

## **VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

April 7, 2021, 5:00 pm  
Virtual Meeting via WebEx  
Approved May 5, 2021

Present:

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

Members: Sharon Felton, Harriet Frenzel, Richard Klobuchar, Hannah Levi, Ian Lichacz, Becky Livas, Lee Lockamy, Christi Lyons, Timothy Oksman, Katie Paulson

Staff: Mark Reed

### **Welcome/Introductions/Remarks – Jimmy Wood**

Jimmy Wood called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting

### **Presentation – Kahoot**

Christi Lyons presented the game Kahoot on Virginia Beach history that was developed by the Student Leaders Committee. This is often used in schools as a review and learning tool and scoring is based upon correct answers and the speed of response. Commission members participated in the Kahoot in a spirited competition.

The game, as presented, had 24 questions on the city's history. Each member of the Student Leaders Committee developed questions to submit for the game. There are 3 versions of the learning tool that will be available to VB schools (Kahoot, Gimkit and Blink.it).

The Chair, Jimmy Wood, finished with the highest total. Some members believe he may have benefitted from superior technology and equipment.

There was general discussion about the Kahoot and the questions. Historical areas were suggested from the Commission to broaden the scope of the learning tool, including agricultural heritage, German prisoners of war, Seaview Beach, Willis Augustus Hodges, military fortifications during World War II/Cold War, who was Princess Anne, and information from projects the Historic Preservation Commission has been doing.

Ms. Lyons said that ideally, they will make three versions – elementary, middle and high school.

### **Approval of March 3, 2021 Minutes**

Jimmy Wood asked if there are any questions or corrections to the March 3, 2021 minutes. Tim Oksman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Sharon Felton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Student Leaders Committee**

Hannah Levi reported for the Student Leaders Committee. The last meeting was on March 10 and they were finalizing the entries for the Kahoot and other platforms they are working on. Ms. Levi said they are working on the Seashore State Park YouTube video. She said they are preparing for the Scavenger Hunt in May and they are starting to get the word out. Their next meeting is next week on April 14.

### **Underrepresented Communities**

Sharon Felton reported for the Underrepresented Communities committee. She said they are in the process of completing the committee's membership. Ms. Felton said she is working on finalizing representation from the Hispanic and Filipino communities.

### **Project Updates**

Mark Reed provided updates on several ongoing preservation program projects.

Mr. Reed noted that the **Oceanfront Resort Motels/Hotels Multiple Property Document (MPD) and Jefferson Manor Motel Apartments National Register of Historic Places nomination** were reviewed by the Board of Historic Resources and State Review Board on March 18. The MPD was approved and Jefferson Manor was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register. He said it is now going to the National Park Service for their review. Mr. Reed said that we got good press coverage on it with a Virginian-Pilot article online on March 18 and in print on the front page above the fold on May 20.

Mr. Reed discussed the **Historic Preservation Program Strategic Plan** and said that we are working to get the online Public Input survey launched. When it does it should be live for about 3 weeks. He said we will need to get the word out when it goes live. We will do a press release and some notices on social media. He asked the Commission members to assist in spreading the word in their circle of acquaintances and through social media. He noted that we have requested a project timeline extension from DHR.

Mr. Reed said that they don't want the strategic plan to get in the way of the **Historic District Design Standards and Review Guidelines**, which has a hard and fast deadline due to the federal funding. He noted that there will be a property owner/public meeting via WebEx on Thursday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m. He said a direct mailing was sent to all property owners about the project and the meeting. Mr. Reed noted that a press release went out today about the meeting. This is the first opportunity for public input and we really want to reach the property owners.

Mr. Reed said that we are getting close to **Pints for Preservation for Historic Preservation Month**. He said we have three brewing partners, Deadline Brewing Project, Pleasure House Brewing and Vibrant Shore. He said we are finalizing glassware and coaster designs and he showed a couple of versions on his PowerPoint slide. The Commission members provided their opinion and it was agreed to use the brighter image on the glassware and the more antiqued image on the coaster.

Mr. Reed discussed the progress on the **National Register Nominations for L & J Gardens and Seatack**. He said that the National Park Service has approved our contractor selection for L & J Gardens. The City has contracted with Debra McClane, Architectural Historian, who recently did the motels MPD for us, as well as the Oceana neighborhood nomination a few years ago. Mr. Reed said she has put together a team to include architectural historian Kristin Kirchen and two local historians that specialize in African American history Edna Hendrix and Dr. Joanne Lucas. He noted that the Purchase Order has been issued.

For Seatack, Mr. Reed said the Evaluation Committees has made a selection and the National Park Service has approved the contractor selected. He said we are now waiting for the Purchasing Office to approve before it can be announced.

Mr. Reed noted that the two projects were budgeted at \$75,499 with the grant and the final contracted cost is \$75,985. For the grant, the first report is due to the Park Service on April 30.

Mr. Reed requested the Planning Department Director to approve expenditure of funds for additional project in FY21. He said that the following projects were approved for expenditure

- **Chesapeake Beach Neighborhood PIF**
- **Newsome Farm Cemetery PIF**
- **Research Grants FY21**
- **Courthouse Interpretive Signs**

### **Historic Properties Glimpse**

Mr. Reed provided an overview of upcoming items for the Historical Review Board at their April 21 meeting. He said the biggest item is the Nimmo Church proposed building additions. He noted that these include a Welcome Center at the front of the church, a large new Fellowship Hall, a Choir Room and additional parking.

Mr. Reed showed slides of the existing building layout and the layout with the proposed additions. He also showed slides of an artist rendering of how the church would look with the Welcome Center addition and the Fellowship Hall addition.

Mr. Reed said the steeple is the defining architectural characteristic of the church building having been there since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Staff has recommended that they not locate the Welcome Center addition in front of the historic section of the building. He said he is pretty sure that staff will recommend denial of the Welcome Center as submitted.

Mr. Reed said the other agenda item is a proposed sign for a business at 3157 Virginia Beach Boulevard in the Francis Land District. Most of the businesses there have an internally illuminated box sign and the new sign is consistent with existing signs in the shopping center.

Mr. Reed then said he wanted to follow up on discussions from last month about the violation of the Cavalier Hotel Green Space Easement. The hotel had initiated installation of a catering prep area and synthetic turf at the top of the hill adjacent to the building. At last month's meeting it had been recommended that Jimmy Wood write a letter to Bruce Thompson. Before he could do that, Mr. Thompson had written an apology letter to Mr. Wood.

The review of the Cavalier projects went to staff to see if the proposed work was consistent with the language of the easement. DHR reviewed the project and said there would be no impact to the historic setting or register status for the Cavalier. The staff review committee, which included a City Attorney, the administrator from Landscape Management, the City's Facilities Management Engineer, Mr. Reed, and the chair of the Historic Preservation Commission, recommended approval of the project with 7 conditions. Mr. Reed said he made a presentation on the review and recommendations to City Council on March 23. Some Council members discussed penalizing property owner for violations but didn't get support from other members of Council.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Wood asked if there is any old business. Lee Lockamy said he had some. He noted that for the Cape Henry Train Station at Ft. Story all of the electrical and HVAC work has been completed. He said they ran into a lot of asbestos and all of that material has been removed. Mr. Lockamy said painting will probably be done next week. He said it will be about two months for the project to be completed.

### **New Business**

Mr. Wood asked if there was any new business. There was none.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Wood said the next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 5, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. He said it may be in person or it may be virtual. There was some discussion about the viability of in person meetings versus virtual meetings. The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.