

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
November 26, 2019

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., in the Board Room, Administration Building, Henrico County Government Center, Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, Henrico, Virginia.

**Members of the Board Present:**

Tyrone E. Nelson, Chairman, Varina District  
Thomas M. Branin, Vice Chairman, Three Chopt District  
Patricia S. O'Bannon, Tuckahoe District  
Daniel J. Schmitt, Brookland District  
Frank J. Thornton, Fairfield District

**Other Officials Present:**

John A. Vithoukas, County Manager  
J. T. (Tom) Tokarz, Deputy County Attorney  
Barry R. Lawrence, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board  
Tanya B. Harding, CMC, Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant  
Timothy A. Foster, P.E., Deputy County Manager for Community Operations  
W. Brandon Hinton, Deputy County Manager for Administration  
Anthony E. McDowell, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety  
Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager for Community Development  
C. Michael Schnurman, Assistant to the County Manager for Intergovernmental Relations  
Benjamin A. Sheppard, Director of Public Relations & Media Services

Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Mr. Vithoukas briefly referred to the items listed on the special meeting agenda.

**Jefferson Cup Soccer Tournament Economic Impact Study**

Mr. Vithoukas recognized Neil Luther, Director of Recreation and Parks; Phillip Parker, Three Chopt District representative for the Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission; Chris Phelps, Brookland District representative for the commission; and Jack Berry, President and Chief Executive Officer of Richmond Region Tourism. He introduced the following representatives of the Richmond Strikers who were in attendance: Bob Nicholas, Secretary for the Executive Committee and Board of Directors; Jay Howell, Executive Director; and Chris Friant, Director of Club Operations. Mr. Nicholas distributed copies of the *2019 Richmond Strikers Jefferson Cup Economic Impact Report* conducted by faculty and staff from the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Customer Experience Lab and Survey and Research Laboratory. Mr. Howell noted this year's Jefferson Cup was held across four weekends in March. He referred to the survey's methodology, noting similar surveys were conducted in 2006 and 2013, and provided statistics on the 2019 tournament. In referring to other tournaments hosted by the Strikers, Mr. Howell characterized the Jefferson

Cup as the “crown jewel.” He directed the Board’s attention to several areas of the study, including quick facts relating to persons attending the tournament and respondent locations. Mr. Howell pointed out that tournament participants are looking for quality fields, nice hotels, and limited traffic congestion. During his presentation, Mr. Howell also focused on tournament fees and sponsorship impact, attendance estimates, respondent ratings of Richmond attractions, and respondents’ overall feelings about Richmond. He stated that the biggest takeaway from the survey is that other geographic areas wish to compete with the Strikers and that although the tournament has done well it could do better. Mr. Howell concluded his presentation by remarking that he is thankful for his and the Strikers’ relationship with the County.

Following his presentation, Mr. Howell and Mr. Friant responded to questions and comments from the Board. Mr. Friant explained for Mr. Schmitt how the Strikers use an app and site coordinators to communicate with coaches during tournament weekends regarding game cancellations or rescheduling. Mr. Schmitt voiced an interest in linking the Strikers app to a County app. Mr. Howell and Mr. Friant elaborated on field and facility allocation and usage in response to further questions from Mr. Schmitt and a question from Mr. Nelson. Mr. Schmitt expressed an interest in seeing specifics on where teams are staying during the Jefferson Cup. He also asked Mr. Friant about the geographic areas from which referees are brought in for the tournament. Mr. Thornton complimented the Strikers on the Jefferson Cup and thanked them for trying to reach more diverse audiences. He referred to a page in the report where respondents reported colleges or universities their family members have attended or plan to attend and offered his assistance in reaching out to colleges and universities that are unrepresented or underrepresented. Mr. Nelson expressed appreciation to the Strikers for the success of the tournaments they host in Henrico and noted the County is excited to be adding to its catalogue of hotels and soccer fields.

### **Indoor Sports and Convocation Center Update**

Mr. Vithoulkas recognized Mr. Luther and Bob Hargett, principal and co-founder of Rebkee. Mr. Luther narrated a slide presentation on this item. He began by providing a timeline of Board actions related to the indoor sports and convocation center project, which will be developed through the Public-Private Education and Infrastructure Act (PPEA). At its November 12 regular meeting, the Board approved an authorization to proceed to negotiations with Rebkee and introduced a \$50 million budget amendment to support the project. Mr. Luther noted the Board would hold a public hearing at its November 26 regular meeting on the proposed budget amendment for the project and at the same meeting consider an agreement to acquire approximately 25 acres at Virginia Center Commons for the project. It is anticipated that the Board will consider a comprehensive project agreement to include final building design, a guaranteed maximum price for construction, and an operator agreement by the end of the first quarter of 2020.

Mr. Luther continued his presentation by showing an aerial photograph of the subject site and several diagrams, including a concept plan highlighting the subject parcel, onsite parking, and the road network and schematic plans for the indoor complex. He also showed photographs of the center court setup at VCU’s Siegel Center; a high school graduation ceremony at the Siegel Center; and two first floor plan options for the Henrico indoor sports facility, one with 12 courts and without a track and the other with eight courts and a track. Mr. Luther advised the Board that an indoor track would add \$8 to \$12 million to the cost of the project, depending upon whether the track is hydraulically banked. He concluded his

slide presentation by sharing photographs of a high-end collegiate indoor track facility and a diagram of a 285,000-square-foot indoor sports facility in Virginia Beach that includes a 200 meter, hydraulically banked track. Mr. Luther reminded the Board that the Henrico project's estimated cost had been reduced by approximately \$8 million because of the existing infrastructure on the Virginia Center Commons site.

Following his presentation, Mr. Luther responded to questions from the Board. In response to questions from Mrs. O'Bannon, Mr. Schmitt elaborated on the proposed layout of the future Henrico facility. In response to questions from Mr. Branin, Mr. Luther commented on the costs and logistical challenges of housing an indoor track and courts in the same building, especially if the track is hydraulically banked. In response to questions from Mr. Branin, Mr. Luther expounded on parking plans for the Henrico facility; the proposed location of the team entrance and stage load-in; future ownership of the site's ring road; and the proposed facility's capacity for high school graduations, which is estimated to be about 4,000.

Mr. Thornton noted the Board has received calls and correspondence from many residents favoring an indoor track facility. He acknowledged that financial constraints would make it difficult to include an indoor track initially in Henrico's indoor sports facility but suggested it could be added during a second phase of the project. Mr. Nelson concurred with this suggestion. Mr. Vithoulkas and Mr. Luther confirmed that there is sufficient space on the subject site to accommodate an indoor track in a separate facility. Mr. Luther advised the Board that there are more than 600 indoor track facilities across the United States but fewer than 20 of these are public. Most of those facilities are associated with colleges and universities. Mr. Vithoulkas pointed out an indoor aquatic facility at the Eastern Henrico Recreation Center is being added as a second phase of that project. Mr. Thornton also asked for assurances that this project will provide opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses and have an inclusive workforce that will set an example for the region. Mr. Vithoulkas informed the Board that staff will consider the Board's feedback on project-related issues such as seating and parking. He commented on the two project-related agenda items that the Board would be considering during the 7:00 p.m. meeting.

On motion of Mr. Thornton, seconded by Mr. Schmitt, the Board approved going into a closed meeting at 6:39 p.m. for Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Specific Legal Matters Requiring the Provision of Legal Advice by Such Counsel Pertaining to a Personal Injury Claim by Charles Jasper, Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as Amended.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Aye

Nay

Tyrone E. Nelson  
Thomas M. Branin  
Patricia S. O'Bannon  
Daniel J. Schmitt  
Frank J. Thornton

On motion of Mr. Branin, seconded by Mrs. O'Bannon, the Board approved going out of the Closed Meeting at 6:46 p.m.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Aye

Nay

Tyrone E. Nelson  
Thomas M. Branin  
Patricia S. O'Bannon  
Daniel J. Schmitt  
Frank J. Thornton

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

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Aye

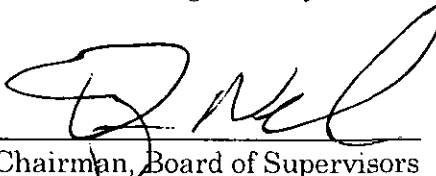
Nay

Tyrone E. Nelson  
Thomas M. Branin  
Patricia S. O'Bannon  
Daniel J. Schmitt  
Frank J. Thornton

#### **Regular Meeting Agenda Items**

Mr. Vithoulkas noted the County has received many calls and emails requesting that the Board take an affirmative position on Henrico becoming a Second Amendment sanctuary. He further noted the Board has not taken a position during the past several decades on legislation that affects individual citizen rights. Mr. Tokarz clarified that the Board has on limited occasions acted on resolutions that address state or federal issues affecting Henrico County government. Mr. Vithoulkas recommended that the Board move the public comment period in front of the general agenda and allow citizens an opportunity to address the Board for 30 minutes on the Second Amendment sanctuary issue. He advised the Board that the County Attorney's Office had provided Mr. Nelson with a prepared statement to read at the beginning of the public comment period. In the interest of time and with the Board's concurrence, Mr. Vithoulkas dispensed with review of the regular meeting agenda items.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Henrico County, Virginia