



Organization: Downtown Hampton Development Partnership

Meeting Date: February 22, 2012

- Was there any thought about temporarily using the Harbor Square site for parking?
- Do you think council has the stomach to raise taxes?
- Has there been any thought about putting the boat tax back on?
- Is there any ability to go back to General Assembly to get the same advantage that Norfolk has that we can have a decal for the boats?
- If we change our charter can we do what Norfolk does?
- We are not getting the maximum benefit from being a boat community.
- I own a storage lot, I get a lot of RV people because of no tax.
- There are \$2M RVs running around looking to spend some money, one area I would like you to do is look in the new National Park making it a first class RV park so they spend money in our community
- We can't tax our way out of economic problems, we have to grow our way out.
- Boat tax to me is a growth strategy that we can manage.
- There are big sailboat regattas that could bring in money that we should look to fill our hotels and eat at our restaurants.
- Need to add the certain panache so it isn't just the buddies with the pop ups.
- Regarding special events, I think one of the major issues that people feel insecure about is there is no group to run the events. We need an organization that it is their purpose to run the events.
- I think if the VASC is designated to do the events, then we need to welcome them. To me what is wonderful about the VASC running events is it is a family oriented organization so the quality of the event is seen differently.
- The quality of events are not funded correctly.
- There should be more events.
- Do we have a time yet for a new director at VASC?
- I think DHDP needs to keep our finger in the events to make sure they enhance the local businesses in downtown and to make sure the events don't run out of control therefore we need to have someone be a part with input.
- It would be nice if we invite Brian to our board meeting, please encourage him to attend. He is attending the Economic meeting; he has a conflict with our board meeting.

- We are trying to grow our way out of this. The master plan called for over 500 to 700 residents to live downtown, financing is zero. We need to dust this stuff off and find a location for us to continue to execute the master plan. Need a grocery store (high quality), need more housing. We need to work on these types of singles to help bring in revenue. More meals tax, etc.
- DHDP is supportive of high-end apartments.
- It would be great if some in downtown could be converted to high end.
- Grocery store is critical.
- If we show our commitment to have more rooftops maybe they would be more pliable to work together.
- What types of things are we looking at cutting or increasing in fees?
- How are fee increases worked out?
- So the average home owner is paying \$4.60 per month on stormwater fees
- Are you sacrificing experience for lower salaries in Public Safety?
- I want to put in a plug for our youth agenda. One of the reasons we have low crime rate is because of our proactive work with youth. Focusing on them at this age is a lot cheaper then when they become adults.
- Kids at the lower end of the scale and the kids at the high end scale get attention; it is the ones in the middle scale we need to keep focus on.
- Newport News is just starting to buy into the whole youth development issue and the importance. Please make sure to try to do everything you can to preserve and support youth.
- We are supporting Harbor Square purchase.
- If you (city) have something that we need to be aware of to support council, please let us know and we will try to support at council meetings.
- Types of rent like Harbor Square can destroy communities, glad moving forward.