PURPOSE: The purpose of the Commission is to advise the City Council and the Departments of Planning and Community Development and Museums on all issues related to the preservation of historic buildings, structures and sites located in the City of Virginia Beach.

MISSION: The mission of the Commission shall be to preserve, protect and maintain the historic identity of Virginia Beach and the former Princess Anne County through a program of advocacy and increased public awareness of involvement.

Welcome/Introductions/Remarks - Bill Gambrell introduced Cynthia Whitbred-Spanoulis, Director of the Aquarium and Historic Houses Department. He thanked Ms. Spanoulis for taking the time to give the Commission an update on the City-operated historic houses.

Ms. Whitbred-Spanoulis introduced Anne Miller, the Manager of the Virginia Beach Historic Houses.

Virginia Beach Historic Houses Update - Cynthia Whitbred-Spanoulis, Anne Miller (Please see the presentation in Appendix 1).

Mr. Gambrell thanked Ms. Whitbred-Spanoulis and Ms. Miller for their presentation. Ms. Whitbred-Spanoulis, Ms. Miller and Mr. Klobuchar departed the meeting.

Councilperson Rosemary Wilson said that there had been a productive lunch meeting with the city administration and the Historic Homes. She said they had agreed to a compromise of utilizing the basement and second floor levels at the Francis Land House for the World War II exhibit and maintaining the main floor for early 19th century interpretation. The Friends group said they will make a donation to the exhibits.
Year in Review - 2018 - Mark Reed noted that the Planning Administrator, Carolyn Smith, asks her staff to provide an annual review of activities for the department director and for the boards and commissions that they serve. Mr. Reed said it was his pleasure to review the initiatives and accomplishments in the Historic Preservation Program in 2018 with the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mr. Reed reported the progress made toward meeting the requirements of the Certified Local Government (CLG) Agreement

- Completed Archaeological Assessment Northern Half
- Completed Architectural Survey Update - Northern Half
- “Virginia Beach is the star local government!” quote from Elizabeth Lipford, DHR 11/13/18 email

Mr. Reed noted that there were big accomplishments in the area of Recognition at the national and state levels with historic districts.

- Courthouse Village and Municipal Center Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places June 2018
- Cavalier Shores Historic District listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register December 2018

Mr. Reed said that the third year of the Research Grant Program had been strong as projects from the previous year were completed and a record amount of grant monies ($13,000) were awarded in 2018.

- 3 of 4 FY17 Grant projects successfully completed
- 9 FY18 Grants awarded

He noted that Research Grants were one of the many areas where we received positive Publicity. He said that print and TV media had provided many positive news stories on historic preservation program initiatives.

Mr. Reed then went into more detail about some of the important CLG initiatives. He noted that we had successfully completed the Archaeological Assessment Northern Half. He said that the predictive models and GIS map layers would be especially important for future strategic planning.

- DHR 2017/2018 COST SHARE PROGRAM GRANT - $18,700 (DHR) + $10,000 (City)
- Dovetail Cultural Resource Group
- 203 of 315 previously recorded sites surveyed
- VCRIS database updated
- GIS layer created
Mr. Reed also noted the completion of the Architectural Survey Update Northern Half. The Commission had previously received a presentation on this report from the cultural resource management firms that did the study.

- Cultural Resource Analysts & Debra McClane, Architectural Historian
- 283 individual resources surveyed
  - 27 identified as potentially eligible for National Register
- 49 neighborhoods surveyed
  - 9 identified as potentially eligible for National Register
- Surveyed Resources entered in VCRIS
- GIS Layer created for individual resources

Mac Rawls asked Mr. Reed if there were any surprises among the 27 individual properties identified as potentially eligible for the National Register. Mr. Reed said that there were many. He said there were several gas stations that were included that he probably never would have considered. Mr. Rawls asked if the one on Virginia Beach Boulevard near Thalia was one. Mr. Reed said yes. Mr. Reed said his area of knowledge is mostly 18th and 19th century architecture and that we were very fortunate to have engaged architectural historians that understand and recognize the nuances of the mid-20th-century styles.

Mr. Reed noted that we successfully were able to get another historic district listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register/National Register of Historic Places
One Historic District Nomination Submitted – Cavalier Shores
  - Listed in Virginia Landmarks Register December 13
  - National Register Listing is pending

Mr. Reed said that the activity in the Virginia Beach Historical Register was pretty limited in 2018 with only 3 Properties added. He noted that we also initiated an effort to get all of the properties included in the 50 Most Historically Significant Houses and Structures booklet listed in the local register.
  - Green Hill, 1721 Lovetts Pond Land -- Completed initiative to add all NRHP properties
  - 429 26th Street
  - 318 27th Street

Mr. Reed noted that we had two State Historic Highway Markers installed and dedicated this year. He said these were funded by 2017 Research Grants and that both events received good media coverage.
  - Camp Ashby
  - Skirmish at Kemp’s Landing

Mr. Reed then mentioned the FY18 Research Grants that the Commission distributed. He said most of them are coming along pretty well. There were 9 grants awarded for a total of $13,000
  - Research Papers
    - African American Communities
    - Skirmish at James’ Plantation
Josiah Phillips  
Development of the Town of Kempsville  
Indian Reservation/Indian Settlement  
  o Video/Oral Histories  
VB Coast Guard Station  
Seaview Beach and Amusement Park  
Camp Ashby  
  o Historic Highway Markers  
Miles James  

Mr. Reed spoke about the successful Public Meeting April 20, 2018 that the Commission hosted. He noted that there were over 100 people in attendance. The meeting featured several notable presentations.  
  o Edna Hendrix presentation on History of African American Communities  
  o Sherry DiBari presentation on Seaview Beach and Amusement Park  
  o Award of Distinction presented for Cavalier Hotel rehab  

Mr. Reed said a high point of the year was the Cavalier Hotel Grand Opening on March 2. This was the culmination of a spectacular rehabilitation. The Commission had a part in the process early on and can be very proud of the final result. He noted that we also contracted for a post-rehab Baseline Documentation report to assist us in the oversight of the Preservation and Green Space easements.  

Mr. Reed noted that the Commission convened the Princess Anne County Confederate Statue Roundtable to look at the issue of the Confederate monument that is located near the old courthouse. He said the Roundtable was formed to assist the Commission with formulating recommendations for City Council.  
  o Held 5 Meetings  
  o Developed Draft Recommendations  

Mr. Reed noted that another highlight was finally getting the Cape Henry Lighthouse construction project underway. This is a big deal and the project is progressing nicely toward completion in the spring.  
  o Construction bid awarded  
  o Construction project initiated  
  o Mini-bus shuttle service launched  
  o Preservation Virginia fund raising campaign  

Mr. Reed said that Historic Preservation Commission members did their part to advance their knowledge through Trainings Attended.  
  o 2 members attended Virginia Preservation Conference  
  o 3 members attended ARB/CLG Training  

Members of the Historical Review Board and staff also attended required CLG training.  
  o 2 members attended ARB/CLG Training
Staff

- Attended Virginia Preservation Conference
- Attended ARB/CLG Training

Mr. Reed discussed the activities of the Historic Preservation Commission Student Members. The members had the opportunity to meet the Governor and several state legislators to advocate for the state tax credit program.

- Attended Legislative Session for Advocacy
- 10 Students Recommended and 7 Interviewed for 2018/19
  - 2 Appointed by Council

Mr. Reed noted that the Historical Review Board had a very busy year compared to 2017.

- 17 Certificates of Appropriateness Issued
- 2 Members attended CLG approved training

Mr. Reed then briefly touched on some of the projects Coming up in 2019.

- Cape Henry Lighthouse Project
  - Compete Construction, reopen tower to public
- National Register Nominations
  - Initiate PIFs for identified neighborhoods
- Presentation to Update City Council
  - CLG Update
    - Architectural Survey Update
    - Archaeological protections in Historic and Cultural Districts
    - Confederate Monument Recommendations
- Research Grants
  - Complete FY18 projects and make 2019 awards
- Historic District Standards and Guidelines
  - Produce draft document
- Historic Preservation Month
  - Pints for Preservation
- City-Wide Resource Surveys
  - Complete Archaeological Assessment (southern half)
  - Complete Renaissance Level Architectural Survey Update (southern half)
- Update Historic Resources Management Plan
  - Hold public input sessions and produce draft document

Approval of January 9, 2019 Minutes - Bobbie Gribble had prepared the minutes of the January 9, 2019 general meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Gambrell asked if there were any changes or corrections. Sharon Felton made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mac Rawls seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion and the motion received unanimous approval.
Committee Reports

Historic Preservation Month - Sharon Prescott reported on the progress of planned activities. For Pints for Preservation, 3 Breweries are going to participate and we have set dates for the happy hour events.

- Smartmouth - May 11
- Deadline Brewing Project - May 16
- Farmhouse Brewing Co - May 23

She said Jimmy Jordan is working on designs for a coaster for breweries with a message for Pints for Preservation.

Ms. Prescott noted that there will be a proclamation on May 7 by Mayor Dyer to name May as Historic Preservation Month in Virginia Beach. She said the Student Leaders Committee is working on a more detailed plan for a Scavenger Hunt and they will discuss that further at their committee meeting on Monday, February 11th.

Ms. Prescott said we have a lot of planning work to do for Strawberry Festival coming up on May 25th. She noted that she will not be in town for the festival. She said the Student Leaders Committee is still working on a float for the event.

Ms. Prescott said we are also working on collaboration with the Historic Homes. She noted that this is the 300th anniversary year for the Thoroughgood House.

Public Meeting April 10 - Sharon Prescott also reported on progress toward the April 10 Public Meeting. She noted that the meeting will be held at the Convention Center. She said the agenda is wonderful but it will be very tight on time.

- Architectural Survey Presentation - Laura Purvis, CRA
- Projects/Accomplishments/Updates - Jimmy Wood
- Historic Houses - Anne Miller
- Princess Anne County/VB Historical Society - Barbara Henley (not confirmed)
- Historic Preservation Month - Sharon Prescott
- Research Grant - Skirmish at James Plantation - Chris Pieczynski
- Restoration Project recognition (plaque) - William E. Wood House - Ed Hewitt, Josh Canada

Student Leaders - Brianna Perez, Victoria McQuay
Brianna Perez reported that they are continuing to work on the Scavenger Hunt and the possibility of having a float in the Strawberry Festival Parade.

For African American History Month there will be a spoken word presentation on slavery in Princess Anne County from a student, Niaylah Mascall, at Salem High School’s Black History Month Assemblies on February 28.
For Women’s History month they will use the morning announcements at Green Run High School to talk about important women in history.

**Threatened Buildings** - Jennifer Estes reported. She said that they need more members to be on this committee. Mr. Gambrell asked Mr. Reed to send out an e-mail to Commission members regarding serving on the committee or recommending someone they know to the committee chair.

Ms. Estes said the committee met on January 14. Ms. Pope, Mr. Rawls and Ms. Estes looked around in the ViBe District and adjacent area at the oceanfront to get a better idea of the historic resources that are there. She said they created an inventory of potential historically important resources for further evaluation. She said they also toured the new location for the Artists Gallery on 17th Street.

**Project Updates** – Mark Reed provided several project updates.

Cape Henry Lighthouse Construction – Mr. Reed said the final concrete pour was done on January 15. He noted that a Virginian Pilot, Stacy Parker, reporter was on hand for the pour and a pretty good article was published. The Southside Daily online newspaper also issued an article. There is now a delay due to materials. He said that we are waiting on the granite delivery. A late February delivery date is expected. With the materials and some weather delays we are now working toward an estimated April 1 Substantial Completion date.

Cavalier Shores – Due to the recent federal government shut down, the nomination has been delayed getting to the National Park Service (NPS). Mr. Reed will keep the Commission informed when it has been received.

Meeting of Three Commanders Historical Highway Marker – Mr. Reed noted that the planned dedication ceremony had been postponed from January 31. It is now scheduled for Wednesday, March 6 at 3:00 p.m. He is hopeful that the postponement will allow us to have NPS Superintendent Kym Hall as one of our speakers. A reception sponsored by the Commission will follow at BoBo’s.

Archaeological and Architectural Survey Southern Half – Mr. Reed noted that he is starting the process to move forward with both of these studies. He has met with several staff at DHR to discuss details and scope of work for both projects. He is currently working on putting together an application for a Cost Share grant to DHR for the archaeological assessment. The application is due March 15. Mr. Reed has a meeting scheduled later this month to discuss both projects with Councilperson Barbara Henley so she is aware of them and can provide additional direction.

**Historic Properties Glimpse** - Mark Reed

**February Historical Review Board** – Mr. Reed noted that the only agenda item for the HRB in February is for the Adam Keeling House. The HRB had issued a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for renovations to the 1930s garage on the Keeling House property in October 2018. The property owner has come back to the HRB because they have decided not to enclose the carport
and not to install a standing seam metal room. Staff is recommending approval since they are proposing to make fewer changes than previously designed.

Mr. Reed said that there may also be a preliminary presentation on a townhouse development in Courthouse district that will be proposed for the Princess Anne Road and Nimmo Parkway intersection.

**Old Business**
Mr. Reed said the **African American Heritage Month Proclamation - February 5th** went very well. Mayor Dyer read the proclamation and presented a copy to leaders from the Seatack Community Civic League. The Mayor also presented a copy to Amelia Ross-Hammond, Executive Director of the African American Cultural Center.

**New Business**
Mr. Reed announced that Victoria McQuay was unable to attend tonight’s meeting because of it conflicting with a dinner for National Signing Day participants. Ms. McQuay has earned a full scholarship to attend Hawaii Pacific University for golf.

Councilperson Rosemary Wilson said she will bring up at the Council Retreat that they consider Economic Development Incentive grants for adaptive reuse of historic properties.

**Adjournment**
Next Meeting, Wednesday, March 6, 2019, 5:00 pm, Towne Bank Building, Suite 500
2018 ANNUAL REPORT and PRESERVATION UPDATE

February 6, 2019

Cynthia Spanouliis
Anne Miller
Building a Foundation for the Future
ATTENDANCE

16,644
FY18 Attendance

2000+
Guests attended the Ice Cream Festival

33% MORE
students served in FY18 than in FY17

352 kindergarteners & adults from 10 Title 1 schools served through the SAPLINGS program, a partnership with Virginia Beach City Public Schools
Teetotalers and Moonshiners: Prohibition in Virginia, Distilled traveling exhibit from the Library of Virginia at the Francis Land House

888 guests attended a Revolutionary War Encampment at the Thoroughgood House

750+ hours spent by volunteers to hand stitch a red work petticoat
May 18, 2018 Ribbon cutting for Thoroughgood Education Center and opening of All America Was Virginia museum exhibit
New Thoroughgood Education Center and House restoration project provided:

- Museum exhibit featuring Virginia Beach history
- Introductory film
- Classroom for two new, hands-on school programs that support Virginia Standards of Learning
- Fully accessible building and amenities
- Video alternative to tour of historic house for guests with mobility impairments
- Beautifully landscaped grounds with accessible paths and outdoor restroom building
- New HVAC system for historic house
- Restoration of historic paint finishes in house
The mission of the Virginia Beach Historic Houses Foundation is to enhance the City-owned historic houses and sites by providing funding for historic artifacts and education programs and promoting public awareness of Virginia Beach history.

**Virginia Beach Historic Houses Foundation’s capital campaign supported:**

- Artifact acquisition
- Interactive exhibits
- Custom illustrations
- Period reproductions
- Loan fees
Lynnhaven House Restoration

- Sealing the building envelope
- Drying the masonry
- Moving water away from the foundation
- Designing and installing new electrical and mechanical systems
- Researching the history of the structure to guide future restoration choices
- Repairing structural issues
2019 Programs

Celebration of 300th anniversary of construction of Thoroughgood House

Expansion of SAPLINGS program to include all kindergarteners from Virginia Beach’s Title I schools and 8 additional schools

Introductory films for Francis Land House and Lynnhaven House

Changing exhibit at Thoroughgood House presented in collaboration with MOCA and Green Run High School IB Art students
Making Historic Houses a Community Asset: 
The Virginia Beach History Pass

Through a collaboration with the Virginia Beach Public Library, those who show a Virginia Beach Public Library card at the Virginia Beach History Museums (Thoroughgood House, Francis Land House, and Lynnhaven House) will be admitted free of charge.

This initiative gives individuals the ability to visit these rich cultural institutions and fulfills the Virginia Beach Public Library’s mission to bring people together and provide equitable and convenient access to resources, educational experiences, and opportunities to enrich lives.

The $10,000 funding requested from the City in Service Level 3 will cover the costs of marketing the collaboration and will offset the loss of admission revenue.
The modern addition to the building is trapping moisture against the historic house and needs to be removed.

Site work is needed to regrade and improve drainage.