

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission

General Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2016

Convention and Visitors Bureau

Approved June 8, 2016

Present: Bernice Pope, Chair; Mac Rawls, Vice Chair; Sharon Felton, Treasurer; Katie Paulson, Secretary; Dr. Glenn Carwell; Diane Horsley; James Jordan; Lee Lockamy; Patrick McAtamney; Sharon Prescott; James Wood

Student Members: Chloe Cohen

Council Liaisons: Rosemary Wilson

Staff: Mark Reed

Guests: Mercedes Holland, JEB Little Creek/Fort Story; Jorja Jean, Virginia Beach Public Schools

Chair Bernice Pope called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. The Commission reviewed the minutes from the April 6th meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The guests introduced themselves. Mercedes Holland with Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story was attending ahead of a meeting with the Cape Henry Committee. She will serve as the point person for the base for that committee. Jorja Jean is a teacher with the Virginia Beach Public School System. She made a presentation to the Commission asking for consideration to endorse Admiral deGrasse for the renaming of the Lesner Bridge. Her presentation highlighted deGrasse's pivotal role in the Revolutionary War, particularly in the blockade that led to the turning point of the war at the Battle of Yorktown. The Commission will add the item to new business for discussion at the next general meeting.

Dr. Carwell provided an update on the Princess Anne Courthouse Committee. Mr. Marcus Pollard, who wrote the Courthouse District PIF, presented to DHR earlier that day and received approval, allowing for the Committee to move forward with the formal nomination. He also reported on a tour the Committee took with Mr. Tom Nicholas, which provided updates on the renovations which are underway. Mr. Reed reported that the scope of work is complete for the historic structures report for the building. He is currently waiting for a final detailed proposal with costs, which was promised by the end of the week.

Ms. Pope brought up an item for discussion regarding the replacement of the portico and columns. The current scope proposes replacing the wood columns with fiberglass. Ms. Pope noted to the Commission that historically the building didn't have columns; they were added during a renovation in the 1960s. The City is currently spending a portion of the \$170,000 renovation cost on replacing this feature, which is not original to the building. Ms. Pope proposed that the Commission write a letter suggesting that the City wait to complete the reconstruction of the portico until after the HSR is complete. The scope of the HSR includes addressing the portico in relation to the significance for the historic district designation. Dr. Carwell made a motion to recommend the installation of columns and portico be deferred until the HSR is complete. Mrs. Horsley seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Reed provided an update on the research grant program. The deadline for proposals was April 27 and the Commission received eight applications totaling over \$15,000. Mr. Reed is currently processing the applications for review by the executive committee. The proposals are for a variety of things including research, markers, and interpretive signs.

Mr. Reed also updated the Commission on the Oceana Historic District nomination. He is sending out a solicitation for quotes to seven firms with a proposal deadline of June 2nd. The nomination has been approved by the Oceana Gardens Coalition Civic League.

The Strawberry Festival Committee met to coordinate for the upcoming event, which will be held during Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Lockamy made a sign to serve as a backdrop for the booth. Ms. Pope contacted the Francis Land House for raffle items and received a large number of items to use for prizes. Additionally, the booth will have ten copies of the "50 Most Significant" books, Virginia Beach Historical Register Program brochures, and a plaque for display. Mr. Reed will write up a brief handout on the tax abatement program and a suggestion sheet for new additions to the reprint of the "50 Most Significant" book.

Ms. Pope presented to City Council at the April 21st public hearing to request funding for HPC operations and staffing. Her presentation proposed a reinstatement of the HPC's FY15 budget of \$42,000 to cover the grant program, future districts, and increase Mr. Reed's staff time. Her presentation also included the City owned historic houses, Old Coast Guard Station, and Waterfowl Museum. During the reconciliation period, Ms. Wilson noticed that the budgets for the City-owned historic properties was reinstated, but not for HPC. She spoke up on behalf of the Commission and had it added. Mr. Reed said Ms. Phillips is following up through the budget office on the details of the appropriations amount and he will report back once the FY17 budget has been adopted on May 10th.

Mr. Reed updated the Commission on the status of the CLG application, which was submitted to DHR in mid-March. DHR notified Mr. Reed in mid-April that the application was complete and submitted an agreement for the Mayor to sign. Once DHR has the signed agreement in hand the application will be forwarded to NPS for review. The agreement is currently working through city administration.

Mr. Reed reported on the Bylaws and Historic Preservation Planning Committees in Mr. Gambrell's absence. The Bylaws Committee met and made the proposed revisions. The document is with the city attorney for review prior to being sent back to the Commission for approval. The Historic Preservation Planning Committee is on hold until the beginning of FY17.

Mr. Rawls thanked Mercedes Holland for attending the meeting and for serving as the point person with the base for the Committee. The Committee is meeting with the Commanding Officer, Captain Frank Hughlett, tomorrow to get guidelines of what they are comfortable with moving forward with in regards to the historic site recognition at Fort Story. Ms. Holland noted that while Captain Hughlett is interested in providing access to the sites for the public, the Navy and Department of Defense have policies and procedures that disallow certain things. Ms. Felton had no new information for the Historic Districts Committee. Mr. Lockamy notified the Commission that he and Mr. Reed are looking into a rural district.

Mr. Rawls requested that the Kempsville Committee be removed as a discussion item. All of the Commission's goals for the Committee have been met. Mr. Rawls will continue to participate on the Citizen's Advisory Committee and will report back to the Commission when needed.

Ms. Prescott is scheduled to meet with city staff on May 10th. Ms. Prescott will work with staff to compile data on historic city-owned buildings and develop a policy for tracking work. She will provide a report at the June Commission meeting.

Ms. Paulson notified the Commission that the Historical Register Review Committee approved two new properties for inclusion on the register at the committee's meeting on April 27. The properties are located at 304 53rd Street and 704 Kings Grant Road. The owners have been invited to the June 8th Commission meeting to receive their plaques and certificates.

Mr. McAtamney reported that he had not received any property suggestions for the update to the "50 Most Historically Significant Houses" publication. The committee will meet after the Strawberry Festival to review any suggestions from the Commission and the public.

The Commission reviewed a few old business items. The Great Neck Field School will be held by DHR on May 10-23 off Thomas Bishop Lane. Commissioners are welcome to stop by. There will be a CLG workshop in Virginia Beach on June 1st from 10 am until 4 pm at the Brock Environmental Center. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.

Mr. Reed provided an update on the Oceana High School pillars. He had Public Works survey the site and determined the following: the east side of the north pillar is on city of right away and the west side is on school property, while the east side of the south pillar is on city right of way and the west side is on US government property.

There was one item of new business. There will be a tour of the Cavalier on May 11th at 4 pm. The tour was arranged for the Cavalier Taskforce, but has been opened to Commission members. Those interested in attending should notify Mr. Rawls.

Ms. Pope provided an updated on the baseline documentation. The City requested additional information, particularly high resolution photographs, and has not received a response. Ms. Pope spoke with Mr. Rutledge, who was not aware of the request for additional information.

Mr. Rutledge is checking with Mr. Hancock to see what needs to be done to move forward with completing the baseline documentation document.

Mr. Reed noted that with the CLG workshop falling on the date of the Commission's regular meeting, the June meeting will be held a week later on June 8th.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.