



Walkable Community Advisory Group (WCAG)

Meeting : September 16, 2025 6:30pm

Twin Beaches Library Meeting Room East

### Meeting Minutes

I. Member Updates and Observations: Councilwoman Laura Blackwelder (Chair), Justin Dudash (Co-Chair), Charlie Fink, Kristen DeGrace

II. Group updates and observations included:

- A. The Town of Chesapeake Beach is replacing handrail boards with composite material on the Railway Trail, Members agreed that the composite handrail looks nice and is better for kids who run their hands along the top of the rail (no splinters). The group inquired if additional sections will be replaced with composite handrails.
- B. A member noticed “no biking” signs on the boardwalk trail leading to/from Bayfront Park. The group would like the town to consider a “slow biking” policy for this boardwalk instead. The group inquired what could be done to change the “no biking” sign and policy to a slow biking policy. The sign could read something like, “This boardwalk is a Slow Biking Zone, Please respect pedestrians when traveling on your bicycle.”

II. Status of Ongoing Projects and Efforts:

- A. The group reviewed status updates from the WCAG Report 9/10/2025 with no additional questions.
- B. Updates from the most recent Town Council Meeting: N/A
- C. The Town Administrator confirmed via email that a scoping meeting for the Chesapeake Village (CV) sidewalk was held, and a vendor has been selected.
- D. A second meeting with SHA is scheduled for October 3 to discuss Pedestrian Safety in Chesapeake Beach.

III. Taste the Beaches - Post Event Follow Up

- A. Stats: 66 people signed media releases to become part of the grant storyboard; 24 people offered statements of support; 8 community members expressed interest in volunteering for the WCAG; a local photographer offered donations of bird photographs for our grant package and expressed a willingness to help with other photography needs; lots of compliments and interest expressed at the booth; lots of buzz/conversations throughout the event about expanding the Railway Trail.
- B. Action Items:
  - a. Contact volunteers who expressed interest in becoming WCAG committee members with more information.
  - b. Submit receipts.
  - c. Load pictures to Town site (Lori).
  - d. Determine how to get unclaimed Polaroids to their owners.
  - e. Begin creating a storyboard for the grant project.
  - f. Review and consolidate suggestions provided by the community to inform the RFP.

#### IV. Railway Trail Next Steps:

- A. The group discussed the need to develop an RFP, starting a draft with input from Bruce and circulating for feedback from members.
- B. Options considered:
  - a. RFQ option – price comparisons for clearly defined items.
  - b. RFP option - complex projects where a vendor's technical approach is the primary consideration.
  - c. IDQ/BPA - vehicles for making multiple purchases with a "full service planning & engineering" design/build company approach.
- C. Members agreed that the contract should allow/encourage a situation in which the designer of the trails participates or is responsible for the construction of the trails.

#### V. "Walktober":

- A. Kristen suggested incorporating something like Chronolog (<https://www.chronolog.io/>) on the trail as an activity to encourage walking to the end of the trail for Walktober.
- B. The decision was made to stick to light social media promotion in general to encourage walking around town versus a larger, more complex and organized effort to coordinate activities.
- C. Consider creating a 1-page sheet to kick off Walktober with ideas; Kristen to provide more info.
- D. Discussed potential to incorporate Martha's QR code into Walktober posts.

#### VI. Paddle and Pathway Pick Up:

- A. WCAG can support Green Team and Parks and Recreation on 9/27 at 9 a.m., meeting at the center of Town/Railway Trail.
- B. Members can let Lori know if they would like to provide their name/number to the Green Team and volunteer to provide specific assistance; otherwise, WCAG can support as community participants if available.