

**Minutes for the February 26, 2009 LRNOW Public Policy Committee (PPC)**  
**submitted by Todd Solomon**

Meeting Location: Mary Picardi's house

Meeting Start: Called to order at 6:05pm by Mary Picardi.

Attendees: (7) members - Colleen Swingle, Karen Forget, Hap Chalmers, Chris Ludford, Mary Picardi, Ryan Ferguson, Todd Solomon

Next meeting date and location discussion: Thursday March 26, 2009 at Towne Bank building 7<sup>th</sup> floor Kaufman & Canoles Conference Room. 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 700, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

General Updates presented by Karen Forget:

**LRNOW background.** - 168 presentations in 2008. Good relationships with garden clubs, civic leagues, Virginia Beach Council of Civic Organizations (VBCCO), Shore Drive Community Coalition (SDCC) and VB schools. SDCC is one of the best organized civic groups in the city and good to work with on LRNOW issues. LRNOW worked with the recent comprehensive plan meetings to support its mission. "Pearl" initiative outreach plan for schools is working well. Worked with Public Works on storm water inlet cover identification. Implemented "No Discharge Zone" for past 2 years and its working well with marinas. Police enforcement of NDZ is difficult. NDZ law started at the Federal level and was sponsored by the City of VB with the aid of LRNOW. The 3 main subjects of focus are Public Education, Habitat Restoration and Engaging the Public.

**VB Green Ribbon Committee** – Karen and Laurie were members on this committee. All new City buildings will be LEED certified. Phase II recommendations are being worked now. Phase III may be worked in 3 years. Good "green" ideas in the committees report. Karen passed out copies of the Green Ribbon Report to members. **ACTION: Karen will email members the VB Green Ribbon Report Phase III breakdown to the PPC members.** There may be some initiatives that the PPC can take action on.

**VB Sustainability Advisory Team** – The City Council established the Sustainability Advisory Team in September, 2008 and tasked us with developing a Sustainability Plan for the City. The SAT applied to the American Institute of Architects Sustainable Design Assessment Team program and was chosen as one of 10 communities across the country to receive the assistance of a team of experts in sustainability during 2009 through the AIA Center for Communities by Design. We are currently planning the team's initial visit which will occur in May. Being chosen for this program represents a great opportunity for us to not only receive expert assistance in the development of our Sustainability Plan, but also to move us closer to a community consensus on a vision of Virginia Beach as a leader in the nation in sustainability. I serve on the Sustainability Advisory Team and also on the steering committee planning the AIA program. This will be a good opportunity for LRNOW and possibly the PPC.

Political Lobbying Discussion: Council member bios were handed out. The committee decided to divide up the council to one per PCC committee member. Depending on our total members, some may have to double up. Members were divided up as follows:

City Council

Mayor Will Sessoms – Hap Chalmers

Bill DeSteph – Hap Chalmers

Vice Mayor Louis Jones – Todd Solomon

Harry Diezel – Chris Ludford

Bob Dyer – Ryan Ferguson

John Uhrin – Mary Picardi

Jim Wood – Colleen Swingle

Rosemary Wilson – Demaris Yearick

Ron Villanueva –

Glenn Davis –

Barbara Henley –

### State Legislators

Sen. Ken Stolle – Ryan Ferguson

Del Joe Bouchard (83<sup>rd</sup>) – Todd Solomon

Del Bob Purkey (82<sup>nd</sup>) –

Del Bob Mathieson (21<sup>st</sup>) –

**ACTION: Each PCC member needs to meet with their respective council member before the next meeting.** They should discuss the following:

- Intro to LRNOW. An information packet was provide to each member to pass on to council.
- Thank them for the support they have provided already. Council actions are listed in the packet. Draw their attention to these actions.
- Remind them of the April 18<sup>th</sup> Oyster Roast and give them the “Save the Date” reminder card. Tell them the attendees are very appreciative of their efforts and they should try to attend if available.
- Let them in on a secret – LRNOW will be receiving the Governor’s Gold award for excellence in environmental programs. Information isn’t public yet, so they’ll know something before anyone else. **ACTION: Karen to email PCC members information on the Governor’s Award of Excellence.**
- LRNOW Symposium – Make them aware that it’s scheduled for Monday May 11<sup>th</sup>. After noon program. **ACTION: Karen to email PCC members information on symposium.**

### Future PCC Projects –

- State Delegate Forum this Fall.
- Zero phosphorus fertilizer regulation. Pursue similar legislation passed by Annapolis MD.

Committee Pages for www.LRNOW.org website- Email from Karen was passed out and reviewed.

Additional information and examples of other committees can be found at the website. **ACTION: PCC members were asked to work on committee mission and goals for the next meeting.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm

### Resulting Action List:

- 1) Karen will email members the VB Green Ribbon Report Phase III breakdown to the PPC members.
- 2) Karen to email PCC members information on the Governor’s Award of Excellence.
- 3) Karen to email PCC members information on symposium.
- 4) Each PCC member needs to meet with their respective council member before the next meeting.
- 5) PCC members were asked to work on committee mission and goals for the next meeting.
- 6) Come up with PCC members to cover the remaining council members (Villanueva, Henley, Davis) and State legislators.
- 7) Hap is to remind the Mayor that in the past, the Mayor has performed the Kick-off at the oyster roast.