

VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

September 4, 2019, 5:00 pm

Towne Bank Building, 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500

Approved October 2, 2019

Present:

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

Members: Jennifer Estes, Harriet Frenzel, Sharon Felton, Michael Hucles, Jimmy Jordan,
Rachel McGraw, Katie Paulson, Mac Rawls

City Council Liaison: Rosemary Wilson

Staff: Mark Reed

Citizens: Cheryl Scott, Linda Russell

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 everyone who was in attendance. He noted that there are new members in attendance, so he asked to go around the table and have Commission members introduce themselves.

New members in attendance included Michael Hucles, who introduced himself as Mike and noted that he is a recently retired history professor from Old Dominion University. Also new to the Commission is Rachel McGraw, one of the Student members for 2019/2020. Ms. McGraw said she is a senior at Tallwood High School.

Mr. Gambrell also noted that there are two members of the public in attendance. He asked them to introduce themselves. Cheryl Scott and Linda Russell were the members of the public.

Presentation on Architectural Survey Update Southern Half

Laura Purvis with Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. (CRA) and Debra McClane, Architectural Historian provided a presentation on the Architectural Survey Update for the southern half of Virginia Beach that they have been contracted to do. The City has contracted with CRA and they have subcontracted with Ms. McClane. Ms. Purvis is the project manager.

They noted that they met with City staff on July 10 for the project "Kickoff Meeting" and then staff drove them around the project area for a reasonably extensive "windshield survey." They then discussed the two meetings that were held on August 14. The first one was with Barbara Henley's History Group at the Senior Resource Center in Creeds. The second one was a Public Information Session at the Creeds Ruritan Barn.

Ms. Purvis noted that the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) sent a representative to both meetings. Ms. Purvis said that DHR typically has representatives attend such public meeting when they have provided some of the project funding. In this case the City has provided all of the funding, so it shows that DHR has a real interest in the surveys and other work that is taking place here in Virginia Beach. Ms. Purvis noted that the DHR staff person was Elizabeth Lipford and Ms. Lipford had actually been employed with DHR when the previous surveys were done in the 1990s.

Ms. Purvis said they heard in the meetings that people were concerned they record resources in the context of places, for example crossroads communities, to develop the history even if the community is

not there anymore. She also noted that there was a concern for family cemeteries. She said these will be documented and reported.

During these meetings flyers and business cards were handed out. People have begun to reach out directly to them to provide information. This will help them when they get into the thick of the survey work and will enhance the final product as it helps to give context and a better documentation of the subject property.

Mark Reed noted that we were able to get an article about the survey project in the *Princess Anne Independent News*, which is a biweekly publication that is primarily focused on news interests for the southern half of the city.

Ms. McLane said that aerial photographs have proven to be very helpful. They help them to determine settlement and transportation patterns by showing the waterways and railway lines. She noted that they met with Edna Hendrix and Dr. Joanne Lucas, who have been very helpful with information about African American History and the role of churches and schools in those areas.

They will also look for other aspects of the area that may be unique to its development, such as labor camps and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) sites, as well as sporting and recreation related buildings, like gun and hunt clubs. Ms. McLane noted that we should keep in mind that many of those types of resources have already been surveyed and will not likely be included in their report.

They will also be looking at the development of Sandbridge and will be surveying surviving buildings from the 1950s and 1960s there.

Ms. Purvis said they are trying to create a user-friendly report that you can search and find an organized logic to it. She said they plan to work closely with the history group as a way to accomplish this.

The report will provide a prioritized list for preservation and related recognitions. They will also identify other ideas for interpretation and locations that can be highlighted as part of the story of the city. This will be tailored to the southern half with a tailored historic context.

Field surveys will be wrapped up by November. In that time, they are working towards the historic contexts (and they are addressing all concerns and allowing for more conversation).

In November they will have a 50% benchmark. They should have an 'almost' complete list of properties. They will have a draft by the end of January. Final deliverables by April 2020.

Sharon Felton made the point that it would be great to have the material accessible to students.

Mark Reed said we are fortunate to have Laura and Debra back to perform the survey for the southern half. There is a desirable continuity with the survey of the northern half. Mr. Reed said that both Laura and Debra bring a breadth of experience. They have a great understanding of 20th-century resources, but they also have significant experience doing rural surveys. They are perfect for what we are trying to do here in accomplishing an update to previous surveys and find what we did not catch in previous projects.

Approval of May 1, 2019 Minutes

Mr. Gambrell asked the members to review the minutes of the May 1 meeting and to provide any edits or changes. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Jimmy Wood. The motion was seconded and approved.

Historic Preservation Month

Mark Reed reported for Sharon Prescott. He noted that there is a sheet in the meeting packet that provides an overview of activities and accomplishments (see Appendix 1).

Mr. Reed said he just wanted to provide a brief recap of Historic Preservation Month activities for the Commission. He noted that there was a Mayoral Proclamation issued on May 7th and Jimmy Wood accepted on behalf of the Commission.

Mr. Reed discussed the successful Pints for Preservation activities. These were done to raise awareness about ongoing preservation needs for the Cape Henry Lighthouse and to raise a little bit of money for it. He noted that three breweries participated through hosting happy hour events and brewing special beers for Historic Preservation Month. The breweries were Smartmouth Pilot House, Deadline Brewing Project and Back Bay's Farmhouse Brewing Company.

The Historic Preservation Commission donated 1,000 beverage coasters to each of the participating breweries. The coaster featured the Pints for Preservation/Historic Preservation Month logo on one side and the individual brewery's logo on the other. The Pints for Preservation logo includes web addresses for the Commission and Preservation Virginia. Mr. Reed noted that Deadline Brewing is still using the coasters into September, so we continue to get some public awareness.

The Commission also donated 144 pint glasses to Preservation Virginia as a fund raiser. Each glass featured the Pints for Preservation/Historic Preservation Month logo. Glasses were sold at the happy hour events and in the Cape Henry Lighthouse gift shop. All glasses have been sold, raising \$1,120. The total donated through the happy hours, special beer sales and pint glass was about \$3,000.

The Student Leaders Committee also put together a Scavenger Hunt that focused on visiting some of the state highway markers in Virginia Beach. This was a pilot project involving three schools that was run to try to figure out methodologies, logistics and timing. It was done during Spring Break in April when students would be out of school. Sixteen Students completed the Scavenger Hunt and will receive prizes. Due to recent circumstances, prize distribution is pending, but Mr. Reed expects to get them out during September.

Mr. Reed said that the Historic Preservation Month activities were successful in raising awareness and in reaching a new audience. He noted that the Executive Committee has said that it would like to continue Historic Preservation Month efforts in 2020.

FY20 Historic Preservation Program Budget

Mr. Reed provided a project-oriented budget outline for the current fiscal year for the City's historic preservation program (see Appendix 2). He noted that the Virginia Beach City Council had approved the \$89,158 amount in May of 2019. The budget presented here provides guidance to staff and the Commission for project areas of expenditure.

Mr. Reed briefly went through the budget line items. He noted that the City is already obligated for the \$36,000 for the archaeological assessment as we have executed an agreement with DHR for that purpose.

Mr. Gambrell said he thinks the Standards and Guidelines for the Historic and Cultural Districts is important, but he expressed concern that \$15,000 was not sufficient funding for the project. Mr. Reed agreed that it may not be enough. He noted that the only way to find out is to put together a scope of work and solicit proposals. Once we have proposals in hand we can see if we can make it work with current year funding. He said that there could be some flexibility within the budget depending how close or how far apart the numbers are.

Sharon Felton asked about the budget for training. Mr. Reed noted that typically is has been used for the cost of attending the annual Virginia Preservation Conference. He noted that Preservation Virginia was not going to have a conference this year so we would be looking for other opportunities since training is a CLG requirement.

Ms. Felton asked if it could be used for educational field trips, such as when the Commission and Student Leaders Committee went to Richmond to meet with the Governor and legislators. Mr. Reed said that the

funding could be utilized in a variety of ways to promote education and learning for the Commission and the Historical Review Board.

Jimmy Wood made a motion to approve the FY20 Budget as presented. Bernice Pope seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously by the Commission.

Committee Reports

Cape Henry Historic Site

Mac Rawls presented for the Cape Henry Historic Site committee. He said the committee consists of six (6) members from the Commission, and representatives from the National Park Service, the Order of Cape Henry 1607, Preservation Virginia and JEB Little Creek Fort Story.

Mr. Rawls said we are working toward success and the lighthouse reopening this past May was an important one.

Mr. Rawls noted that the committee visited Fort Story in late April as part of a Section 106 review process. He said there are a number of older houses that are subject to demolition. There is a total of 9 houses that the military wants to demolish, and it now looks like 2 of those houses will be saved. He said he hopes the houses can be used as residences.

Mr. Rawls noted there is a bunker located in the side of the dune at the lighthouse site. Preservation Virginia would like to open it to the public and make it part of the tour. They have made that request to the Navy. This looks like it could be a possibility.

Mr. Rawls noted that the City had recently worked with the base and Preservation Virginia to transport visitors to the lighthouse with a shuttle. He said they have encountered a problem with that arrangement in that they have more people coming to go to the lighthouse than they have parking spaces. As a result, they have been turning people away at the gate when the parking lot is full. The base is looking into expanding the parking lot, but it is not currently funded.

Another transportation problem has come up. The City had worked with HRT to extend an existing bus route up Atlantic Avenue to pick up and drop off riders outside of the gate to the base. That began in the spring, but it was determined that there was not adequate space for the HRT bus to turn around. So, the extension of the bus up Atlantic Avenue has been discontinued for now.

Princess Anne County Confederate Statue Roundtable

Jimmy Wood and Sharon Felton reported for the Princess Anne County Confederate Statue Roundtable. Mr. Wood noted that the last meeting was held on May 30th. At the meeting they met with Barbara Hamm Lee and she provided input on her recommendations for the format for a public forum. After some discussion the public forum was planned for July. Unfortunately, the tragic events at Building 2 took place the following day so plans for a July public forum were postponed.

Mr. Wood noted that Barbara Hamm Lee is still on board to be a moderator for the event. We still need to meet with Julie Hill, the City's Communications Director, to discuss the public forum and how we will publicize the event. At this point it looks like the public meeting will be in October or November.

Ms. Felton said that Barbara Hamm Lee recommended that we release the plan to the public in advance of the public forum. She noted that Ms. Hamm Lee has done several similar events and is very skilled in keeping discussion on point.

Student Leaders Committee

Sharon Felton reported on the Student Leaders Committee. She said there were three days of interviews. Eleven (11) students were invited to join the Student committee, not including the two students that were appointed to the Commission as Student Members. Based on the discussion with the students in the interviews, the scavenger hunt and Clio entries are areas that have sparked a keen interest.

Project Updates

Mark Reed provided several project updates.

Archaeological Assessment Southern Half – Mr. Reed said the Locality Agreement with DHR has been executed. He noted that DHR has initiated the procurement process and they have indicated that the project should be contracted in September. The project will look to update condition assessments at the existing known sites (80) and will look to identify up to 30 potential unrecorded sites. The project includes five days of shoreline survey on inland waterways.

CLG Update City Council Presentation – Mr. Reed said that he made the presentation to City Council on August 13 and that it went well. He said that it had been rescheduled from June 11 to August 13. He noted that as part of the presentation he highlighted some of the results of the recently completed Architectural Survey for the northern half of the City. He said he talked about the potential eligibility for several neighborhoods to be listed in the National Register and also briefly discussed the potential for multiple property documentation submissions. He said he thought the information was well received and it led into a briefing on Seatack community engagement from the Planning Department.

2019/20 Research Grant Awards – Mr. Reed provided an update on the grant award process for the current year. He noted that 5 applications were received and all 5 received funding. Mr. Reed said that for the first time two grants were awarded to one individual. The 5 grants awarded totaled \$9,400, so we are within the budget that was just approved. He said these projects include 4 research papers and 1 oral history video project. (See Appendix 3 for the list of awardees and projects.)

Mac Rawls noted that we have had some good papers and other projects come forward through these research grants. He said that we should consider doing a history series of talks on some of these subjects. He noted that Chris Pieczynski had done an excellent presentation on his research at the most recent public meeting.

Jimmy Jordan said he would like to be involved in assisting with that program since he has been involved in giving talks on local history for many years. Jimmy Wood said that maybe we could get VBTV to film and air the talks.

Historic Properties Glimpse

Mr. Reed said that there is no meeting scheduled in September for the Historical Review Board because there are no items for consideration. He said that coming up Old Donation Episcopal Church is planning an expansion to their modern building. A site visit will be made next week by the Review Board as a preview for the proposed project.

Mr. Reed provided an update on the Weblin House rezoning issue. He said the rezoning was denied by City Council on August 20. That means the applicant cannot make another request for at least a year and likely would need to revise the plans that had been denied.

Old Business

Bernice Pope asked about the status of the Historic and Cultural District zoning overlay for the telephone building. Mr. Reed said there will likely be no action on this until after the November election.

New Business

Jimmy Wood noted that there is a new City Hall building under construction. He said there is a time capsule in the old City Hall building and he thinks it would be good idea to put together a time capsule for the new City Hall. There was some discussion about the time capsule concept and it was generally thought to be a good idea to have the Historic Preservation Commission sponsor such an initiative. Mr. Wood said he would get contact information from Mark Reed and will talk with the City's Facilities Management staff.

Sharon Felton said she attended the Annual Nansemond Indian PowWow recently. She said it was very well done and very well received. She said there were five chiefs and over five hundred people in attendance.

Adjournment

Mr. Gambrell noted that the next Commission meeting will be on Wednesday, October 2, 2019 at 5:00 p.m., in this same location. The meeting adjourned at 6:34.

Appendix 1

Historic Preservation Month – May 2019 -- Accomplishments**Purpose:**

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 ten years.

Public Awareness Activities and Programs**Publicity**

- Promote at Public Meeting in April
 - Sharon Prescott presented brief promotion
 - Reporter in attendance (Eric Hodies) included in his 4/21/19 Beacon article
- Press Release
 - Distributed April 29, 2019
 - Picked up by Southside Daily 5/03/19
 - In City Manager's Update 5/10/19
- Web page/Facebook/Twitter
 - Preservation Virginia web page
 - Historic Preservation Commission web page
 - City Facebook Page
 - Brewery Facebook Pages
- TV/Radio
 - Mentioned Pints for Preservation on WAVY TV10 newscast (around May 1) as part of story on completion of Cape Henry Lighthouse project
 - WAVY TV10 did brief snippets on Pints for Preservation during the month
 - MAR interview with FM102.1 All News radio
- Mayoral Proclamation May 7, 2019
 - Jimmy Wood accepted for the Commission

Pints for Preservation

- Partnered with three local breweries
 - Deadline Brewing Project
 - Smartmouth Pilot House
 - Back Bay's Farmhouse Brewing
- Commemorative Pint Glasses – 144 donated to Preservation Virginia (\$512.40 cost w/shipping)
 - Sold for \$10 each or 2 for \$15 by Preservation Virginia – \$1,120
- Beverage Coasters (Deckels) – 3,000 donated to Preservation Virginia to give to breweries (300 additional to Preservation Virginia and 300 additional to VBHPC) (\$1,113.00 cost w/shipping)
 - Design donated by Farmhouse Brewing Co.
 - 1,200 with each brewery's logo (1,000 to each brewery)
- Poster – 100 four-color, glossy, 18 x 24 printed (\$635 cost)
 - Design donated by Jimmy Jordan
 - Displayed in several businesses
- Individual brewery Preservation Month Ales
 - Deadline – Lynnhaven Oyster Stout
 - \$1 per pint sale in May and June donated
 - Oysters donated by Pleasure House Oysters
 - Farmhouse – Cape Henry Hefeweisen
 - \$1 per pint sale May 23 through June 30 donated
 - Sales at Back Bay Brewing on Norfolk Avenue also donated
- Happy Hour
 - Saturday, May 11, Smartmouth (3 – 6)
 - \$1 per pint sale donated
 - Thursday, May 16, Deadline (6 – 9)
 - 10% of each pint sale donated
 - Thursday, May 23, Farmhouse (4 – 7)
 - 10% of each pint sale donated

- Donations received by Preservation Virginia/Cape Henry Lighthouse
 - Smartmouth – \$136.00 (Happy Hour)
 - Deadline – \$300.00 (\$134 Happy Hour + 165 Pints sold)
 - Farmhouse – \$1,347.00 (1347 Pints sold)
 - Historic Preservation Commission -- \$1,120 (Pint Glass Sales)

Scavenger Hunt

- Pilot Program Developed and Managed by Student Leaders Committee
 - Salem HS, Green Run HS and Great Neck MS students could participate
 - Run during Spring Break in April (13 – 21)
 - 16 students completed
 - Prizes still need to be distributed
 - Military Aviation Museum – Admission tickets for two adults and two youth – 4 sets
 - Jungle Golf – Free Game Pass – 13 one free game prizes
 - Virginia Beach History Museums – 100 Free Admission tickets
 - Rockafellers on Rudee Inlet T – Shirt – 4 Small (white), 4 Medium (white), 4 Large (black)
 - Virginia Aquarium – 20 Complimentary Admissions
 - SubZero – 4 Buy one get one 50% off

Other Activities

- Historic Houses
 - Promote Thoroughgood House 300th Anniversary

09/03/19

Appendix 2

**FY20 City of Virginia Beach Budget
Planning and Community Development
Historic Preservation Program**

Non-Personnel Operating Budget – 002.13150.650802

Total -- \$89,158

Identified Project and Program Expenditures – Relevant to CLG

Archaeological Assessment – Southern Half of City	\$36,000
Historic and Cultural Districts Standards and Guidelines	\$15,000

Training for Historic Preservation Commission and Historical Review Board	\$ 1,500
Subtotal	\$52,500
Other Identified Project and Program Expenditures	
Historic Markers and Signage for Historic Districts	\$ 6,000
Public meetings	\$ 2,000
Research Grant Program	\$10,000
Historic Preservation Month Promotions and Activities	\$ 2,500
Preliminary Information Forms for potential National Register Historic Districts	\$16,000
Miscellaneous small purchases, such as plaques	\$ 158
Subtotal	\$36,658
Total	\$89,158

Appendix 3

FY20 Research Grant Program Awards

Applicant Name	Sponsor	Amount Awarded	Project Description and Final Product
Christopher Pieczynski	Joseph Fairchild - TCC	\$ 1,000.00	Revolutionary War naval activities in and around Princess Anne County – Research Paper
Christopher Pieczynski	Joseph Fairchild - TCC	\$ 1,400.00	War of 1812 militia and military activities in Princess Anne County – Research Paper Expand Research about the Pleasure House and its origins and history as a sidebar in the larger study

Edna Hendrix	Dr. Joanne Lucas	\$ 2,500.00	Seatack community origins and history – Photo Exhibit and pictorial history research paper
Cathleen Rhodes	Charles Ford - NSU	\$ 2,500.00	LGBT Oral History Interviews – Videos for the Old Dominion University Special Collections accessible via the internet
Margie Coefield	Cassandra Newby-Alexander - NSU	\$ 2,000.00	African American Businesses 1900 – 1970 in Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach – Research Paper
Total Grant Funds Awarded		\$ 9,400.00	