



City of Alexandria, Virginia

Ad Hoc Motorcoach Task Force

Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2009

Sister City Room, Room 1101, City Hall

Attendees

Task Force Members: Rich Baier (Chair), Mayor William Euille, Poul Hertel, Rob Aronson, Charlotte Hall, Hubert Herre, Ellen Stanton, Tara Zimmick-Calico, Captain David Ray (for Chief Earl Cook), Timothy Elliott, Lorraine Lloyd, Stephanie Brown, Yon Lambert (staff), Karen Callahan (staff), and Deputy Police Chief Eddie Reyes (staff).

Guests: Amy Slack, Engin Artemel, William Bartow, Jeff Bodnar, Joanne Platt.

Executive Summary: The primary meeting topics were to review communications, meeting frequency of the group, acceptance of the April and October minutes and discuss the Motorcoach registration system.

1. Welcome

Rich Baier opened the meeting by welcoming all. He reported to the group that beginning with the October minutes, audios of Task Force meetings can be found on-line. Mr. Baier suggested going on-line for further clarification for portions of the minutes as the typewritten minutes would not be verbatim.

2. Communications – Yon Lambert reiterated the primary issues that resulted in being the short-term recommendations to City Council in the Task Force report.

- **Do's and Don'ts Rack Card** - Staff reviewed a revised rack card and clarified the purpose of the card as a handout for parking enforcement officers. It was requested that that the term "punishable" be changed to "subject to fines" and that the Virginia Code will be referenced at each "don't" on the rack card. It was resolved that the rack cards would be posted on the City's website. Comments were also directed to the draft ACVA brochure for suggested revisions.
- **Enforcement** - Captain David Ray reported that since January 2007, there have been a total of 16 accidents involving buses reported. Two (2) accidents involved DASH buses with motorcoach buses. Minor accidents are not required to be reported. Ten of the 16 motorcoach accidents occurred this year and 91 warnings were issued in the spring 2009 campaign. Citations, not warnings, will be given to the motorcoach drivers in the spring 2010 campaign from March through April.

Charlotte Hall thought it unfair that police only have an annual 30-day crackdown for motorcoach traffic infractions while certain businesses have to comply with motorcoach rules and regulations year round. Captain Ray explained that the APD will be watchful year-round of motorcoach traffic infractions however; they will have an annual 30-day campaign as they do with other annual concentrated law enforcements crackdowns. Other Task Force members felt the targeted 30-day campaign could be more effective if the enhanced enforcement be sporadic over a longer period of time and not concentrated in a 30-day period.

3. Registration System - An internal motorcoach registration system working group has made the following progress and is on target for implementation by March 2010.

- **Task Force Comments** – Staff received feedback from the Task Force regarding the business rules for the registration, made revisions and e-mailed the business rules to the Task Force for a second round of feedback. Staff is proposing a central registration system for all parking requests, including the Masonic Temple which is currently taken by ACVA. The City's permit turn around time would be immediate except for temporary parking permits for special occasion loading/unloading. "Special occasion" loading/unloading is considered elderly or disabled passengers.
- **Parking Permit Fee Rates & Time Blocks** – Staff asked for guidance from the Task Force regarding whether buses may park for up to 4 hours, which it supported.
- **Touring Permits** – Staff reviewed the issue of voluntary caps on touring buses. No tangible response evolved out of the group's discussions.
- **Touring Route** – Staff reviewed the possibility of publishing a touring route.

Charlotte Hall recommended piloting the registration system in 2010 and fine tuning it through trial and error. Poul Hertel moved that the group vote on moving forward with permit parking and voluntary registration, which the group accepted by a vote of 7-1-1 with Stephanie Brown (abstain) and Rob Aronson (no) voting against.

4. Meeting Frequency - Rich Baier proposed the Task Force not meet again until early 2010. The beta registration system will be in place for the Task Force to review at the next meeting.

April 22 and October 5 Minutes – Mr. Baier asked for amendments or changes to the April and/or October minutes. After some discussion about the 24-hour telephone line and data as provided by the Police, the minutes were approved.

5. Public and Task Force Question & Answer

Charlotte Hall- Suggested that school buses be included each time motorcoaches are mentioned in the new regulations for motorcoach buses. She also stated the Task Force should revisit additional parking locations for seasonal and night parking of motorcoaches, specifically, the 800 block of North Royal Street across from St. Mary's school. Rich Baier added that with parameters such as seasonal and night parking, the Task Force should revisit other previous parking locations as well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.