

# HAMPTON NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Neighborhood Commission  
Monday January 12, 2026 — 5:30-7:00 PM  
Community Development Department Conference Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall

## Attendance Record

Commissioner	Role	Present	Virtual	Absent
Pamela Kelly	D1	X		
Lakia Davidson	D2	X		
Linwood Williams	D3	X		
<i>VACANT</i>	D4			
Don Butcher	D5			X
Kathy Rogers	D6	X		
Joseph Griffith	D7	X		
Larry McKenzie	D8	X		
Gabriella Hayes	D9			X
Cheryl Collier	D10	X		
Whalan McDew	AL1	X		
Peggy Todd	AL2	X		
Jennifer Oliver	HCS	X		
Tyler Zminkowski	HPD	X		
Kwasi Obeng	CMO			X
<i>VACANT</i>	PRLS			
Myra Smith Jones	Nonprofit			X
Phoebe Mitchell	Faith	X		
<i>VACANT</i>	Business			
Honesty Williams	Youth1	X		
Zoraya Meier	Youth2	X		

Staff			
Dave Hunt	X		
Laura Walker			X
Raquel McMillian	X		
Perrin Williams	X		
Travis Rash	X		
Angela King, CAO			X

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## I. **Opening-** Start time/Called to order- 5:30pm

A. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Review and Approve Minutes

1. November 10, 2025 Meeting- JG moved, LM2nd

D. Chair Announcements

- District area 4 is vacant (King Street)
- Business Rep is vacant
  - Ideally hoping to fill these vacancies at the first practical opportunity.
- Two new members, Youth Commission Representatives Honesty Williams and Zoraya Meier are introduced.

## II. **Director's Report**

- Hampton Roads Social Justice Conference. March 9th is early bird registration. Staff will work to register any interested commissioners. Full commission or subcommittee meetings are usually canceled. Keeping full commission meeting for April. No Committee.
- Upcoming by-laws update. Staff met 1/12 to talk about edits. City Attendance Policy updates- 75% attendance required to keep aligned with City Code. Staff meeting with CAO to perform comprehensive updates. Proposed amendment going to Exec committee this month. Reading in February. Aiming to adopt in March
- Strategic Plan. 6:30pm on 22nd meeting at the Convention Center. Please share or attend. RNOs or other contacts appreciated.

## III. **Items to be Presented by the Public**

- Wendy Iles from Clean City- Environmental Education arm of public works. Adopt-a-Spot. Recycling education. Work with schools. Out in the community. Shared newsletter. 3-month calendar included. Earth day on April 25th. Please check out social media including Facebook and Instagram. Staff is available to reach out for team building, litter pickup, etc. Great education kept fun.
  - Question- can you talk about improvements in the City and objective markers?
  - Response- Litter index and cleanups. Traveling more than 100 miles to do cleanup. City is significantly cleaner than it was 4 years ago. Wonderful decrease in litter. Happy to share this with commissioners. Keep America Beautiful reporting takes place annually.

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- Question- How much sea water is destroyed by 1 cigarette butt?
- Response- two gallons!

## IV. Action Items (Voting Items): none

## V. Briefings & Discussions

### A. Ptl. Zminkowski: Special Event Permits

- Two pieces of paper referenced. 1st permitting deadlines. 2nd- process outline.
- Public safety works alongside fire, public works, several others to ensure safety. Not looking to deny events. Here to answer questions from Z or Corporal Kennedy.
- What is a special event? Outdoor. Renting a space? Not a special event. Outdoor only. Road closures. More than 250 people. Vendors on scene. Sale involved. RNO events usually do not qualify. There is a special events guidebook online. Neighborhood functions are neighborhood scaled special events. Under 250, with no vendors, fine to go without permit. Reasonably subjective. Submittal deadlines are important
  - Question- Does the event get shut down if violated?
  - Response- yes, and comes with an 18-month suspension. Summons on 2nd. Anything after may have penalties.
- Deadlines- 30 days to review prior to event. For City Scale, under 500, 60 days. If larger, 90 days. Can plan early. E.g., 1 year out is fine. Correct contact information is important. Up-to-date info is important. Communication is important. Please give as much time and the best contact info as possible. The book online walks through step by step.
  - Question- Where is the guidebook?
  - Response- on the Hampton website
  - Question- What about private events with on-street parking?
  - Response- We do not address this, unless it causes road closures and impacts the public. As long as the parking is legal
  - Question- Two scales, one that is 500+. Is this a completely different realm?
  - Response- This just changes what the Committee deems is important. Responding to public safety. Scope of sweep prior.
  - Question- do we plan 500+ just in case?
  - Response- yes. Plan up. Heads won't be counted, but reason will be used.
- Meetings for City Scale event takes place 5th floor over by parks. Can ask questions.
  - Question- can the public attend the meetings?
  - Response- yes.

## VI. Real Challenges & Lessons Learned

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## A. Linwood Williams: Goal Setting

- Presentation displayed. Over goal setting over multiple year terms. Do we want structured goals? Personal experience. Hard to define success for each person.
- Year 1- what to try to get accomplished in 1st 12 months. RNO relationships. Grants-encouraging RNOs to apply. Increase RNO roster by 25%. Start simple start small.
- Year 2- Establish an annual event for each RNO. Fish fry, cleanup, etc.... Host- an event. Joint or district wide. Back to school? Clean City? Most RNOs are in 3–5-mile radius. Work together. Increase RNO by an additional 25% (each year).
- Year 3- Mentor incoming commissioners. Share success stories. Things you wish you could have done. Begin transitioning towards what is next. What happens after? Can it be a transition towards additional community or civic work. What stands out? RNO increase by 25%
- Year 4- develop a deep understanding of neighborhood specific needs and priorities. E.g., speeding. Something that you observe. Increase the RNO roster by 25%
- Additional initiatives- Keep folks engaged on calendar year, fiscal year, program year, Maintain comprehensive directory. Calendars shared. Represent Neighborhood Commission at other events. Great rubric for 4 years. Great results.
  - Question- will this be available by email?
  - Response- yes
  - Question- how do you get a new RNO?
  - Response- Use business to create more business. Focus on big events. See if other folks are interested in that type of event. Use the groups that you have. Find similar interest and organize them. They do have an HOA. Staff can assist as well. E.g., police and public safety event to get Hampton PD in the neighborhood. Staff works to identify unregistered groups and move them forward from there.

## VII. Commissioner Sharing

### A. General Updates

- Joe Griffith- reapproaching 30-year celebration in a meaningful way. Talked about a morning cleanup. JG intends to have this. Gauging commissioner appetite. April 25th. 8am orientation at Phoebus VFW. Assigned streets. Food after. Can get equipment out 1-2 days before. Can be picked up the following week. Concept. Could grow RNOs. General consensus is great idea. JG will get info to staff. Small lift with a big impact.
- Whalan McDew- 11th annual Christmas feeding. 400 people served. Will happen again on Christmas day. Lots of new faces. 40 volunteers. Toys, clothes, household items, food, fresh veggies, big event. February 15th annual gala. 4th year. Luncheon. Sunday afternoon. Fundraising events to continue to support free community events. How much is it? \$50. Meals, entertainment. Springhill suites. Adopted 6 Neighborhood schools for school drive in August. 1st day of school, volunteers will be out there. Started out as an RNO. 9 people. Built from there. Appreciate City, Staff, Community support. See you in February
- Cheryl Collier- Grant that was approved in Tides of Newmarket. January 17th at 6:00pm. Liberty live at Aberdeen gardens on February 21st. If interested, reach out for a ticket.

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- Larry McKenzie- Barrett Peak Heritage Foundation redoing brickwork on museum for restoration work. Where? On their website for bricks. Donate tab on the right.
- Whalan McDew- Cemetery cleanup downtown. Want to get involved? Reach out. Two oldest African American Cemeteries in Hampton. Still active. Burial there this weekend. Last caregiver passed away years ago. Every other weekend starting in March.
- Staff introductions: Travis Rash, Jelani Sparrow, Monica Meharg. Retreat from 1/14-1/16. Small changes. Personnel shifts. Requesting feedback from commissioners for needs assessment.
- Jennifer Oliver- Observing alignment. Compliments for Council and Staff. Can see Neighborhood Organizations supported. Heavy lift with change, but making it look seamless. Making neighborhoods better.

## **VIII. Committee Updates**

- A. Neighborhood Resource Review
  - N/A
- B. Neighborhood Development & Training
  - N/A
- C. Nominating
  - N/A
- D. Youth Commission
  - Zaraya Meier- Grant steering. Passed all of them in December. Had to work with budgets. Starting check-ins and site visits. Updating youth master plan. Commissioners reviewing. Sending to schools. Organizing time and coordinating with focus groups. 17 recipients. What is funding used for? Model UN. Video game? Mental health.

Next Committee Meeting- Next Wednesday.

Next Full Meeting- February 9th.

Adjourned 6:28pm