

## ROANOKE VOYAGES CORRIDOR COMMITTEE

- Call to Order** The **Roanoke Voyages Corridor Committee** met on Thursday, **April 22, 2010** at 9:50 AM in the Executive Director's office at Roanoke Island Festival Park. Voting members present: Elmer Midgett, Chair; Rolf Blizzard, RIC Chair (late arrival); Moncie "Punk" Daniels; Malcolm Fearing; Hannon Fry, Town of Manteo designee; Jerry Jennings, NCDOT Secretary designee; Grayson Kelley, Attorney General designee; and Fountain Odom. Non-voting members present: Valerie Bateman, RIC Counsel. Commission members present: Linda Carlisle, NCDCR Secretary. Also present: Mike Kelly, Dominion Power; and Travis Taylor, Dominion Power. Staff present: Kim Sawyer, Acting Executive Director of Roanoke Island Festival Park; and Andrea Hanganu, Administrative Assistant. Absent: Tom Brooks; Warren Judge; Angel Khoury; and Carl Vestal, NCDOT Landscape Division.
- Welcome** Chairman Elmer Midgett welcomed all in attendance.
- Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes** Chairman Midgett noted that the agenda belongs to the chairman and would not be adopted. Punk Daniels, along with Chairman Midgett, noted problems opening some attachments on antiquated personal computers emailed prior to meetings. On motion by Fountain Odom and second by Malcolm Fearing, the minutes for January 29, 2010 were approved by consensus.
- Old Business**  
Underground Utilities Along Corridor  
Chairman Midgett reported that underground utilities along the Corridor remains on the agenda as a continual reminder at the request of Fountain Odom. Mr. Odom expressed the desire for inclusion of the agenda item for the next several years in order to see the south end of the Corridor looking comparable to the north end with inclusion of utilities underground as well as additional live oaks plantings, etc.
- New Business**  
(Dominion Power Tree Trimming)  
*Mike Kelly*  
Chairman Midgett reported that Dominion Power representatives present had applied to trim some along the Corridor. Dominion Distribution Forestry Coordinator Mike Kelly stated that in their three-year cycle they have returned to work around wires on the Corridor. Mr. Kelly provided additional details of Dominion Power's intended work as follows:
- Great care will be taken to trim according to ANSI standards.
  - Natural and lateral tree trimming methods are used; tree health is kept in perspective.
  - They will mat in and mat out to access trees so that rutting of grassy areas will not occur or will do the least possible amount of damage.
  - Any resulting damage will be fixed to RVCC specifications.
- Malcolm Fearing agreed to communicate with Mike Kelly specific locations in Wanchese, North Carolina that Dominion had worked in but had not picked up vegetation cuttings.
- Upon request by Malcolm Fearing, Mike Kelly provided further explanation of ANSI standards.
- Malcolm Fearing suggested that Mike Kelly and all others involved in utility trimming get a copy and become familiar with the *RVCC Regulations and Standards* which specifically addresses utility trimming (pp. 16-18). Mr. Fearing requested the need for further understanding of p. 18, (5).
- Discussion followed regarding differing opinions on the need to cut through centers of trees. Malcolm Fearing noted trees were substantially higher than lines in front of Aldridge, Seawell, Spence & Felthousen, LLP near the library. Mike Kelly clarified that Dominion is only concerned with power lines which are generally above the Crepe Myrtles and not concerned with telephone lines. Mr. Kelly stated their area to cover is around four conductors, and only minimal trimming is necessary.

\* RIC Chairman Rolf Blizzard joined the meeting. \*

Following discussion the committee agreed by consensus for Chairman Midgett to proceed to personally work with Dominion Power representatives regarding the general tree cutting and to ensure the minimum necessary trimming in addition to clean up. Chairman Midgett noted that he will work with Dominion on areas of concern and issue a written Certificate of Appropriateness (COA). Mike Kelly agreed, upon request by Mr. Fearing, to pick up all vegetation cuttings. Mr. Kelly agreed to leave all areas as they found them as much as possible.

Jerry Jennings agreed to follow up with Chairman Midgett on the status of NCDOT work in regard to the Crepe Myrtles to try to coordinate any work they have planned in pruning and planting as well as with work that Dominion proposes.

Mike Kelly provided his mobile phone number and agreed to leave business cards at the RIFP Administration front desk.

\* Mike Kelly and Travis Taylor were excused from the meeting. \*

General Cutting  
for Businesses

Chairman Midgett provided a report regarding general cutting for businesses around signs, noting that numerous people are putting up signs along the Corridor and have requested trimming around signs. He said general cutting for businesses around signs will have to be approached individually.

Discussion followed regarding the committee's pleasure about trimming around signs. Chairman Midgett explained that trimming dealt with inability to see signs from the road not providing a large line of sight. He noted the desire of the RVCC to be friendly and understanding but not taken advantage of.

By consensus the committee agreed for Chairman Midgett to proceed in working with individuals regarding requests for general cuttings around signs. Malcolm Fearing noted the need for consistency in all committee matters—what is done for one should be done for all.

Political Signs  
*Elmer Midgett*  
(Action Item)

Chairman Midgett provided a report regarding political signs, noting the following:

- Unlike the Town and County, RVCC cannot stay away from political signs since it is in its regulations.
- RVCC regulations for primary and general elections state political signs can be put out 14 days prior.
- RVCC regulations do not address early voting.
- Determination for 2010 early voting is that another 14 days be provided.

Discussion followed regarding the pleasure of the committee for 2011 political signs and early voting, with the following being noted:

- RIC Counsel Valerie Bateman expressed the need to amend the regulation for the sake of consistency, noting that clean-up of other regulation items is necessary.
- Malcolm Fearing pointed out the need to address special called elections (sanctioned elections) as well.
- Grayson Kelly stated that it would be consistent to amend the regulation and include early voting for 14 days ahead of the early election poll voting.

*Motion*

Malcolm Fearing made a motion to amend the *RVCC Regulations and Standards* to include language indicating signs can be put out 14 days ahead of early voting; in essence, there would be approximately 28 days to get signs out for early voting.

Valerie Bateman agreed to draw up new language to amend the regulations which would include 14 days ahead of early voting and special voting, prior to the date on which voting begins. Ms. Bateman noted that current language already states signs must come down the day after the election. Chairman Midgett said, as Corridor Administrator, he (or any other Corridor Administrator) will ride the Corridor the day after elections to ensure signs have been taken down; if signs are still up, those parties will be told not to ask to put up signs the following year. Fountain Odom seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion carried by unanimous vote. Chairman Midgett agreed to put the vote before the

*Vote*

full Commission at the April 23, 2010 meeting.

**Reports**  
(Community  
Center  
Intersection  
Work &  
Wellness Park)

Malcolm Fearing provided an update regarding the Community Center work at the intersection (*Old Business*) as follows:

- RVCC had voted to have discussions with the Community Center. Fountain Odom had requested inclusion of a heritage grape arbor of cuttings from the original mother vine at the corner.
- As Chairman of the Community Center Board, he withdrew as liaison to this committee as a result of ethics standards.
- Community Center Committee to meet April 30, 2010 regarding planning a wellness park at the south side of the Center. Conceptual plan has been approved by the Dare County Board of Commissioners.
- Description of plan details of property.
- Vegetation to be included to enhance the County property visible from the highway.
- Fountain Odom had offered to be liaison to this committee due to the potential conflict of Mr. Fearing.

Discussion followed regarding whether Mr. Fearing could be liaison to the RVCC, as the current Community Center Board Chairman. Fountain Odom said Mr. Fearing could be the liaison on behalf of the RVCC. Valerie Bateman added that Mr. Fearing could be the liaison but could not vote on items coming before this committee that would benefit/affect the Community Center; she requested Mr. Fearing to review his letter from the State Ethics Commission. DCR Secretary Linda Carlisle added that because there is a potential for conflict does not mean one cannot serve; one would need to recuse oneself from matters where there would be an interconnection between two entities.

Upon committee consensus that such was permissible, Malcolm Fearing agreed to continue to act as liaison to the RVCC from the Community Center Board.

(Town of  
Manteo Rain  
Garden)

Chairman Midgett provided an update regarding the Town of Manteo's Rain Garden project, reporting the following:

- Project has repeatedly been off and on.
- Funding promised by different groups was never secured but finally did come through.
- Town had initiated conversations with the RVCC about a COA but never followed through.
- Several committee members have reviewed the plans.
- His work with the Town has been going well and will continue. He had hoped to have the COA issued by now but had to address other things. He anticipates issuing a COA for the project by the end of the week.
- RVCC will request certain things.
- Potential vandalism is a concern that the Town must address rather than the RVCC.

Discussion followed regarding the Rain Garden project, with the following being noted:

- Plan includes desired vegetative buffers.
- Town wrote the ordinances about trees and vegetation, so they are likely to put back what they remove.
- Importance of working with the Town to make progress; was an honest error regarding lack of COA.
- Location across from R.D. Sawyer at end of canal.
- Entire project will not be in jurisdiction of RVCC: is only 100 feet from center line; DOT has the first 50 feet, and RVCC has the next 50 feet; portion of a pump included is high tech.

**Committee  
Member  
Comments**

Kim Sawyer thanked Chairman Midgett (and his spouse for tracking him down) for his work and responsiveness with community members and staff along with staying on top of issues. Committee members expressed agreement.

**Commission  
Recommendations**

One Commission recommendation was previously noted.

**Announcements**

The next meeting of the Roanoke Voyages Corridor Committee will be Friday, July 23, 2010 at 9:45 AM.

**Adjournment** With no further business and on motion by Malcolm Fearing and second by Fountain Odom, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 AM.

Minutes submitted by: Andrea Hanganu, Administrative Assistant

Upon a vote by the Roanoke Voyages Corridor Committee, approved by:

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Angel Khoury, Secretary, Roanoke Island Commission