

VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

October 2, 2019, 5:00 pm

Towne Bank Building, 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500

Approved November 6, 2019

Present:

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

Members: Glenn Carwell, Caroline Dixon, Jennifer Estes, Harriet Frenzel, Sharon Felton, Michael Hucles, Rachel McGraw, Katie Paulson, Mac Rawls

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 was a new Student Member in attendance. Caroline Dixon introduced herself and said she is a Senior at Cape Henry Collegiate.

Approval of September 4, 2019 Minutes

Mr. Gambrell asked the members to review the minutes of the September 4 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 by Sharon Felton and the motion passed unanimously

Committee Reports

Cape Henry Historic Site

Mac Rawls reported for the Cape Henry Historic Site committee. He noted that there is a committee meeting coming up Monday, October 7th. He said he will have more to report after the meeting.

Mark Reed noted that VDOT had announced that surplus Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds had been awarded to the completed Cape Henry Lighthouse project. The amount of the additional funding is \$8,289. He said that this additional award would save a little bit more of the City's CIP funds that had been directed to the project. Mr. Reed noted that it will be going to City Council on October 15 to accept and appropriate.

Historic Preservation Month

Sharon Prescott reported for the Historic Preservation Month committee. She said the initiative was in keeping with the mission of the Commission to increase public awareness and involvement. She said we saw it as a way of getting both citizens and students more involved.

She noted that one of the successful initiatives to raise awareness was the Pints for Preservation activities. Ms. Prescott said that two of the breweries created a special brew for Historic Preservation Month. Some of the funds from the sale of the brews went to Preservation Virginia. Special pint glasses were sold as well. They were donated to Preservation Virginia by the Historic Preservation Commission.

Ms. Prescott said the Executive Committee feels it is worthwhile to do again next year. She said that in addition to the Mayoral Proclamation there was excellent press coverage, information on Preservation Virginia's website, the City's web page and the breweries' web pages. She noted that May is National Historic Preservation Month, and the Commission will be doing activities again in May 2020.

Princess Anne County Confederate Statue Roundtable

Jimmy Wood and Sharon Felton reported for the PACCSR committee. Mr. Wood said that the next steps are to hold a planning meeting with the City's Communications Office. He noted that Mark Reed is scheduled to brief the Mayor and Acting City Manager in a couple of weeks, so they are hoping to meet with Communications staff before then. If they move forward with a public forum for discussion of the recommendations, it will likely be held sometime between election day and Thanksgiving.

Sharon Felton noted that Dr. Hucles, who is newly appointed to the Commission, is also a valued member of the committee that explored options for the Princess Anne County Confederate Statue.

Student Leaders Committee

Caroline Dixon and Rachel McGraw reported for the Student Leaders committee. They noted that a planning meeting had been held a few weeks ago. Meetings will be the second Wednesday of each month. Their first full meeting will be next week on October 9th.

They noted that a draft agenda will be going out prior to the meeting. The 13 members will each be given a Clio entry to research and develop. Committee members will also discuss how to run the scavenger hunt next year.

Mr. Reed said that prizes from this year's Scavenger Hunt have all been distributed to the 16 students that completed the activity. He read a portion of an e-mail that he received from one of the students, Vincent Orazi:

"First, thank you for the experience as it showed me a lot of history around the city and it was very enjoyable to be a participant of. Second, thank you for all the other prizes in this package as

it in (sp.) much more than I could've asked for and will definitely all be put to use. Lastly, I wear a men's large t-shirt. Again, thank you for the prizes and even more so, the opportunity.”

Mr. Reed noted that one of the prizes was a t-shirt from Rockafeller's restaurant and he had to ask the students to send him their size.

Election of Nominating Committee

Bill Gambrell said that there needs to be a Nominating Committee elected to put together a slate of officers for 2020. He asked Mac Rawls if he would be willing chair the committee with the help of Sharon Prescott and Bernice Pope. Mac said he would.

A motion was made by Jimmy Wood that the Commission elect a Nominating Committee consisting of Mac Rawls, Sharon Prescott and Bernice Pope, with Mr. Rawls as chair. Glenn Carwell seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

Revision of Priorities and Goals for 2020

Mark Reed discussed the need to update the Commission's priorities and goals for 2020 and perhaps 2021. He said that the last set of goals was approved for 2018 and were carried forward through 2019 since many of them are multiple year projects. He provided the approved priorities and goals from 2018 and said he had added in red what had been accomplished (see Appendix 1). Mr. Reed said he wasn't looking for a general discussion today. He asked the members to take the goals home to review and send him an email with what they want to see accomplished in 2020 and 2021 and he would prepare them for the Executive Committee to discuss.

Mr. Rawls said that he feels we should name houses that are at risk. He said we should state it if we have concerns about houses.

Mr. Reed noted that the National Trust and Preservation Virginia have done an endangered sites list that they release periodically. He asked if that was what Mr. Rawls meant. Mr. Rawls agreed and said it would make it more real and familiarize the public.

Project Updates

Mr. Reed provided several project updates.

Archaeological Assessment Southern Half – Mr. Reed noted that project proposals are due today to DHR (10/2/19). DHR will negotiate the final contract. The city will be invoiced (\$36,000) as soon as the contract is finalized. Mr. Reed said that a public information session will be held in early to mid-November, probably in the area of Creeds.

Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) Submission – Resort Motels – Mr. Reed said the executive committee has indicated they would like to move ahead on this. The focus would be on multi-family short term properties (motels) from the 1950s and 1960s. He said that DHR recommends that we need to do a PIF (Preliminary Individual Form) for the MPD and for the individual property nomination that must accompany it. He noted that the property owner of the Jefferson Manor Motel Apartments has agreed to allow us to nominate their property.

Mr. Reed said that staff is drafting a request for quotes (RFQ), which should be distributed in October. He said we are hoping to have the project move forward in January. He said he thought this is a great choice to move forward as a first effort as we look at other ways of documenting and recognizing properties. Mr. Reed noted that the properties themselves are individually listed. That means the property owner receives a 50% reduction in property tax for the building. He said that the MPD would make it easier for properties like Cutty Sark and Blue Marlin to be listed on the National Register.

Historic Properties Glimpse

Mark Reed provided a brief overview of the October agenda for the Historical Review Board (HRB) meeting on October 16 at 3:00 p.m. He said the meeting would be at Old Donation Church. He noted that the only item on the agenda is a proposal from Old Donation Church to expand their modern building with an approximately 15,000 square foot addition.

Mr. Reed said that the HRB had issued a Certificate of Appropriateness in January 2018, but the church has now modified their design. He briefly went over a few details of the project and noted that all new brickwork would be done in Flemish Bond. He said staff has talked to the church about the design of the new entryway surrounded with windows. He noted that the HRB has met on site and also expressed concern about the entryway design not being in character with the district.

Old Business

No members presented any old business for discussion.

New Business

History Museums Initiative – Mr. Gambrell said the President of the Friends of Virginia Beach Historic Houses came and talked to the Executive Committee about expanding their role to be Friends of History. He said the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum and Search and Rescue Museum are happy to be under the Cultural Affairs Department. There is an effort to put together all museum sites to work together to gain synergy and a bigger say...a bigger attractor to the visitors.

Harriet Frenzel said there was a presentation by the Convention and Visitor's Bureau at the deWitt Cottage in September about their efforts to highlight history. She said she attended this meeting. She said also attending was staff from Cultural Affairs, several historic houses and also members of the Council of Garden Clubs.

Mr. Reed noted that the Native American Heritage Month proclamation will be on Tuesday, November 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council chamber.

Mr. Reed said that Carolyn Smith wanted the Commission to know the city is starting to work on the Comprehensive Plan and there will be plenty of opportunity for the Commission to be involved. Mark Shea is the Comprehensive Planning Coordinator. Mr. Reed said that Ms. Smith has indicated that she believes we will be able to put more historic preservation into the main body of the plan.

Mr. Reed noted that he received a call from someone that wants to nominate Rudee Loop to the Virginia Beach Historical Register. Mr. Reed said he reviewed the ordinance and it does say that sites can be recognized, and he would classify Rudee Loop as a site. He said the challenge would be to get all of the property owners to sign off on the application.

Mr. Gambrell noted that he is looking at moving the Caton building from 2508 Pacific Avenue to the back of Doc Taylors. He said he wasn't sure if he could pull it off and noted that it is a preservation project.

Adjournment

The next Commission general meeting will be Wednesday, November 6, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., Towne Bank Building, Suite 500. The meeting closed at 6:03 p.m.

Appendix 1

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission Top Priorities/Goals for 2018 Committee Assignments Approved February 7, 2018

Identified Priorities/Goals for 2018 – **With Updates**

Certified Local Government

- **Historic Resources Surveys**
 - Complete Phase 1 City-wide Archaeological Assessment (northern half)
 - **Completed**
 - Complete Phase 1 of Architectural Resources Survey Update (northern half)
 - **Completed**
 - Initiate Phase 2 City-wide Archaeological Assessment (southern half)
 - **Cost Share Grant Awarded; Proposals due October 2, 2019**
 - Initiate Phase 2 of Architectural Resources Survey Update (southern half)
 - **Under contract and underway**

- **Update 1994 Historic Resources Management Plan**
 - Work with VB Communications Office to develop plan for engaging the public
 - Hold public meetings to gather public input
 - Produce plan draft outline and begin completing sections of the plan

- **Identify potential for extension of Historic Zoning in multi-property historic districts listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places**
 - Oceana Neighborhood
 - Cavalier Shores

- **Update local Historic Preservation Ordinance to include:**
 - Extension of local zoning protection to archaeological resources
 - Inclusion in the Review Board of one or more additional members meeting the professional qualifications standards referred to in 36 CFR 61

- A provision that specifies the city’s requirement for filling review board vacancies to ensure that such vacancies do not remain unfilled for unreasonable periods of time
- Design standards and guidelines for Historic and Cultural Districts

Advocacy

➤ **Historic Preservation Planning**

- **Presentations for City Council**
 - Activities and accomplishments since last update (September 2016)
 - Council briefed June 12, 2018
 - CLG update briefing August 13, 2019
 - Princess Anne Courthouse Historic Structure Report
 - Council briefed June 12, 2018
 - Recommendation on the Confederate Monument
- Committee: Executive Committee

➤ **Sea Level Rise and Historic Resources**

- Complete review and adjustment of the ArcGIS map layer of Architectural Resources
 - ArcGIS map has been updated post 2018 Architectural Survey
- Create ArcGIS map layer of Archaeological Resources
 - ArcGIS map layer created for 2018 Archaeological Assessment
- Incorporate map layers of historic resources with map layers for projected levels of rise to identify threats to resources
- Participate in city/regional/state planning initiatives
- Develop informational materials and/or workshops for historic property owners
- Committee: Jimmy Wood, Chair
Bob Magoon

➤ **Historic Kempsville Master Plan**

- State Historical Highway Marker
 - Marker installed for Skirmish at Kemp’s Landing, November 2018
- Interpretive signs
 - Funding appropriated in FY20 CIP for mini-park and signs
- Committee: Executive Committee

➤ **Policies for City-owned Buildings and Sites (such as first telephone company building 22nd Street)**

- Update spread sheet on City-owned buildings as needed
- Complete development of Administrative Directive covering some of the following issues
 - Acquisition

- Sale
- Maintenance
- Renovation
- Use
- Archaeology
- Recognition
- Protection
- Committee: Sharon Prescott, Chair
Diane Horsley
Kate Fisher
Tom Nicholas, City of Virginia Beach Public Works Department

➤ **Research Grant Program**

- Provide research grant funding for worthwhile projects with FY18 appropriated funds
 - 9 Research projects funded with FY18 funds
 - 1 Research project funded with FY19 funds
 - 5 Research projects funded with FY20 funds
- Seek meaningful project proposals that will advance knowledge and awareness of local history
 - Several projects have provided groundbreaking research including studies of African American communities and the skirmish at James' Plantation
- Expand reach of research grant program
 - Topics have become broader to include additional “minority” communities such as the LGBT community
- Committee: Executive Committee

➤ **Student Members and Student Leaders Committee**

- Seek ordinance change to establish one member as a Junior that will serve for two years
- Expand student participation beyond the two Student Members
 - Student Leaders Committee has had some limited success in doing this through June 2019
 - Recruitment for 2019/2020 focused on the Committee rather than on the student members
- Develop student advocacy for historic preservation in local high schools
- Committee: Sean Diment, co-Chair
Madeleine Penree, co-Chair
Justin Burns
Riley Wood
Zoe Quinones
Sharon Felton, Sponsor
Bernice Pope
Christi Lyons

- **Recognition of Excellence in Historic Preservation Projects**
 - Continue to develop a program to recognize excellence in historic preservation in Virginia Beach for completed projects
 - Cavalier Hotel – 2017
 - **Recognized at Annual Public Meeting in 2018**
 - Hickman House – 2018 (?)
 - William E. Wood Farmhouse – 2018 (?)
 - **Recognized at Annual Public Meeting in 2019**
 - Committee: Executive Committee

Preservation of Buildings, Sites, Historic Identity

- **Historic Preservation Program Structure**
 - Coordinate with the Planning Department, City Attorney and Historical Review Board to investigate benefits of combining the HRB within the HPC
 - This needs to be coordinated with the Preservation Zoning Ordinance items listed above under CLG
 - Investigate revising the Student Member membership to include one junior and one senior. The junior would be appointed for a two-year term and this arrangement would be an aid in continuity for student involvement.
 - Investigate adding a third Student Member
 - Committee: Executive Committee
- **Princess Anne County Confederate Monument**
 - Convene Princess Anne County Confederate Statue Roundtable (PACCSR)
 - **Convened Monthly Meetings January – May 2018**
 - **Convened Meetings in April and May 2019**
 - Recommendation from PACCSR to HPC
 - **Recommendations have been developed**
 - **Public forum is in planning stages**
 - Recommendation from HPC to City Council
 - Committee: Sharon Felton, co-Chair
Jimmy Wood, co-Chair
- **Cape Henry Historic Site**
 - Support completion of old CH Lighthouse improvements/stabilization as needed
 - **Stabilization project was completed May of 2019**
 - Promote establishment of Cape Henry Lighthouse Association
 - Explore potential for restoration of 1902 Railroad Station
 - **A tour of the Railroad Station was done by the committee in April 2019**
 - Resolve Admiral Comte deGrasse statue issue
 - Maintain coordination with stakeholders including JEB LC-FS, Preservation Virginia, National Park Service, U.S. Coast Guard and City of Virginia Beach
 - **Coordination has been maintained through committee meetings with exception of U.S. Coast Guard**
 - Support nomination of CH/Fort Story Historic District

- Staff has discussed with Navy historic resources staff – not a lot of support
- Potential connection with Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail
- Committee: Mac Rawls, Chair
 - Bernice Pope
 - Mike Ashe
 - Jimmy Jordan
 - Jerry Cox, Cox Kliewer & Company Architecture

➤ **Historic Districts**

- Pursue establishment/expansion of Historical and Cultural District zoning overlays
 - First Telephone Building – 302 22nd Street
 - Expand Courthouse Historic District to include entirety of the proposed Courthouse East property
 - Expand Adam Thoroughgood House Historic District to include entirety of the recent boundary expansion for the National Register
 - Develop informational solicitation for private National Register property owners to voluntarily seek Historic and Cultural District protections
- Pursue Cavalier Shores National Register Nomination
 - Work closely with Cavalier Shores Civic League for the project
 - Staff and consultant met several times with the civic league
 - Engage professional firm in survey and nomination preparation
 - Dutton + Associates were hired to do the nomination
 - Submit completed nomination materials to DHR in 2018
 - Cavalier Shores Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places April 2019
- Identify other potential National Register historic districts during historic resources survey process and pursue eligibility determination and nominations as appropriate
 - Agricultural Research Experimental Station
 - Seatack
 - Identified as potentially eligible in architectural survey update
 - Letter sent to Civic League leadership March 2019
 - 20th-century residential and/or commercial districts
 - Eight other potentially eligible districts identified in architectural survey update (northern)
 - Rural districts
 - Included in scope of work for architectural survey update (southern)
- Historic District Identification Signs
 - Research Historic District identification signs in other communities
 - Develop standards and guidelines for identifying signage for local Historic and Cultural Districts and identifying signage for National Register Historic Districts
 - Develop standards and guidelines for identifying historic areas that do not meet criteria for local, state or national districts

- Committee: Sharon Felton, Chair
Lee Lockamy

➤ **Threatened Buildings**

- Develop list of potentially threatened historic buildings, structures and sites
- Work with property owners, developers and City staff to ensure positive outcomes for threatened historic buildings, structures and sites
- Committee: Jennifer Estes, Chair

Increased Public Awareness and Involvement

➤ **Recognition of Historic Buildings**

- **Virginia Beach Historical Register (VBHR)**
 - Launch initiative to get properties profiled in “50 Most Historically Significant Houses and Structures in Virginia Beach” to apply to the VBHR
 - Letter sent to property owners November 2018
 - Cooke Royster Cottage added to Register April 2019
 - Develop marketing/communications plan to encourage historic property owners to complete and submit applications to the VBHR
 - Identify additional City-owned buildings to be placed on VBHR
- Committee: Katie Paulson, Chair
Mike Ashe
Steve McNaughton
Lester Fabiszewski
- **Update 50 Most Significant Houses and Structures publication**
 - List potential additions
 - Research history of potential additions and make selections
 - Initiate draft of revised publication
 - Develop publication strategies
- Committee: Katie Paulson, Chair
Jimmy Jordan (lead on 50 most significant)

➤ **Recognition of Community History and Historic Preservation**

- **City Historical Marker Program**
 - Establish a list of potential markers that represent cultural, historical and geographic diversity
 - City Administration approval; ordinances as required
 - Presentation to City Council
- **Interpretive Panels/Signs**
 - Review existing informational sign program located on Boardwalk and other locations in the City
 - Research interpretive sign programs in other communities
 - Develop local interpretive panel/sign program
 - Coordinate with Historic Kempsville sign program as appropriate
- **Diverse Community and Preservation**

- Support proclamation of African American Heritage Month for February 2018
 - **Proclamations issued in 2018 and 2019**
 - Support proclamation of Native American Heritage Month for November 2018
 - **Proclamations issued in 2018 and is scheduled for 2019**
 - Investigate viability of proclamations for other cultural communities significant to Virginia Beach's history.
 - Investigate viability of proclamations for historic preservation. These may include:
 - Historic Preservation Month (May)
 - **Proclamation issued on 2019**
 - Archaeology Month (October)
 - Contribute regular articles to the Virginian Pilot/Beacon on local history
 - Committee: Executive Committee
 - **Public Events**
 - Participate in 2018 Strawberry Festival
 - **Participated with a booth in 2018**
 - Participate in 2018 Neptune Festival
 - Explore potential for Holiday Historic Houses Tour in December 2018 or for a Historic Houses Tour at an alternative time of year
 - Explore partnership with PAC/VB Historical Society
 - Explore partnership with ViBe Creative District
 - Explore Partnership with Council of Garden Clubs
 - Historic Garden Week in Virginia
 - Develop Publicity Committee
 - Committee: Jimmy Wood
- **Public Meeting**
- Host a Public Meeting in 2018
 - **Hosted Public Meeting in 2018 and 2019**
 - Committee: Sharon Prescott, Chair
Bobbie Gribble

02/07/2018