

VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

December 2, 2020, 5 pm

Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th Street, Meeting Room 1D

Approved January 6, 2021

Present:

Officers: Chair, James Wood; First Vice-Chair, Sharon Prescott; Second Vice-Chair, Mac Rawls; Immediate Past Chair, Bill Gambrell

Members: Sharon Felton, Christi Lyons, Ian Lichacz, Lee Lockamy, Katie Paulson

Council: Rosemary Wilson

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 and involvement.

Welcome/Introduction/Remarks

Jimmy Wood welcomed the Commission members in attendance. Mark Reed introduced the guest speakers Paige Pollard and Kayla Halberg from Commonwealth Preservation Group (CPG) and Elizabeth Lipford from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR).

Presentation and Discussion – Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Program Strategic Plan

Kayla Halberg, project manager for the Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Program Strategic Plan update, and Paige Pollard, principal at CPG, provided an introduction to the project, including the goals and purpose of the end product, and requested feedback from the Commission to help guide the plan update.

The goal of the project is to create a plan that identifies the vision and goals for the City’s historic preservation program and develops a list of strategies and actions that will guide, enhance, and help achieve the City’s preservation goals. As outlined in the presentation, a successful preservation plan sets achievable goals with measurable outcomes, identifies actions and strategies to achieve goals, highlights what the city is doing right and what it can improve upon, and utilizes community input to attain buy-in.

In order to achieve the goals set forth, CPG is focused on a two-tiered strategy of community engagement to drive the development of the plan. The engagement will include both focus groups and general public input through the use of both public hearings and online surveys. The focus groups have been identified through early coordination with planning staff and include a steering committee, staff committee, and the student leaders committee. CPG also outlined the schedule for the program which is slated for completion in June 2021.

After the presentation, CPG took questions from the Commission. Mac Rawls stated his concern over the quality of public input due to COVID restrictions. Paige Pollard noted that public engagement during this time requires extra planning to reach the same sized audience, but is achievable with the use of a variety of strategies. Elizabeth Lipford noted that VDHR will help to develop alternate means to an adequate audience.

VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

December 2, 2020, 5 pm

Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th Street, Meeting Room 1D

Approved January 6, 2021

Mark Reed thanked the consultants for their time and presentation. After ending the virtual meeting, the Commission discussed access to technology for virtual public meetings and alternate strategies for reaching older members of the community who may not be able to join meeting virtually.

Approval of November 4, 2020 Minutes

Mr. Wood asked the Commission members to review the minutes of the November 4 Historic Preservation Commission meeting. A motion was made by Bill Gambrell to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Christi Lyons. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation of 2021 Slate of Officers

Bill Gambrell, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of officers for 2021. The committee nominated the same slate of officers serving in 2020, as follows:

- Chair: Jimmy Wood
- 1st Vice-Chair: Sharon Prescott
- 2nd Vice-Chair: Mac Rawls
- Secretary: Bobbie Gribble

Committee Reports

- **Student Leaders Committee:** Christi Lyons provided an update on the Student Leaders Committee. They were scheduled to have a focus group with CPG at their December 9th meeting. All Clio entries have been assigned with a first draft due date of January 13th. The scavenger hunt was scheduled for May 21-24th.

Project Updates

- **Historic District Design Standards and Review Guidelines:** Proposals for this project are closing on December 4th.
- **National Register Nomination Seatack:** Draft RFP to NPS for review. Proposal due date to be based on issue date (TBD).
- **National Register Nomination L&J Gardens:** Draft RFP to NPS for review. Proposal due date to be based on issue date (TBD).
- **Resort Motels MPD/Jefferson Manor Motel NRHP Nomination:** Staff has reviewed the VCRIS forms. Fourteen of the twenty properties surveyed (70%) are thought to be eligible. The MPD and nomination are on track for the March 2021 State Review Board meeting.
- **deWitt Cottage Archaeology:** The expenditure for the archaeology ahead of construction of a gazebo was approved by the city and the scope approved by VDHR. The RFQ is in process.

Historic Properties Glimpse

- **December Historical Review Board – December 16th Meeting, 4pm**
 - Courthouse Veterinary Hospital, 2497 North Landing Road: New construction on undeveloped parcel. The building will be 8000 square feet with 25 parking spaces.
- **Francis Land House Renovations Update**
 - This project includes the replacement of HVAC and electrical systems in the Francis Land House. Moisture issues in the basement are being addressed by SDC Contracting, who hired Commonwealth Preservation Group (CPG) to prepare a historic treatment plan, which resulted in changes to the project design and delays in completion of the

VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

December 2, 2020, 5 pm

Virginia Beach Convention Center, 1000 19th Street, Meeting Room 1D

Approved January 6, 2021

project. Large concrete pipes were discovered under the basement slab. Historic porch materials were also uncovered.

Old Business

- **USS Iowa Gun Barrel Placement, Fort Story:** The Commission submitted comments after last month's meeting, and received a response from the Navy. The Navy is proceeding with the proposed placement, despite concern from the HPC. The Navy will keep the HPC informed as a consulting party. Mark Reed was asked to check with Preservation Virginia for their response to the Section 106 request.

New Business

- **African American Heritage Month Proclamation, February 2021:** Mark Reed noted that the African American Heritage Month Proclamation is scheduled for February 2021. Sharon Felton and Edna Hendrix will work with Mr. Reed to develop the text for the proclamation and determine the community group to accept it. More details will be provided at a later date.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next general meeting will be on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.