

ROANOKE VOYAGES CORRIDOR COMMITTEE

- Call to Order** The **Roanoke Voyages Corridor Committee** met on Thursday, **October 15, 2009** at 9:03 AM in the Executive Director's office at Roanoke Island Festival Park. Voting members present: Elmer Midgett, Chair; Malcolm Fearing; Grayson Kelley, Attorney General designee; and Fountain Odom. Commission members present: Tom Brooks. Also present: Bettie Blanchard; John Gilliam; Bonnie Hudgins; Jim Snyder; and Kathy Sparrow. Staff present: Kim Sawyer, Acting Executive Director of Roanoke Island Festival Park; and Andrea Hanganu, Administrative Assistant. Absent: Valerie Bateman, Counsel; Rolf Blizzard, RIC Chair; Angel Khoury; and Carl Vestal, NCDOT Landscape Division.
- Welcome** Chairman Midgett welcomed all in attendance and announced his appointment as the new RVCC Chair by RIC Chair Rolf Blizzard.
- Public Comments** Chairman Midgett opened the floor for public comments. The following introduced themselves: Kathy Sparrow, frequent rider of the bike path; John Gilliam, Outer Banks Marathon; and Jim Snyder, Outer Banks Sporting Events.
- OBX Marathon** John Gilliam reported that the Outer Banks Marathon is preparing to come to the Town of Manteo and his group will decorate November 4-5, 2009. Mr. Gilliam reviewed a handout (filed as an attachment in the official Report Book) detailing signs and flags to be put up, along with reviewing locations and duration of placement. Chairman Midgett noted the importance of post-event flag removal. Bettie Blanchard provided information regarding the original vision for a flexible Corridor for community events.
- John Gilliam*
- Discussion followed regarding what would be on the signs and the type of signs used. It was noted that no commercial advertisement would be used except for the last sign thanking runners. Discussion followed regarding sign placement. Mr. Gilliam concluded by reporting that approval was received yesterday (10/14/09) from the Town of Manteo to erect the signs.
- Adoption of Agenda** On motion by Malcolm Fearing and second by Fountain Odom, the agenda was adopted by consensus.
- Approval of Minutes** On motion by Malcolm Fearing and second by Fountain Odom, the minutes for July 17, 2009 were approved by consensus.
- New Business** Kathy Sparrow provided a detailed report on the condition of the bike path, noting the following:
- Bike Path**
- Needs repair, resurfacing, or investigated on how to preserve it to prevent unevenness.
 - Twelve (12) photos taken of the bike path yesterday (10/14/09) were distributed with Xerox copies filed as an attachment in the official Report Book.
 - Town of Manteo passed resolution (copy distributed and filed as an attachment in the official Report Book).
 - Request a resolution of support from the RVCC in order to make the bike path bike-friendly.
 - Citizens will make a presentation to the Dare County Commissioners requesting support.
- Motion** Fountain Odom made a motion for approval of a resolution to be forwarded to the RIC asking for the NC Department of Transportation to facilitate repairs or resurface the bike path. Discussion followed with Chairman Midgett noting he will present this to the RIC tomorrow (10/16/09). Chairman Midgett agreed to take the resolution to Dare County upon RIC approval; Kathy Sparrow and Bonnie Hudgins will go before the Dare County Commissioners. Malcolm Fearing seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The committee discussed and agreed that sufficient members were present for a quorum.
- Vote**
- RIC Acting Executive Director Kim Sawyer noted that the bike path photographs presented can be returned following the RIC meeting tomorrow (10/16/09).

* Kathy Sparrow and Bonnie Hudgins were excused from the meeting. *

Community
Center Plantings

Malcolm Fearing informed members of a potential conflict of interest since he is now chairman of the Community Center Committee. Following questioning, Grayson Kelley and Fountain Odom agreed that Mr. Fearing did not have a conflict of interest based on his answers.

Chairman Midgett updated members on the Community Center plantings by reporting the following:

- Bettie Blanchard informed him that all plants arrived but could not be planted due to underground utilities.
- Plants can be planted there but have to be dug up if someone needs to get in the area.
- He and the Town told Ms. Blanchard to do the best she could in planting the plants.
- Plantings have met RVCC requirements; Town of Manteo is in agreement.

Bettie Blanchard provided a detailed report on the Community Center plantings and distributed a conceptual design plan for informational purposes (filed as an attachment in the official Report Book). Malcolm Fearing explained the project in further detail, including the purpose of the berm. Discussion followed regarding the previously-formed ad hoc committee.

Chairman Midgett reappointed all prior members to the ad hoc committee formed at the last RVCC meeting (Bettie Blanchard, Malcolm Fearing, Pat Mansfield, and Fountain Odom, along with Tom Brooks available for suggestions due to his expertise) and charged them to meet regarding the project. Chairman Midgett designated Malcolm Fearing as the ad hoc committee chair, with Fountain Odom reiterating the fact that Mr. Fearing had no conflict of interest based upon his previous comments. Mr. Odom requested that a Muscadine mother vine grape arbor be placed at the intersection.

* Bettie Blanchard was excused from the meeting. *

Chairman Midgett initiated discussion regarding the vacant Corridor Administrator position. Kim Sawyer updated members on the status of the position. Members discussed the importance of having the position re-filled and potential next steps to achieve that goal, including requesting funding from the Friends.

Special Use
Permit Re:
Banners for
Non-profit
Groups

Chairman Midgett requested members to consider that the RVCC needs a special use permit for non-profit groups using the Corridor for periods of a week or less. The ordinance (p. 8) allows for groups to have banners going across the road but does not address signs, flags, and other types of banners. Chairman Midgett read a draft ordinance out loud for review as follows:

In order to facilitate the placement of banners, flags, and signs for not-for-profit groups that hold annual events, the following shall apply: the Corridor Administrator and/or the Corridor Committee in cooperation with the Town of Manteo Sign Administrator shall review all applications and at their discretion issue permits. Upon approval of a permit the applicant will be allowed to place ___ number of banners, signs, or flags of ___ square inches in the Corridor or right-of-way with the approval period of ___ number of days with the understanding that they have to be removed immediately. The penalty for not removing the banners, signs, or flags is that applications will not be allowed the following year. These banners, signs, and flags shall not impede vision. The banners, signs, and flags will be the responsibility of those putting them up. The Corridor Administrator and/or Corridor Committee in no way incurs any liability.

In discussion, members agreed on the necessity of a special use permit. Chairman Midgett noted that no commercial logos would be allowed and no NCDOT personnel would be placed in a position where they would potentially get sued by taking down signs. Members were requested to consider the draft ordinance and provide Chairman Midgett with comments. The following next steps were agreed upon:

- Chairman Midgett will send Grayson Kelley the draft ordinance for further consideration to develop criteria for avoidance of arbitrary decision-making charges.
- Chairman Midgett will send the final draft for members to review and provide comments.
- Chairman Midgett will report to the full RIC tomorrow (10/16/09) that the RVCC is considering the special use permit and plans to have it ready to present to the full RIC in January 2010.

Chairman Midgett agreed to address the Outer Banks Marathon with the permission of the RVCC. He noted that his goal as chairman is to create a friendlier process easier to do business with, to work on public relations, and to improve the Corridor.

Old Business
Underground
Utilities Along
Corridor

Chairman Midgett reported that the item of underground utilities along the Corridor is actually *Old Business*. He noted that Fountain Odom had requested the item be on every future agenda as a reminder for the need of a solution. General discussion followed.

Upon request by Malcolm Fearing, Chairman Midgett provided an update regarding the Fish and Wildlife issue across from The Lost Colony entrance. Members noted that the RVCC has no legal jurisdiction of federal property within the Corridor and that conversation with an appropriate federal contact is essential.

Upon inquiry by Grayson Kelley, Chairman Midgett updated members regarding the status of the former rest area on the North end. Pat Mansfield had reported that there were lady slipper plants on the Fish and Wildlife property. Members were unaware of any discussion of plans for the property.

Upon suggestion by Fountain Odom, Chairman Midgett agreed to arrange a driving tour of the entire Corridor at the next RVCC meeting. Malcolm Fearing noted available Internet maps with the 50-foot line.

Kim Sawyer thanked Chairman Midgett for his work during the absence of the Corridor Administrator.

Reports

Chairman Midgett reported that he was contacted yesterday (10/14/09) by an individual with 26 dead pine trees on the Corridor. Chairman Midgett is working with NC Forestry Service staff who said it was a secondary infestation from another beetle other than the southern pine beetle. The Forestry Service is interested in taking the trees down to prevent future problems.

Chairman Midgett reported that four COAs have been issued as follows:

- 1 for cutting trees (job well executed and cleaned up).
- 3 for signs, including RBC and COA (outside perimeter staying the same and inside lettering changing; Town of Manteo consulted; regulations followed; signs allowed).

**Committee
Member
Comments**

Upon request by Tom Brooks, Chairman Midgett agreed to ask RIC Chair Rolf Blizzard to officially send letters to Lorraine Tillett and Sandy Nance acknowledging their former service on the RVCC and RIC. Kim Sawyer noted that RIC Chair Blizzard is considering the best way to acknowledge past RIC service.

**Commission
Recommendations**

Recommendations to take to the Commission were previously noted.

Announcements

The next meeting of the Roanoke Voyages Corridor Committee will be Friday, January 29, 2010 tentatively at 10:30 AM.

Malcolm Fearing thanked Kim Sawyer for her work as Acting Executive Director and Andrea Hanganu for her work taking minutes.

Adjournment

With no further business and on motion by Malcolm Fearing and second by Grayson Kelley, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Minutes submitted by: Andrea Hanganu, Administrative Assistant

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

Angel Khoury, Secretary, Roanoke Island Commission