

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission

General Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2016

Convention and Visitors Bureau

Approved April 6, 2016

Present: Bernice Pope, Chair; Mac Rawls, Vice Chair; Sharon Felton, Treasurer; Katie Paulson, Secretary; Michel Ashe; Glenn Carwell; Diane Horsley; Patrick McAtamney; James Wood

Student Members: Chloe Cohen

Council Liaisons: Amelia Ross-Hammond

Staff: Mark Reed

Chair Bernice Pope called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

The Commission reviewed the February minutes. Dr. Ross-Hammond corrected her title from “Ms.” to “Dr.” After this correction was noted, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Rawls provided a report on the Cape Henry committee, including an explanation of the funding requirements for the lighthouse stabilization project. The project funding has included three (3) transportation enhancement grant awards and Preservation Virginia has provided the required 20% match of the grant funds. The funding available is currently short of the lowest bid to complete the project and that bid has now expired. The Commission just learned of the intricacies of the funding problems and is working with the organization and the city to move forward. As a good faith gesture, the Virginia Beach Department of Museums will provide the \$90,000 match required to request additional grant funds to rebid the project. The Cape Henry committee is now working to get all interested parties together to develop a dialogue and initiate planning for the Cape Henry historic site.

Mr. Rawls also reported on the Kempsville committee, which now has funding for Steve Mansfield to develop the signage for the project. Jack Pope has also given the committee space for exhibits within the renovated Kempsville High School.

Dr. Carwell provided an update on the Princess Anne Courthouse committee. He presented to City Council on February 23 and requested \$50,000 to complete the historic structures report on the building. Mr. Reed announced that the city staff has found the requested funding and is in the process of moving it to the appropriate account. Mr. Reed will work with the Department of Public Works to develop a scope. The committee will continue to meet to develop reuse ideas.

Ms. Felton reported on the Historic District committee. Ms. Felton attended a town hall meeting at the Mount Olive Baptist Church on February 12. The meeting was set up to address concerns the neighborhood has about the new comprehensive plans, but Ms. Felton was available to provide information on the PIF. The neighborhood association has denied the Commission’s offer to fund a PIF for the district.

The Commission discussed the other projects that require funding to move forward, specifically the National Register nomination for Oceana and the PIF for the Courthouse historic district. Mr. Wood made a motion to move forward on the Courthouse and Oceana projects using the funds previously offered to Seatack, and to issue a letter to Mr. Frankenfield notifying him that the neighborhood has denied the funds and that they will be used elsewhere. Ms. Horsley seconded the motion, which was approved by the Commission.

Mr. Wood reported on the Strawberry Festival committee. He has received official approval for the Commission to set up a booth at Reverend Whitehurst's house. The Commission will be included in the Festival's official program. The Festival still requires a vendor form; Mr. McAtamney will prepare and deliver the form. Nothing is provided to vendors other than a space. Mr. Lockamy built a backdrop for the display and Dr. Carwell has a tent that can be used.

Ms. Pope announced that the committee to develop policies for city-owned buildings will be chaired by Ms. Prescott.

Ms. Paulson reported on the Historical Register Review Committee. The committee met for a site visit on March 1. The next review meeting date will be determined shortly. The subcommittee responsible for updating the 50 Most Significant Sites has not met yet. Mr. McAtamney suggested that the Commission members send him a list of properties they think should be included on the list in order to get the project moving forward. He will compile the suggestions from the Commission and create a master list to begin to work from.

Mr. Wood provided an update on the sea level rise committee. He is developing the plan of action for the committee and has done some research about other cities threatened by sea level rise. He identified state and local sea level rise committees and is working to get involved. His next step is to identify and map threatened sites within the city of Virginia Beach.

There was an update on the Riddick marker under old business. Ms. Pope talked to Louis Jones who initiated the initial request for a marker. Mr. Jones noted that the civic league previously voted on this issue and decided not to pursue the sign due to the cost required to insure the property around the sign. Mr. Reed noted that they could pursue the sign through the marker program. The only requirement would be that they would have to pay for the sign itself. The city would be responsible for installing and maintaining the sign.

Under new business, Mr. Wood wanted the Commission to encourage the city departments to stay at the Courthouse complex and not move to Town Center, as was previously suggested.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

