

**VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

February 12, 2020, 5:00 pm

Towne Bank Building, 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500

Approved March 4, 2020

Present:

Officers: Chair, James Wood; First Vice-Chair, Sharon Prescott; Second Vice-Chair Mac Rawls; Secretary, Bobbie Gribble

Members: Caroline Dixon, Jennifer Estes, Michael Hucles, Ian Lichacz, Christi Lyons, Rachel McGraw, Lee Lockamy

Staff: Mark Reed

**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.

The meeting opened at 5:00 p.m.

**Welcome/Introductions/Remarks**

Jimmy Wood read the Purpose & Mission of the Historic Preservation Commission. Mr. Wood noted that since the last meeting, the Commission’s staff liaison, Mark Reed, received a promotion to Planner 3. Mr. Wood addressed member attendance at the monthly general meetings. He asked members to let Mark know if you are not be able to make a meeting. Otherwise it will get recorded as an unexcused absence. Mr. Wood also addressed the required annual submittal of Financial Disclosure Statements. He asked if everyone had submitted theirs. Mr. Reed said he would check with the City Clerk’s Office and follow up accordingly.

**Approval of January 8, 2019 Minutes**

Mr. Wood asked the members present to review the minutes of the January 8 general meeting, which had been distributed in advance. A motion was made by Mac Rawls to approve the January minutes. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Estes. The January 8 minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**Committee Reports**

**Annual Meeting April 23**

Mac Rawls reported for the Annual Public Meeting committee. He noted that today’s meeting packet has a basic draft agenda (see Appendix 1). Mr. Rawls said the committee is looking for additional input on the agenda. He said the historical presentation last year from one of the research grant projects was a highlight. Mr. Reed noted that we tentatively have a presentation from Edna Hendrix on the agenda on her recently completed research project.

Jennifer Estes suggested that we could do something to highlight the historic markers. Sharon Prescott suggested it could be a photo loop running when attendees are arriving and settling in their seats.

### **Cape Henry Historic Site**

Mac Rawls reported for the Cape Henry Historic Site committee. He said there is now a Lighthouse Dune Bunker agreement in place between the Navy and Preservation Virginia. This additional site will now be added to the Lighthouse/Cape Henry visitor experience.

Mr. Rawls said that Preservation Virginia is finishing up the interior paint project for the lighthouse and they hope to hold a publicity event/reception once it is complete and again open to the public.

Mr. Rawls said there is some hopeful news for improvements for civilian base access and parking. He said the plan is to move the existing gate back and have direct public access to shuttle parking. He said there is no parking lot expansion planned at this time, but this is a positive move for access.

Mr. Rawls asked Mark Reed to discuss the developments with the Section 106 review of the Cape Henry Cottages proposed demolitions. Mr. Reed said there will be a consulting party meeting with the base command on February 19. Based upon preliminary information received, the Navy is expected to offer public access to the Cape Henry Train Station as part of their mitigation strategy. Their current plan is to move their base U.S. Post Office operation into the train station building. As part of the building rehabilitation they will have operational public rest rooms and will have space for photographs and potentially other exhibits.

On another note, Mr. Reed said that Captain Joey Frantzen will be leaving in June. Captain Mike Witherspoon will be the new Commander for JEBCFS

### **Historic Preservation Month**

Sharon Prescott reported for the Historic Preservation Month Committee. She said the purpose is to celebrate Historic Preservation Month by raising awareness about historic preservation in the City of Virginia Beach and to recognize the accomplishments of the Historic Preservation Commission during its first eleven years.

She said for publicity we will promote it at the at Public Meeting in April. She said we will issue a press release about the related activities. Ms. Prescott noted that the Commission and the City will promote it on our web page, as well as through the City's Facebook and Twitter on social media. There will also be a Mayoral Proclamation for Historic Preservation Month on May 5, 2020

Ms. Prescott said we are planning Pints for Preservation activities again this year. She said we are planning to partner with local breweries and the five breweries we have contacted are:

- Back Bay Farmhouse
- Deadline Brewing
- Pleasure House Brewing
- Smartmouth Pilot House
- Vibrant Shore Brewing Company

Activities will include a Happy Hour event at each brewery; special Preservation Month ales brewed by each brewery with \$1 per pint sale going as donations to Preservation Virginia for the Cape Henry Lighthouse. We will produce a commemorative coaster with 1,000 going to each brewery. We will also produce a commemorative pint glass and will donate 144 to Preservation Virginia with all proceeds going to the Lighthouse. A promotional poster for the Happy Hour events will be produced for placement in local businesses.

Other related activities will include the Student Leaders Committee Scavenger Hunt, which is scheduled for April 2 – 5, and school announcements and social media posts for Virginia Beach History Facts. We also hope to promote activities and events related to the Historic Houses.

### **Princess Anne County Confederate Statue Roundtable**

Jimmy Wood reported for the PACCSR committee. Mr. Wood said that they provided City Council with a briefing of the Commission's recommendations on January 28. He said that he and Sharon Felton met with most of the newest City Council Members before the briefing. Mr. Wood noted that the presentation to the Council did not elicit any comments or questions from the Council members. He noted that there is a budget request that is expected to come forward as part of the City Manager's budget. It is for \$50,000, which includes \$10,000 for the two interpretive signs and the plaque and \$40,000 for park design.

Mr. Wood said that we started the briefing by playing the video that the Communications Office had produced for us. It is accessible on the Commission's web page. Mr. Reed then played the video for the Commission.

### **Recognition of Historic Buildings**

Mark Reed noted that Katie Paulson was unable to attend tonight's meeting and he will report in her absence. He said that a year and a half ago the committee noted that 17 out of 48 properties featured in *50 Most Historically Significant Houses and Structures in Virginia Beach* publication were not listed on the Virginia Beach Historical Register. A letter went out to the 17 property owners. The Cooke-Royster Cottage responded and applied. A second letter went out to property owners this past fall.

In January, Mr. Reed received a letter from the owner of Broad Bay Manor who responded by saying he was interested in applying. More importantly, he asked for guidance in doing additional research into the history of his property through archaeology and wood dating. Mr. Reed has arranged for an archaeologist and an architectural historian from DHR to do a site visit to look at the property and the building. It is scheduled for next week. Mr. Reed noted that this is the type of interest that the Commission hopes to generate through the Register and other programs.

### **Student Leaders Committee**

Caroline Dixon and Rachel McGraw reported for the Student Leaders Committee. Caroline Dixon provided an overview of Legislative Advocacy Day on February 5. She said they had five students that participated in the day-long activities. Ms. Dixon said the group met with Senator Bill DeSteph. Senator DeSteph introduced them on the Senate floor. She said they advocated for the state tax credit program and funding for an underwater archaeology program. They went on a tour of the Capitol building. Delegate Heretick from Portsmouth showed them around the House Floor after the session was over. Ms. Dixon said the group also attended the Legislative Reception that evening and met and talked with many professionals involved in historic preservation. Governor Northam was the featured speaker at the reception.

Rachel McGraw said they are working on finalizing details for the Scavenger Hunt competition to be held April 2nd through April 5th. It will feature historical markers with a military theme. They are working on posters to go up in the schools.

Ms. Dixon said each of the committee members will be providing fun historical facts and they hope to post them every week on Instagram and Twitter and perhaps more often during Historic Preservation Month.

Ms. McGraw noted that they are all close to completing their Clio entries and are waiting for reviews from Ms. Lyons and Mr. Reed.

## **2020/2021 Priorities and Goals Approval**

Mark Reed noted that Commission has seen drafts during the past several meetings and have had an opportunity for input on the priorities and goals for 2020/2021. He said that it will be impossible to accomplish everything that is outlined in the document. He noted that when the Commission originally convened in 2009, they kept a list called Items for Consideration that captured historic preservation issues of interest. Mr. Reed said that evolved into the Priorities and Goals, which is the planning tool we utilize until we can update the historic preservation program's strategic plan.

A motion was made by Sharon Prescott to approve the 2020/2021 Priorities & Goals. The motion was seconded by Christi Lyons. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Reed said that members can still request additional Committee assignments.

## **Project Updates**

Mark Reed provided several project updates:

African American Heritage Month Proclamation – Mr. Reed said that the Proclamation was read by Mayor Dyer on February 4<sup>th</sup> in City Council Chamber. The Proclamation was accepted by members of the Princess Anne County Training School Union Kempsville High School Alumni & Friends Association and by the Virginia African American Cultural Center

Archaeological Assessment Southern Half – Mr. Reed said that the field work for this project has been completed.

Architectural Survey Update Southern Half – Mr. Reed said that Cultural Resource Analysts continues working on VCRIS entries (250 entries). They have submitted their initial 50 entries for his review. One of the big things for this report will be the development of a historical context. That draft is still pending submittal.

Multiple Property Documentation Submission – Resort Motels/Jefferson Manor Motel PIF  
Mr. Reed said that the PIFs have been submitted to DHR for staff review by Dovetail Cultural Resource Group. The consultants will be making a presentation on the project to the Commission at their March 4 meeting. The State Review Board meeting is March 19.

Mr. Reed noted that once the MPD and Jefferson Manor have been approved, this will enable other hotels to be able to move ahead with nominations for listing in the National Register. Those that get listed will receive a real estate tax reduction by approximately 50% on the value of the building.

National Trust Letter of Intent – African American Communities Historical Markers

Mr. Reed said that the Letter of Intent was submitted to the National Trust for the African American Communities Historical Marker Initiative on January 14. The proposed project is for 14 state markers to document historically African American communities in Virginia Beach. He said the request is for \$42,105. Mr. Reed noted that we will receive notification around mid-March whether the National Trust wants us to prepare an application. The application would be due May 1.

Legislative Reception – February 5 – Mr. Reed noted that the Commission had already heard about the Legislative Advocacy Day, which included attending the Legislative Reception. He said that Jimmy Wood, Sharon Felton, Caroline Dixon, Rachel McGraw & three Student Leaders Committee members attended. He said they were able to talk with several statewide preservation leaders including Elizabeth Kostelny, Chief Executive Officer for Preservation Virginia, and Julie Langan, the Director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. He noted that there was a lot of interest in the Student

Leaders Committee and some preservation professionals came up to him to ask if they could meet the group.

Skirmish at James's Plantation Historical Marker – Mr. Reed stated that the Dedication Ceremony for the historical marker is scheduled on Saturday, February 15 at Nimmo Church at 10:00 a.m. He noted that marker is not ready, yet, but they are moving forward with the ceremony since February 15 is the 239th anniversary of the engagement.

### **Historic Properties Glimpse**

Mark Reed said that there is no report this month since the Historical Review Board has no agenda items scheduled in February.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

CLG ARB Workshop – May 15 Williamsburg – Mark Reed noted that he had sent information out on this free workshop. He encouraged Commission members to please register before it fills up, stating that they will limit it to 40 participants. He said 6 members of the Historical Review Board and 2 City staff members have signed up.

Time Capsule for new City Hall building – Jimmy Wood noted that Facilities Management provided a very positive response about the time capsule idea and we will be working with them and the Cultural Affairs Department to move this forward.

### **Adjournment**

The next general meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Towne Bank Building, Suite 500. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

# Appendix 1

## Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission Annual Public Meeting Thursday, April 23, 6:30 – 8:00/8:30 p.m.

### Draft Agenda

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Time Allotted</u>
Welcome and Introductions	Jimmy Wood	5 minutes
Restoration Project recognition (plaque) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Cape Henry Lighthouse</li></ul>	Jimmy Wood Elizabeth Kostelny	10 minutes
Commission Members Recognition <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Glenn Carwell</li><li>● Diane Horsley</li><li>● Bernice Pope</li></ul>	Mac Rawls	5 minutes
Architectural Survey Update Southern Half	Mark Reed Laura Purvis CRA	15-20 minutes
Projects/Accomplishments/Updates	Jimmy Wood	10 minutes
Student Leaders Committee	Caroline Dixon Rachel McGraw	10 minutes
Historic Houses/Cultural Affairs	Emily Labows	10 minutes
Research Grant Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● African American Communities Part 2</li></ul>	Mark Reed Edna Hendrix	15-20 minutes
Historic Preservation Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Pints for Preservation</li></ul>	Sharon Prescott	10 minutes
		100 minutes

02/12/2020