

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
December 10, 2019

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., at Belmont Recreation Center, 1600 Hilliard Road, Henrico, Virginia 23228.

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. Vithoulkas, 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
Benjamin A. Sheppard, Director of Public Relations & Media Services

Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. He explained the general format for special meeting work sessions is to provide information to the Board and not receive public comments.

ChamberRVA Update

Mr. Vithoulkas introduced Brian Anderson, who replaced Kim Sheeler as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ChamberRVA on September 30. Mr. Anderson previously served as President and CEO of the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce, led the Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce, chaired the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners, spent 18 years in the beverage industry with Coca-Cola and Anheuser-Bush, and served as a military intelligence officer. Mr. Anderson noted that he was excited to be in the Richmond region and pointed out the Chamber is the main link between business and government. He stated the Chamber has an obligation to help bring capital and vision to the private sector. Mr. Anderson named some of the Chamber's partners in addition to local governments, including the Greater Richmond Partnership, Smart Beginnings, and institutions of higher education in the region. He characterized Mr. Vithoulkas as an excellent administrator.

In response to a question from Mr. Branin, Mr. Anderson revealed that he lives in the Midlothian area of Chesterfield County but plans to spend a lot of money in Henrico. In response to a question from Mr. Nelson, Mr. Anderson identified two of his priorities for the coming year as economic development and early childhood development. Mr. Anderson expressed the hope that he can help elevate strategic planning across the region and develop a scorecard as to how the region wishes to grow and prosper. In response to a question from Mr. Thornton regarding ways to fuse smaller and larger localities, Mr. Anderson said it is important for the region to meet the needs of its stakeholders and listen to the community. Mr. Vithoukaskas reminded the Board of the County's working relationship with the Chamber and mentioned how the Chamber has assisted with workforce and education issues.

Belmont Golf Course Update

Mr. Vithoukaskas announced a proposal to renovate, maintain, and operate the current Belmont Golf Course site in accordance with a long-term plan for Belmont that makes sense from both a recreational and financial sense. He recognized the co-founders of First Tee of Richmond, Bobby Ukrop and Fred Tattersall, who are emeritus members of the organization's board of directors, and he also introduced the organization's Chief Executive Officer, Brent Schneider. Mr. Vithoukaskas then recognized Neil Luther, Director of Recreation and Parks, who thanked the Board and Mr. Vithoukaskas for their direction and leadership while the Division of Recreation and Parks staff worked on a long-term plan for Belmont and held discussions with First Tee. Mr. Luther pointed out that the County heard loudly from the community that the golf course at Belmont is a true resource that should be improved rather than removed. He thanked Mr. Thornton and Mr. Schmitt for their support and attendance at numerous community meetings on the future of Belmont Golf Course. Mr. Luther noted that the plan for Belmont is to attract a more expansive and inclusive demographic profile and to place a special emphasis on youth. He explained the procurement process whereby the County solicited Requests for Proposals for a partnership with the County. First Tee, a not-for-profit organization, was selected as the County's partner for this project and is entering into a 20-year management agreement with the County. The organization will spend a minimum of \$3.25 million towards the capital costs of course renovation. Although the County will not be taking any of the revenues from the course's future operations, it will allocate \$750,000 towards renovation costs. The plan is for a 12-hole championship course with a six-hole, par-three course, a short-game practice area, a driving range, and a putting course. First Tee will also renovate the pro shop and concession facilities and will work with Love Golf Design on architectural aspects of the course.

Mr. Luther recognized Mr. Thornton, who delivered remarks regarding the County's partnership with First Tee. Mr. Thornton thanked everyone who participated and offered their thoughts during a series of community meetings that were held to gather input on the future of Belmont. Mr. Thornton emphasized that under the proposed agreement, the County will continue to own Belmont as it has done since 1977 and Belmont will remain a public golf course. One of the most exciting aspects of the partnership is that First Tee will use golf at Belmont to teach and reinforce values like honesty and integrity that are inherent in the game. Mr. Thornton applauded First Tee for its commitment to strengthening young minds, bodies, and character and briefly reflected on the history of Belmont, which is a major landmark in Lakeside.

Mr. Thornton recognized Mr. Schmitt, who also offered remarks. Mr. Schmitt pointed out that the County explored various options for the Belmont property and asked the community

to tell the County what it wanted to see. The proposal will deliver much-needed renovations to the course and continue to challenge skilled golfers as well as offer programs to attract the next generation of players. Also, the proposal is sustainable and financially sound for taxpayers. Mr. Schmitt applauded County staff for its creativity in finding a solution that works for the entire community. In thanking First Tee for recognizing this opportunity for a partnership with the County, Mr. Schmitt referred to First Tee's strong record of operating golf facilities in the region and working with students of Henrico County Public Schools.

Mr. Schmitt recognized Ben Pace, Chair of the First Tee Board of Directors. Mr. Pace recognized the other members of the Board of Directors who were present. He pointed out that he is a County resident. Mr. Pace thanked everyone for making this partnership possible, including the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Vithoukas, Mr. Luther, Mr. Schneider, the First Tee staff and board of directors, Mr. Ukrop, Mr. Tattersall, Board of Directors member Jon Hottinger, and First Tee donors and volunteers. He explained why First Tee is a good fit for Belmont and how the partnership checks every box in First Tee's strategic plan. Mr. Pace welcomed the opportunity to expose children to golf and first-rate golfing facilities and predicted the renovated Belmont Golf Course site will be a game changer for the game of golf in Henrico.

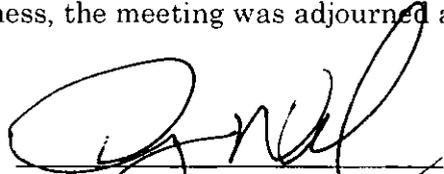
Mr. Pace introduced Mr. Schneider, who thanked Mr. Luther and his team at the Division of Recreation and Parks. Mr. Schneider discussed how the partnership will align with First Tee's vision and transform Belmont. He reiterated the planned renovations to Belmont Golf Course, which are scheduled to be completed in time for a grand re-opening in the spring of 2021. At Mr. Schmitt's request, Mr. Schneider elaborated on First Tee's commitment to school children, including providing a life skills program, hosting high school golf teams, and partnering with the Police Athletic League. Mr. Thornton asked Mr. Schneider to touch on First Tee's relationship with the community and how it will allay fears in the community about the future of Belmont Golf Course. In response to questions from Mr. Branin, Mr. Schneider projected the range of future green fees at Belmont and alluded to plans for renovating the pro shop. He clarified that Belmont Recreation Center and the existing parking lot will remain as is. Mr. Schneider explained for Mr. Thornton the golfing opportunities that will be available once the Belmont site is renovated. He discussed First Tee's marketing strategy and golf's changing demographics in response to a question from Mr. Nelson. Mr. Schneider reiterated First Tee's capital investment in Belmont in response to a question from Mrs. O'Bannon. He assured Mr. Thornton that First Tee will place importance on accommodating and attracting senior citizens, including the establishment of golf leagues. Mr. Schmitt advised Mr. Schneider that among the major concerns he and Mr. Thornton heard at the community meetings they attended are the current condition of the golf course's bunkers, which are in need of repair. He remarked that he is pleased First Tee intends to address this concern in the design of the renovated course. Mr. Schmitt stated that he is also encouraged that First Tee plans to work with a citizens' advisory council to develop youth and adult initiatives, explore ways to accommodate traditional 18-hole golfers, and review enhancements to the Belmont site such as walking paths, improved concession facilities, and practice facilities. Mr. Schmitt once again thanked Mr. Luther, Mr. Thornton, constituents, and First Tee for their work on this project.

Mr. Nelson pointed out that there was an item on the Board's agenda for the 7:00 p.m. regular meeting to authorize a deed of lease and operation and maintenance agreement for Belmont Golf Course. He thanked Mr. Luther and his staff, Mr. Thornton, Mr. Schmitt, and First Tee for their efforts and noted the Board was excited about this new partnership.

Regular Meeting Agenda Items

The Board recessed for dinner at 6:20 p.m. and reconvened at 6:28 p.m. Mr. Vithoukaskas briefly reviewed the non-land use public hearing items and general agenda items on the agenda for the 7:00 p.m. regular meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.



Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Henrico County, Virginia