

CCO REPORT, MARCH 2010

Three members presented before CCO at the March meeting.

The Planning Commission is an 11-member body, appointed by the City Council, responsible for the review of land use and zoning matters for the City of Virginia Beach. Each council member appoints a member.

The Planning Commission reviews applications submitted for changes to zoning districts, conditional use permits, street closures, zoning ordinance and plan amendments, and other land use and zoning matters. The Commission makes a recommendation on each item to City Council, who then makes the final determination on the recommended items during one of their regular meetings.

The Commission is supported by the Planning Director and the Planning Department staff. The Director and staff review each submitted item and make a recommendation to the Planning Commission as to whether or not the request is consistent with the policies, plans, and ordinances of the City of Virginia Beach.

The panel at the CCO meeting discussed their roles and the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan can be accessed through the web. I found it by going to vbgov.com and typing in Planning Council. At this site one can pull up any area or subdivision. The three members addressed questions from the audience. The most important message I gleaned from the evening was that more community involvement is encouraged. They give attention to neighborhood comments, especially when they are unified in their message.

The business portion of the meeting briefly discussed the positions of CCO on the upcoming City of Virginia Beach 2010 Budget. At the April CCO meeting, members will vote on 5 position questions regarding the budget. I am requesting feedback from the executive board of Chesapeake Beach Civic League on how they suggest we vote, as I will be the one casting the vote.

Questions are yes/no:

1. Do you oppose a trash fee?
2. Do you support requesting our city to reconvene quarterly, various member of the Blue Ribbon Task force through out the year, to gather public input for budget issues?
3. Do you support an increase in user fees for the city recreation centers, to offset operational cost?
4. Do you support re-examining the funding formula for the school system?
5. Do you oppose any tax rate increase or any new fees, with any reductions in the budget not coming from CORE services such as police, fire, EMS?