

**COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
September 10, 2013**

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2013, at 4:30 p.m., in the County Manager's Conference Room, Administration Building, Henrico County Government Center, Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, Henrico, Virginia.

Members of the Board Present:

David A. Kaechele, Chairman, Three Chopt District
Patricia S. O'Bannon, Vice Chairman, Tuckahoe District
Richard W. Glover, Brookland District
Tyrone E. Nelson, Varina District
Frank J. Thornton, Fairfield District

Other Officials Present:

John A. Vithoukas, County Manager
Joseph P. Rapisarda, Jr., County Attorney
J. Thomas Tokarz II, Deputy County Attorney
Lee Ann Anderson, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Barry R. Lawrence, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board
Tanya B. Harding, Deputy Clerk to the Board/Administrative Assistant
Joseph P. Casey, Deputy County Manager for Administration
Timothy A. Foster, Deputy County Manager for Community Operations
Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager for Community Development
C. Michael Schnuman, Legislative Liaison
Wilbert J. (Bert) Childress, Technology Support Specialist, Manager's Office
Tamra R. McKimney, Director of Public Relations & Media Services
Paula G. Reid, Director of Human Resources

Mr. Kaechele called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Mr. Vithoukas briefly referred to the four items listed on this agenda and responded to a question from Mr. Kaechele regarding the meeting format.

Sports Tourism Update

Mr. Vithoukas recognized Neil Luther, Director of Recreation and Parks, who introduced Tourism Supervisor Dawn Miller and Sports Tourism Coordinator Keith Brown from the Division of Recreation and Parks staff. Mr. Luther also introduced two representatives of the Richmond Strikers who were in the audience, Executive Director Scott Turner and Director of

Tournaments. Chris Friant. Mr. Foster distributed two handouts, a copy of Mr. Luther's slide presentation and a brochure providing "fast facts" on the Division of Recreation and Parks. Mr. Luther shared a video clip produced by the Department of Public Relations & Media Services highlighting the County's sport tourism efforts. Mr. Vithoulkas noted that this video has aired on Henrico County Television (HCTV Channel 17) as a segment within the summer 2013 edition of *Inside Henrico*.

Mr. Luther began his slide presentation on this item by reviewing what sports tourism means to Henrico County in terms of tournaments, teams, participants, spectators, and economic impact. In response to a question from Mrs. O'Bannon, Mr. Luther advised that economic impact is determined from a formula that is generated by the Metropolitan Richmond Sports Backers and is driven by lodging, meals, and incidental spending. He also explained for Mr. Nelson how the multiplier used in this formula is determined.

Mr. Luther continued his presentation by reviewing statistics relating to Richmond region hotel room distribution and youth tournament and recreational field usage. Mr. Luther provided examples of sports complexes that have been developed by Montgomery County, Maryland, and Spotsylvania County, Virginia, through public-private partnerships, and confirmed for Mrs. O'Bannon that local schools have access to these facilities. Mr. Vithoulkas and Mr. Foster commented on the scope and scale of the Maryland SoccerPlex located in Montgomery County. The final slide presented by Mr. Luther depicted a proposed 16-field sports complex in Henrico on County-owned property adjoining Greenwood Road. As proposed, this complex would include on-site parking and a stadium that could accommodate National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)-sanctioned soccer events. Mr. Luther characterized this proposal as a possible way to meet the growing local demand for more soccer fields and to address the current shortage of athletic fields in the County. Staff will bring forward a paper for the Board's consideration at a future meeting to authorize a contract with CHA Sports in the amount of \$130,000. Under the contract, CHA Sports will prepare a master plan and assess costs for the development of Greenwood Park as a sports complex.

Following Mr. Luther's presentation, Mr. Vithoulkas responded to several questions from Mrs. O'Bannon concerning funding for the proposed sports complex and the feasibility of using fields there for high school lacrosse games. Mr. Luther clarified that the fields could be used for most sports other than baseball or softball. In response to a question from Mr. Kaechele, Mr. Luther reiterated the purpose of the proposed contract with CHA Sports. In response to a question from Mrs. O'Bannon, Mr. Vithoulkas and Mr. Luther explained how sports tourism and business travel complement one another in terms of Richmond region hotel and motel bookings.

Mr. Nelson stated that he believes the County needs to do a better job in providing information to the public about its sports tourism efforts. He also suggested that staff begin looking for a site in eastern Henrico for a sports complex to serve that area of the County. Mr. Vithoulkas pointed out that the County is just beginning its visioning process for sports tourism and also noted that Greenwood Park is centrally located between the Brookland and Fairfield magisterial districts. Mr. Thornton echoed Mr. Nelson's comments and stressed the importance of placing

parks in all areas of the County. Mr. Glover acknowledged the large number of hotel and motel room nights generated by the annual Jefferson Cup youth soccer tournament.

Proposed Change to the Alcohol Policy for Recreation and Parks Facilities

Mr. Vitoulkas recognized Mr. Luther, who delivered an oral presentation on this item. Mr. Luther advised that staff is seeking to address inconsistencies surrounding alcohol use policy and practice in County parks and in private rental situations within certain park facilities. Current policies allow the use of alcohol during rental events in 9 of the County's 14 recreation centers provided the renter secures an Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) banquet license and pays an additional security deposit. The Board adopted a resolution in 1986 establishing a general policy governing the use of County facilities. That policy prohibits alcohol in County facilities but specifically excludes parks. Later in 1986, the Board adopted a resolution establishing a policy and fee schedule governing the use of Belmont Recreation Center, which has served as a template for future policies adopted by the Board governing the County's other recreational facilities. Some of the policies, including the one for Belmont, allow alcoholic beverages to be served subject to the ABC banquet license and additional deposit. Approximately one-quarter of the private rental events booked at County facilities in FY 2013 included alcohol.

Aside from the inconsistency of alcohol being allowed at some facilities and not others, Mr. Luther shared a concern expressed for many years by the Division of Police that the County's current alcohol policy allows events to occur on County property where minors are placed in proximity to the alcohol. Although rentals at youth events require the presence of two off-duty Henrico police officers paid at the renter's expense, alcohol is not prohibited at youth events provided the renter pays the additional deposit and secures the ABC permit. Also, Henrico Police Division policy prohibits officers from working the interior portion of an "on premises" ABC-licensed facility while in an off-duty capacity. Furthermore, the designation for a "youth event" is self-reported by the applicant and staff members have observed rentals that are clearly youth-oriented even though the applicant did not identify them as such.

Mr. Luther noted that although the Division of Recreation and Parks has customarily prohibited alcohol in County parks there has not been a Board resolution supporting this practice. He clarified that staff's recommendation for a consistent standard regarding alcohol usage at County parks and facilities was not a reaction to any specific incident involving alcohol use or abuse in any park or rental setting but has been a matter of discussion for some time between his department and the Division of Police. Mr. Luther also pointed out that other localities within the region have restricted the use of alcohol in their parks and recreation facilities by action of their respective governing bodies. The Division of Recreation and Parks and the Division of Police are recommending a resolution, prepared by the County Attorney, prohibiting the use of alcohol in all Henrico County recreational facilities and parks, including private rentals where alcohol may currently be served. The resolution would allow police officers the flexibility to approach park patrons who are using alcohol and ask them to dispose of it immediately or be charged with trespassing. In order to honor pending reservations of County facilities that

currently allow the use of alcohol on premises, staff is recommending that the new policy take effect on July 1, 2014.

Mr. Luther and Mr. Foster responded to questions from Mrs. O'Bannon relating to whether other localities in the region still permit alcohol in enclosed facilities when served by licensed or approved catering companies that have obtained ABC licenses. She expressed concern that a blanket prohibition on alcohol at County recreation and parks facilities could reduce the demand for private use of those facilities. In response to a further question from Mrs. O'Bannon, Mr. Luther advised that the proposed resolution would not change the requirement that renters hire off-duty police officers for youth events held at County parks and recreation facilities. He and Maj. Carl Mueller from the Division of Police responded to a question from Mr. Kaechele regarding how the current alcohol policy limits police enforcement. Mr. Glover commented that the current policy is disadvantageous to both renters and the Division of Recreation and Parks staff because it puts them in the position of having to police situations involving the potential abuse of alcohol.

Hearing general agreement from the Board, Mr. Vithoukas indicated that staff will send the Board a follow-up letter with additional information on this matter and bring a resolution to the Board for its consideration at the September 24 regular meeting. Mrs. O'Bannon and Mr. Nelson asked Mr. Luther to provide more details regarding the policies of neighboring localities in addressing alcohol use at recreational facilities and parks.

VRS Hybrid Retirement Plan Update

Mr. Vithoukas reminded the Board that staff had made an initial presentation on the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) Hybrid Retirement Plan matter at its July 9 work session. He recognized Mrs. Reid, who narrated a slide presentation updating the Board on this matter. Mrs. Reid began her presentation by noting that no disability benefit is included in the VRS Hybrid Plan. The Virginia Local Disability Program (VLDP) has been established instead to provide short term and long term care for employees in the Hybrid Plan. Mrs. Reid reminded the Board that political subdivisions may opt out of VLDP and provide a comparable disability plan, which does not have to include a long term care component. The decision to opt out is irrevocable. General Government, Schools and the Economic Development Authority have requested and received an opt-out deadline extension to November 1. The County's Benefits Manager, Julia Sleeman, has been in contact with other localities and found that the only Virginia locality that has opted out to date is the City of Alexandria. The others are still reviewing options. Mrs. Reid responded to a question from Mrs. O'Bannon regarding Alexandria's reasons for opting out and also responded to a question from Mr. Kaechele concerning how coverage will be handled for employees in the Hybrid Plan in localities that have opted out of VLDP.

Mrs. Reid continued her presentation by advising the Board that County staff has tested the market for a VLDP-comparable short and long term disability program and has found that it is

feasible to offer a private plan comparable to VLDP. She reviewed the pros and cons for opting out.

Mrs. Reid concluded her presentation by sharing a timetable listing the Board's work sessions in regards to this matter as well as future actions by the Board, School Board, and Economic Development Authority on opt-out resolutions that will be necessary to carry out staff's recommendation. Mrs. Reid responded to a question from Mr. Kaechele relating to the projected costs of a private plan as compared to the costs of participating in VLDP. In response to questions and comments from Mrs. O'Bannon, Mr. Vitoulkas discussed the County's experience with Virginia Retirement System contribution rates. In response to a question from Mr. Kaechele, Mrs. Reid informed the Board that staff has already conducted a request for proposals for potential providers of a private plan that is comparable to VLDP and has lower rates. The consensus of the Board was to go forward with staff's recommendation, which will require the Board to act on an opt-out resolution at its October 22, 2013, regular meeting.

The Board recessed for dinner at 5:54 p.m. and reconvened at 6:05 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Thornton, seconded by Mr. Glover, the Board approved going into a closed meeting at 6:06 p.m. for consultation with the County Attorney pertaining to actual litigation styled *Parrish v. Hall*, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
David A. Kaechele	
Patricia S. O'Bannon	
Richard W. Glover	
Tyrone E. Nelson	
Frank J. Thornton	

On motion of Mr. Glover, seconded by Mrs. O'Bannon, the Board approved going out of the closed meeting at 6:47 p.m.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
David A. Kaechele	
Patricia S. O'Bannon	
Richard W. Glover	
Tyrone E. Nelson	
Frank J. Thornton	

On motion of Mrs. O'Bannon, seconded by Mr. Glover, the Board approved the attached Certificate of Closed Meeting.

The vote of the Board was as follows:


Aye

David A. Kaechele
Patricia S. O'Bannon
Richard W. Glover
Tyrone E. Nelson
Frank J. Thornton

Nay

Mr. Vithoukas reminded the Board that Governor Bob McDonnell is scheduled to visit Fire Station No. 2 on September 11 to meet with the County's first responders in commemoration of the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001. He also reminded the Board that the Freedom Flag Foundation will be hosting a commemorative event on the morning of September 11 at Douglas Freeman High School.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.


Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia