

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission
General Meeting Minutes – January 6, 2016
Convention and Visitors Bureau

Present: Bernice Pope, Chair; Mac Rawls, Vice Chair; Sharon Felton, Treasurer; Katie Paulson, Secretary; Bill Gambrell; James Jordan; Lee Lockamy; Patrick McAtamney; James Wood

Student Members: Chloe Cohen

Staff: Mark Reed

Chair Bernice Pope called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm. She welcomed new member James Wood.

The Commission reviewed the December minutes and they were approved unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was executive committee elections. Mr. Gambrell presented the slate and Sharon Felton moved that the slate be closed. The proposed slate was as follows:

- Bernice Pope – Chair
- Mac Rawls – Vice Chair
- Sharon Felton – Treasurer
- Katie Paulson – Secretary

Mr. Wood seconded and the slate was unanimously approved as presented.

The goals and priorities for the 2016 were reviewed and committee chairs were assigned for new committees. Mr. Carwell will remain the chair for the Princess Anne Courthouse. Mr. Rawls will head the committee for the Cape Henry historic site. Ms. Paulson will continue to chair the Virginia Beach Historical Register Review committee, which will be expanded to encompass the recognition of historic sites. Updates to the 50 most significant sites will fall under this committee; Mr. Jordan will take the lead on updating that list. Ms. Pope announced she would ask Ms. Horsley if she is available to chair the committee to develop policies for city-owned buildings. Mr. Gambrell will chair the historic preservation planning committee. Ms. Felton will chair the historic district committee, with Mr. Lockamy assisting in that effort. New member Mr. Wood will chair the sea level rise committee.

Mr. Rawls has asked that all committee chairs develop a plan of action for new and existing committees. Once his new committee meets, he will prepare a draft to present at the February meeting. All other committees should try to meet before the February meeting and develop a list of goals to present.

Another new committee is the bylaws review committee, which is chaired by Mr. Gambrell with assistance from Mr. Rawls.

Only one committee had updates to report. The Historical Register Review committee is scheduled to meet in January to review any new applications to the register. Mr. Reed will provide an update to Ms. Paulson on the status of new applications.

Ms. Pope brought up the demolition of the Bayne Theater, which happened in November, but an article was recently published in the paper. The Commission stressed the need to have a list of historic structures flagged with the planning department so that the members are notified when demo permits are taken out on such properties. The Commission surveyed resources over the summer of 2014 in order to generate a list for the planning department to use. Mr. Reed will check on the status of this list. This will be the first order of business for the newly formed city policy committee.

On a similar note, Mr. Lockamy brought up a recent archaeological dig in the Great Neck area that he learned about in the newspaper. The Commission should also be notified of these activities in the future.

Mr. Reed provided updates on a number of issues. The State Review Board met on December 10th to review PIFs and the Oceana Historic District was determined to be eligible for the National Register. The next step will be to have it formally listed with a full nomination. If listed, it would be the first neighborhood in Virginia Beach on the National Register. The city should be made aware of the determination and the Commission should encourage the civic league to pursue a full nomination.

Ms. Felton began a discussion about how to engage the Commission with schools and students. She reinforced to the student members that any interested students are welcome to attend meetings. She also suggested that the student members find a project they are interested in doing for the Commission – perhaps one dealing with social media and community engagement. Ms. Pope suggested that they might be interested in setting up a Strawberry Festival committee. They will work on setting up a booth for the event, which is held in May, where brochures for the Historical Register program could be passed out. Mr. McAtamney and Mr. Wood will help. Ms. Pope stressed that public engagement needs to be at the top of our goal list. Mr. Jordan suggested utilizing the city TV station or WHRO to tell the Commission's story and gain more interest in our projects.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.