

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
September 8, 2020

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 5:00 p.m., at 3201 Watts Lane Henrico, VA 23223.

**Members of the Board Present:**

Daniel J. Schmitt, Vice-Chairman, Brookland District  
Tyrone E. Nelson, Varina District  
Patricia S. O'Bannon, Tuckahoe District  
Frank J. Thornton, Fairfield District

**Member of the Board Absent:**

Thomas M. Branin, Chairman, Three Chopt District

**Other Officials Present:**

John A. Vithoukas, County Manager  
Dr. Amy E. Cashwell, Superintendent  
J.T. (Tom) Tokarz, County Attorney  
Tanya Brackett Harding, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board  
Monica L. Smith-Callahan, Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs  
W. Brandon Hinton, Deputy County Manager for Administration  
Anthony E. McDowell, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety  
Steven J. Yob, P.E., Deputy County Manager for Community Operations  
Cari M. Tretina, Assistant to the County Manager/Chief of Staff  
Benjamin A. Sheppard, Director of Public Relations  
Edwin C. (Neil) Luther, Director of Recreation and Parks  
Roscoe D. Cooper, III, Chair, School Board, Fairfield District  
Alicia S. Atkins, School Board, Varina District

Tim Joyce, President and CEO of Greater Richmond YMCA, welcomed everyone to the Grand Opening of the Henrico YMCA Aquatic Center. He thanked the Board of Supervisors and County Manager for their support as well as Timmons Group and Moseley Architects for the beautiful work on the center. Mr. Joyce stated the 20,000 square-foot facility will feature an eight-lane 25-yard pool, a family spray area, and a warm-water instructional pool and water slide. Reverend Dr. Patricia Gould-Champ offered the invocation.

Gordon Fruetel, Board Chair for the Greater Richmond YMCA, expressed his excitement about the opening.

Mr. Thornton thanked everyone for attending the opening of the Aquatic Center and noted the importance of persistence and partnership. He stated that although he was unsuccessful when he tried to get a pool in the Eastern Recreation Center, he remembered that his

grandmother used to tell him “if you can’t have the whole loaf of bread, get a half.” Mr. Thornton encouraged everyone not to give up and to keep pushing ahead.

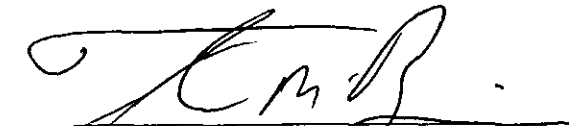
Mr. Vithoukias reminded attendees that the facility’s groundbreaking happened 18 months ago, and the facility was opening despite the obstacles of COVID-19. He thanked the YMCA for its partnership and County staff, specifically Recreation and Parks Director Neil Luther and his employees, Deputy County Manager Brandon Hinton, County Attorney Tom Tokarz, and Economic Development Authority Director Anthony Romanello.

Mr. Vithoukias noted the idea for the center came from a letter to Mr. Thornton from a young man asking for a place to play with friends after school. Mr. Thornton set his sights on the Eastern Recreation Center and went on to wanting to teach every child in Henrico how to swim. Mr. Vithoukias stated the Aquatic Center will offer free swimming lessons to all Henrico second graders who attend Title I schools in an effort to help make Henrico County drown proof.

Mr. Vithoukias announced that the Board of Supervisors had agreed that the new facility will be known as the Frank J. Thornton YMCA Aquatic Center, and Mr. Thornton expressed his appreciation for the honor.

Mr. Vithoukias was joined by the members of the Board of Supervisors, Dr. Cashwell, School Board members Roscoe Cooper and Alicia Atkins, and YMCA officials in cutting the ribbon for the new facility.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.



Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Henrico County, Virginia