

Draft Minutes of the Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission December 22th Final Meeting

Sunday, Dec. 22, 2019

4:00
PM

Richmond City Council Chambers
900 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA

Members Present

Pierce Homer (Chair), John Gerner (Vice Chair), Mark Gordon, Dr. Hakim Lucas, Mimi Sadler, Michael Schewel, and Dr. Corey Walker.

Call to Order

Pierce Homer called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees.

Introductions

Individual commission members introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the December 19th public hearing were approved. Since this was the final meeting of the commission, these minutes will remain in a draft version.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

There was one FOIA request since the December 19th public hearing. The request email message is attached, and the response is currently in process.

Disclosures

None.

Discussion and Approval of Commission Report

Commission members discussed the draft final report and unanimously approved a revised version.

Public Comments

Allan Chipman thanked the commission for its work. Geoffrey Usher emailed written comments, which are attached.

Adjournment

Audio Recording of Meeting

Available at:

http://www.navyhillcommission.org/2019-12-22_Navy_Hill_Commission_Meeting.mp3

Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission Final Report

Available at:

http://www.navyhillcommission.org/Navy_Hill_Development_Advisory_Commission_Final_Report.pdf

John Gerner's Financial Model for the Commission

Available at:

http://www.navyhillcommission.org/John_Gerner_Financial_Model_for_Commission.xls

Response to Request for Documentation about Davenport's Statements in Presentation

On December 20th, the commission received a response from City Administration to John Gerner's request for documentation. Direct link to this response (along with related email messages) is:

http://www.navyhillcommission.org/City_Administration_Response_to_John_Gerner_Requesting_Documentation_with_email_messages.pdf

Additional Market Research Information:

The commission received additional market research information from Future Cities. These documents are available on our website at:

<http://www.navyhillcommission.org>

Recent Press Coverage of Commission Efforts and Members:

Richmond Times-Dispatch (December 23, 2019)

https://www.richmond.com/news/local/plus/commission-b-navy-hill-project-poses-risk-to-richmond-s/article_b9d31b18-f152-54f9-858d-432ae571c07f.html

Richmond Magazine (December 23, 2019)

<https://richmondmagazine.com/news/news/navy-hill-commission-finalizes-recommendations/>

CBS6 (December 23, 2019)

<https://wtvr.com/2019/12/23/navy-hill-report/>

ABC8News (December 24, 2019)

<https://www.wric.com/news/local-news/richmond/commission-current-navy-hill-plan-is-not-a-sound-and-reasonable-investment/>

NBC12 (December 24, 2019)

<https://www.nbc12.com/2019/12/24/city-councils-navy-hill-commission-finds-project-could-pose-risk-city-funds-school-system/>

VPM (December 24, 2019)

<https://vpm.org/news/articles/9361/commission-report-coliseum-redevelopment-proposal-poses-a-risk-to-school-funding>

Richmond Free Press (December 26, 2019)

<http://richmondfreepress.com/news/2019/dec/27/thumbs-down/>

VPM (January 7, 2020)

<https://vpm.org/news/articles/9579/independent-commission-says-richmond-coliseum-redevelopment-isnt-a-sound-public>

Richmond BizSense (January 8, 2020)

<https://richmondbizsense.com/2020/01/08/city-council-lays-out-timeline-for-navy-hill-decision-public-hearings-start-tonight/>

Richmond Magazine (January 8, 2020)

<https://richmondmagazine.com/news/news/navy-hill-decision-to-come-next-month/>

FOIA Request

Ryan Keiper <rkeiper7@gmail.com>

Fri 12/20/2019 12:43 PM

To: John Gerner <johngerner@navyhillcommission.org>; Brown, Meghan K. - Council Chief of Staff Office <meghan.brown@richmondgov.com>

Cc: Pierce Homer <piercehomer@navyhillcommission.org>

Friday, December 20, 2019

Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission
900 E. Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23219

Email: johngerner@navyhillcommission.org

Email: meghan.brown@richmondgov.com

Dear Sir or Madam,

As per the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§§ 2.2-3700 - 2.2-3714), I respectfully request copies of the following listed items below:

- All e-mails (including attachments) exchanged between members of the Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission and the following individuals:

- Kim Gray
- Pierce Homer
- John Gerner

- All text messages exchanged between members of the Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission and the following individuals:

- Kim Gray
- Pierce Homer
- John Gerner

This request covers the entirety of the Commission's existence.

If members of the Commission are assigned Commission-specific or city-assigned e-mail addresses, this request covers communications conducted through those accounts. However, it is this requestor's belief that members of the Commission conduct Commission business through their own personal or business e-mail accounts. As such, this request covers all Commission business conducted by members of the Commission on any e-mail account. Further, it covers all discussion of issues or actions under the purview of the Commission on any e-mail account.

For text messages, this request covers all SMS, MMS or other similarly-formatted text messages exchanged between the individuals on matters related to the Commission or which conduct Commission-related business.

As you direct members of the Commission to search for and turn over responsive records, please remind them that these e-mails are public records under the Code of Virginia –§ 2.2-3700 and that hiding or failing to disclose these e-mails is a violation of Virginia law. This requestor is already in possession of some communication obtained through a third party. If members of the Commission fail to turn over public records to the city responsive to this request - particularly copies of records already in our possession - this requestor will refer this matter to the Office of the Attorney General for prosecution.

I authorize you to accrue up to \$75 in fees in order to fulfill this request. If the estimated costs exceed that amount, please stop processing the request and reach out to me in order to address the changing expenses. I am best contacted via email at rkeiper7@gmail.com or via phone at 225-412-2127.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Ryan Keiper
1601 Clarendon Blvd
Apt 1407
Arlington, VA 22209
Phone: 225-412-2127
Email: rkeiper7@gmail.com

Fw: FOIA Request

John Gerner <johngerner@navyhillcommission.org>

Fri 12/20/2019 3:16 PM

To: Mark Gordon <markgordon@navyhillcommission.org>; Pierce Homer <piercehomer@navyhillcommission.org>; Grindly Johnson <grindlyj@navyhillcommission.org>; Suzanne Long <suzannelong@navyhillcommission.org>; Dr. Hakim Lucas <hjlucas@navyhillcommission.org>; Mimi Sadler <mimisadler@navyhillcommission.org>; Michael Schewel <michael.schewel@navyhillcommission.org>; Corey Walker <coreydbwalker@navyhillcommission.org>
Cc: Mark Gordon <markmauricegordon@gmail.com>; Homer, Pierce <PHomer@moffattnichol.com>; Grindly Johnson <grindlyj@gmail.com>; Suzanne Long <suzannesoneslong@yahoo.com>; Dr. Hakim Lucas <hjlucas@vu.edu>; Mimi Sadler <sadler@sadlerandwhitehead.com>; Michael Schewel <michael.schewel@gmail.com>; Dr. Corey Walker <coreyd.b.walker@gmail.com>
Bcc: John Gerner <johngerner@gmail.com>

The commission has received a FOIA request for all commission members. Please read the request below and quickly provide me the relevant information. FYI, I have a copy of all email messages I have sent or received from you.

Thanks,

John

John Gerner

Vice Chair

Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission

Re: FOIA Request

John Gerner <johngerner@navyhillcommission.org>

Tue 12/24/2019 5:33 PM

To: Ryan Keiper <rkeiper7@gmail.com>; Brown, Meghan K. - Council Chief of Staff Office
<meghan.brown@richmondgov.com>

Cc: Pierce Homer <piercehomer@navyhillcommission.org>

Bcc: John Gerner <johngerner@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Keiper,

Your request was received on Friday, December 20th. It is not practically possible to provide the requested records or to determine whether they are available within the typical five-work-day period. This is because of the large number of communications involved, many with attached files, that will need to be obtained, searched, and compiled by volunteers over the holiday period.

Therefore, an additional seven work days is needed to provide a response, which will be completed by January 9, 2020.

Sincerely,

John Gerner

Vice Chair and FOIA Officer

Navy Hill Development Advisory Commission

Geoffrey Usher <geoffreyusher@usherinsurance.com>

Sun 12/22/2019 10:29 AM

To: All Members <members@navyhillcommission.org>

The proposed plan for Navy Hill is smart development. Read the proposal and you will see for yourself: this is no Sixth Street Marketplace or past failed deals that required city money. Navy Hill is a private investment to the benefit of the city. You, as a taxpayer, don't pay for it.

My business is growing and I attribute that success to the growth in the Richmond area. Having a new arena that can attract concerts, sports and entertainment will help our region flourish, and breathe new life into downtown. Why, as Richmonders (or myself as a parent of four young kids) should we have to drive to Charlottesville, Virginia beach or DC to enjoy a show or sports event? We are a capital city, and capital cities have districts like Navy Hill.

A new neighborhood where, currently, there is nothing, can raise downtown property values and generate new cash to pay for schools, roads, and other pressing needs in our city. This district also makes us even more attractive to new and relocating businesses, future generation of workers, and people looking for employment or places to live.

The bigger risk for us as a city is doing nothing and continuing, as the mayor says, to kick the can down the road.

Thank You,



Geoffrey Usher

Independent Insurance Agent/ Owner

Phone. 804.423.5674 Fax. 804.423.5676

Web. [www.usherinsurance.com]www.usherinsurance.com

Address. 507 Branchway Road - North Chesterfield, VA 23236

Hablamos Español!

USHER
INSURANCE LLC

