarda referred to the anticipated schedule for adoption of this ordinance in the other three localities. Mr. Kaechele commented that taxicab operators in the region had rejected a fuel surcharge and expressed a preference for a rate increase. Mrs. O'Bannon asked how taxicab rates in the local metropolitan region compare with those in other areas of the nation. Mr. Hazelett responded that staff did not have that information readily available but could get back to her and the Board with that information.

The Board recessed for dinner at 5:42 p.m. and reconvened briefly at 6:37 p.m. to recognize three members of the cafeteria staff for their hard work and wonderful service to the Board during the past year. Mr. Kaechele recognized and thanked Mrs. Abbey Dowler, Mrs. Sharlene Ladd, and Ms. Michelle Chambers and presented each of them with a gift from the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.


Chairman, Henrico County Board of Supervisors