

VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

May 1, 2019, 5:00 pm

Towne Bank Building, 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500

Approved September 4, 2019

Present:

Officers: Chair, William Gambrell; First Vice-Chair, James Wood;
Second Vice-Chair, Sharon Prescott; Secretary, Bobbie Gribble;
Immediate Past Chair, Bernice Pope

Members: Glenn Carwell, Jennifer Estes, Sharon Felton, Jimmy Jordan, Katie Paulson, Mac Rawls

City Council Liaison: Rosemary Wilson

Staff: Mark Reed, Bill Landfair

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 welcomed those in attendance.

Councilperson Rosemary Wilson informed the Commission that she has asked the City Council to consider moving Historic Houses from the Aquarium to the Cultural Affairs Dept. with the FY20 budget. She said that this includes a request for \$50,000 of additional funding for their activities.

Mr. Gambrell asked if the Commission should write a letter in support of the action and funding. Mrs. Wilson said the Commission could do that or attend the public hearing next Tuesday to speak in support.

Sharon Prescott made a motion for the VBHPC to support Rosemary Wilson’s recommendation that Historic Houses be moved from the Aquarium to the Cultural Affairs Department. The motion was seconded by Jimmy Jordan and unanimously passed. Jimmy Wood will provide comment at the next Virginia Beach City Council Meeting (5/7/19).

Virginia Beach Historical Register Plaque Presentation – Cooke-Royster Cottage

Katie Paulson noted that the Cooke-Royster Cottage located at 7700 Ocean Front Avenue had been placed on the Virginia Beach Historical Register. Ms. Paulson and Mr. Gambrell presented a plaque and certificate to Joan Brock, the property owner.

Approval of April 3, 2019 Minutes

Secretary Bobbie Gribble prepared the minutes of the Commission’s April 3 general meeting. Mr. Gambrell noted that the minutes had been distributed in advance and he asked if there were any changes or additions. Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 3, 2019 meeting as presented. Sharon Felton seconded the motion. The motion to approve the April 3 minutes was passed unanimously.

Princess Anne County Confederate Statue Roundtable

Jimmy Wood asked if he could provide the report from the Princess Anne County Statue Roundtable earlier in the agenda because he would need to leave early. He said a meeting was held April 26th with the members of the Roundtable. They discussed the direction that was provided from Mayor Dyer and

from the Historic Preservation Commission regarding additional public input. The committee opted for a moderated public discussion. He noted that the group decided to have Barbara Hamm Lee moderate a public forum. Mr. Wood said that are looking at selecting a June date and the meeting will probably be held in the convention center.

Sharon Felton said the committee was pleased with the Commission's support and Councilperson Wilson's support for this solution for a public meeting. She noted Mr. Reed played such a significant role in all we do.

Public Meeting, April 10

Sharon Prescott said that the Commission held a successful Public Meeting on April 10. She thanked all of the Commission members that volunteered and assisted before and during the event. Ms. Prescott noted that attendance was down somewhat from last year and said she thought it was due to the change of venue. She thanked Mark Reed for his expertise in pulling all the threads together for the meeting. Ms. Prescott said there was a good follow up article in the newspaper.

Mac Rawls said he really appreciated Chris Pieczynski's presentation of his research on the skirmish at James' plantation. He said it really engaged the people that were in attendance.

Historic Preservation Month

Ms. Prescott reported on the upcoming activities for Historic Preservation Month. She pointed out the coasters that have been produced to promote the month to the public. The Commission donated the coasters to Preservation Virginia and the three participating breweries will be giving out the coasters at their locations.

Mayor Dyer will be issuing a proclamation for Historic Preservation Month on May 7. First Vice Chair Jimmy Wood will accept this proclamation.

Also coming up during May is the Pints for Preservation initiative. Mr. Reed has assisted Preservation Virginia in coordinating with the breweries. There will be Happy Hour events at each brewery and two of them have brewed a special beer for Historic Preservation Month. For every pint sold during the Happy Hour, they will donate \$1 to Preservation Virginia. Preservation Virginia will receive 144 pint glasses from the Historic Preservation Commission with the Historic Preservation Month design on it and they will take donations for the glasses at the happy hours.

- **May 11, 3 – 6 p.m., Smartmouth Pilot House, 313 32nd Street** (not brewing a special beer)
- **May 16, 6 – 9 p.m., Deadline Brewing Project, 2272 W. Great Neck Road** (brewing a special beer - a dry oyster stout. They are being featured on the Deadline page)
- **May 23, 4 – 7 p.m., Back Bay's Farmhouse Brewing Co., 1805 Kempsville Road** (brewing Cape Henry Hefeweizen - will be doing the release of the beer at Happy Hour.) They will give a \$1 per pint sold of these beers from May 23rd through the June 30th.

Ms. Prescott reported on the Scavenger Hunt for Brianna Perez. She said that 12 students completed visiting all 6 markers and 27 students participated. They are working on selecting the prize winners.

Committee Reports

Cape Henry Historic Site

Mac Rawls noted that the committee, along with Preservation Virginia, took a tour on Monday. Part of the tour was for a Section 106 review process. They looked at buildings that are proposed for demolition. Most were buildings built in the 1920s as residential cottages. The Cape Henry community was built up around the train station and casino. He said the condition of the cottages varied and the group only went inside one cottage. Mr. Rawls said the most interesting thing on the list was a bunker. The Commission is to provide comments.

Mr. Rawls said that they also got to tour St. Teresa's Chapel and the Cape Henry Train Station. He said the biggest thing that made an impression on the group was to visit the Train Station. He noted that the Train Station has a lot of possibilities. Mac suggested we needed to come with an idea of how to get our foot in the door on this. One of the first things that should happen is to have a conversation with the Navy's Public Works person and the Commanding Officer.

Mr. Rawls said the other big thing is the reception sponsored by Preservation Virginia Friday night at the Cavalier. It starts at 5:30 p.m. He also noted that Saturday at 11:00 a.m. will be the big dedication for the Cape Henry Lighthouse project and the reopening ceremony. Please attend.

Historic Recognition

Katie Paulson reported for the Historic Recognition committee. She said that they had a site visit to the Cooke-Royster Cottage at 7700 Ocean Front Avenue and after evaluation it was placed on the Virginia Beach Historical Register. She noted that we presented the property owner with the plaque today.

Strawberry Festival

Bobbie Gribble noted that the Strawberry Festival is coming up on May 25. She said we are low on volunteers and asked if any additional members could assist. Bernice Pope suggested that the Commission probably should consider not participating this year. After some discussion the Commission felt that the Strawberry Festival participation should be deferred this year. It will be reevaluated for next year.

Project Updates

Mark Reed provided project updates on several items.

Mr. Reed said that the Cost Share Grant application was successful for the Archaeological Assessment for the Southern Half of Virginia Beach. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) will provide \$9,000 toward the project and will manage the project for us. Mr. Reed said that the City will be processing the locality agreement and once that is done DHR will begin the procurement process.

Mr. Reed said that proposals for the Architectural Survey Update for the Southern Half of Virginia Beach are due in the Purchasing Office today (May 1). He said that staff will review and evaluate the proposals. He noted that we hope to have a firm under contract by June.

Mr. Reed said that the Cavalier Hotel Baseline Documentation Report is nearing completion. A draft was submitted and reviewed by staff. Comments were submitted to the firm, which has just submitted a revised final draft. Staff review is pending.

Mr. Reed said that the Cavalier Shores Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 2. He offered his congratulations to Bernice Pope, President of the Cavalier Shores Civic League. The news of the listing was announced at the Commission's Public Meeting on April 10. Mr. Reed said that a press release was distributed on April 29.

Historic Properties Glimpse

Mark Reed provided an overview of the agenda items for the May 15 Historical Review Board meeting.

- Rose Hall Apartments – Francis Land District – Replacement of Rose Hall sign with similar
- Recycle Center – Courthouse District – Install new prefabricated Guardhouse structure
- 2484 N. Landing Road – Courthouse District – Replace roof with similar
- 2435 Princess Anne Road, Building 16 – Courthouse District – Replace roof with similar
- 2425 Nimmo Parkway, Building 10 – Courthouse District – Install new security lighting for judges parking area
- (tentative item) – Courthouse District – Nimmo Parkway Townhomes development

The item that sparked discussion was the proposed prefabricated Guardhouse structure. Mr. Rawls asked if it was proposed as a temporary or as a permanent structure. Mr. Reed said he wasn't sure and would need to check. Mr. Rawls said if it was permanent the Commission should oppose it because it needs to be more architecturally compatible with the architecture in the Courthouse District.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Sharon Felton noted that on May 11th the African American Cultural Center will have a second photographic exhibit display: The Portraits from a Place of Grace. It will be held at MOCA, May 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Mac Rawls and Sharon Prescott were awarded pins (three years on the commission) by Mark Reed from the City of Virginia Beach.

Adjournment

The next general meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 5:00 p.m., Towne Bank Building, 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.