

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission

General Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2016

Convention and Visitors Bureau

Approved October 5, 2016

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

Student Members: Chloe Cohen

Staff: Mark Reed

Guests: Pauline Darling

Chair Bernice Pope called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

The meeting began with the presentation of a certificate and plaque to Ms. Pauline Darling, whose home at 304 53rd Street was added to the Virginia Beach Historical Register. Mr. Reed presented the property to the Commission.

The Commission reviewed the May minutes. Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Prescott; the minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Gambrell made a presentation on behalf of the proposed changes to the HPC bylaws as identified by the Bylaws Committee. The changes provide term limits for officers and change the positions to better represent the needs of the Commission. Mr. Wood provided a number of comments on the bylaws, with a discussion specifically about the term limits. The Commission discussed the pros and cons of instituting term limits for the Executive Committee. Mr. Wood believes that because the Commission is advisory rather than regulatory it is important to not have term limits as it takes longer for the HPC to get things done. Mr. Wood also believes that the officer positions require institutional knowledge of processes and long-term projects. The Commission acknowledged Mr. Woods concerns. Mr. Rawls noted that the terms are staggered as to not lose all senior Commission members at once.

Mr. Reed updated the Commission on the Princess Anne Courthouse. The work order with Waller Todd and Sadler has been executed. They will contract with Commonwealth Architects to complete the Historic Structures Report on the building. Ms. Pope also presented the letter she drafted to Dave Hansen.

Mr. Reed provided a report on the research grant. The applications were reviewed by the Executive Committee, who awarded funding to six of the eight applicants. Two projects were fully funded, while four projects were partially funded. Two of the winning projects were combined into a single final product on the history of African American communities.

Mr. Wood reported to the Commission on the Strawberry Festival booth. Mr. McAtamney provided set up for the event, with a table, chairs, pamphlets, and brochures. Four City Council members stopped by the booth. The location was great for foot traffic.

The Commission discussed the process for identifying new student members for next year, as this meeting was the last for the current student members. The Commission discussed the need to open the opportunity to all Virginia Beach high schools, public and private. They agreed it was important to make sure that one spot was dedicated for a public school student. The Commission brainstormed ideas on how to select the best candidates and agreed that there should be an application form and an interview process.

The next item of business was to discuss priorities for FY17 with the HPC's limited budget. Mr. Reed provided a list of current and proposed projects. The Commission agreed that the City should fund the CLG required projects. The Commission discussed all other projects and were asked to provide a list of priorities to Ms. Pope by June 28th.

Mr. Rawls reported on the Cape Henry Committee. The efforts are going well and the Committee was able to meet with the Commanding Officer of Fort Story, who is in favor of preserving the historic resources on the base. The main problem is access to the site by the general public. The Committee is going to bring together all stakeholders at the end of June to further discuss the site. The next item of business is for the Committee to meet with the City Manager and staff to keep them updated on the project.

Ms. Felton scheduled a meeting with the Queen City community in regards to a potential historic district. She also took time from her Committee report to commend Mr. Reed for his work on the CLG workshop. Mr. Gambrell seconded the praise for the workshop.

Mr. Rawls also updated the Commission on the Carraway House, which is currently on the market. He stressed the need for the Commission to be prepared to incentivize the preservation of the property and any potential archaeological resources.

Ms. Prescott met with City Staff to start dialogue between the HPC and the City on developing policies for city owned buildings. The historic building inventory is not held by a single department, but is divided among many departments. The Committee's priority is to develop a single inventory database with inventory on all buildings. A current change to the City ordinance put the responsibility of operations and maintenance of historic city owned buildings in the hands of the renamed Department of Aquarium and Historic Houses. The Committee plans to have a conversation with that Department in order to clarify their responsibilities and to communicate the Committee's goals.

Ms. Paulson updated the Commission on the update to the 50 Most Significant Historic Sites. Ms. Paulson and Mr. Jordan met to discuss a timeline and strategy for the project. The initial goals for the Committee are to set a deadline, recruit additional members for the identification and research of new properties, identify a strategic partner to offset costs, develop a master list of historic properties, and make a list of recommended structures to present to the

Commission. The Committee hopes to have an initial list of properties for the Commission's review by the September meeting.

Mr. Reed presented old business. The Cavalier baseline documentation report was turned into the city attorney. The Commission hopes that this draft will be the final and will include all necessary and requested information.

Ms. Pope reminded the Commission that the next meeting will not be until September 7th. The Executive Committee and working committees should continue to meet over the summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.