

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission
General Meeting Minutes – September 7, 2016
Emmanuel Episcopal Church Parish Hall
Approved October 5, 2016

Present: Bernice Pope, Chair; Mac Rawls, Vice Chair; Katie Paulson, Secretary; Dr. Glenn Carwell; James Jordan; Sharon Prescott; James Wood

Council Liaison: Rosemary Wilson

Student Members: Lucas Anderton

Staff: Mark Reed; Jeryl Phillips; Jessica Collins Kinder (intern)

Note: Several members attended a tour of the newly completed renovation of the 1941 Kempsville High School building immediately prior to the general meeting.

Chair Bernice Pope called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Ms. Pope began the meeting by introducing the new student member, Lucas Anderton. Lucas is a Senior at the legal studies academy at First Colonial High School, where he is also the Senior Class President and a member of the Debate Team.

Mr. Reed introduced Jessica Collins Kinder, who is working as an intern two days a week with the Planning Department. She has a B.A. in History with a Cultural Resource Management certificate.

The Commission reviewed the June minutes, but there was no quorum.

In Mr. Gambrell's absence, Mr. Reed presented the changes to the bylaws which will be voted on at the October meeting.

Mr. Rawls provided an update on the June meeting of the Cape Henry Committee. The subcommittee and stakeholders would like for the Coast Guard to attend the next meeting in October. Mr. Rawls also recognized the need for two distinct committees: one to be our committee and the other to be a separate stakeholders group to be led by the HPC to allow for active lobbying. The next step is for the committee to gain access to the new Cape Henry Lighthouse for a tour, but it is currently being worked on.

Mr. Reed updated the Commission on the Historic District committee. Debra McClane has been contracted to complete the National Register nomination for Oceana. There was a project kickoff meeting on August 24th and she is in town this week for surveying. The city's GIS department has been assisting with mapping. The target submission date to DHR is February of 2017 in order to get on the agenda for the June State Review Board meeting.

The Courthouse Historic District nomination phase is on hold until the workload settles. The target date for the RFP is October 2017.

Mr. Reed presented for the Historic Preservation Planning committee. Mr. Reed has pulled together goals, strategies and action statements from the existing Historic Resources Management Plan (1994). He is now listing what actions have been taken to address the goals.

Ms. Prescott presented for the City-Owned Buildings and Sites committee. She has received an inventory from the city which included the name, address, vacancy status, use, and square footage. The list also included buildings that are not yet 50 years old, but are close.

Dr. Carwell presented on the Princess Anne Courthouse committee, who met on August 25th. Bryan Green, who is preparing the historic structures report, plans to have a draft report in the next month. The formal report will be complete by the end of the year.

Ms. Paulson updated the commission on the Historical Register Review Committee, which has a review meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, September 13th. The committee will be reviewing three properties for inclusion on the Register: 5005 Mosby Road, 813 Simpkins Lane, and the Whitehurst Buffington House.

Mr. Wood announced that Mr. Anderton will join the Sea Level Rise committee. He noted that Mr. Reed has provided a matrix from the City Manager's Working Group on Sea Level Rise and Recurrent Flooding. Mr. Wood noted that the Commission's entry in the matrix is representative of actions to date. Mr. Rawls asked if the committee has contacted the City of Norfolk. Mr. Wood said they haven't, yet, but are going to initiate that type of environmental scanning. He noted that Mr. Reed has provided the committee with a bibliography of literature that addresses the potential impact of sea level rise on heritage and cultural resources.

Mr. Reed reported that the City has received a letter from the National Park Service announcing its approval of CLG status. The next steps are to inform the City Manager and to brief City Council.

Mr. Reed also provided an update on the research grant projects. Recipients of the grant have been coordinating their projects, sharing resources and working together. Several of the grants are marker projects, so the City will need to coordinate with Public Works, Zoning, etc in order to streamline the process for future cases.

Ms. Pope brought up the Historic Homes Tour for discussion after receiving a call from the Council of Garden Clubs encouraging her to try to continue putting it on. The executive committee discussed ideas for a low cost tour that could be pulled together fairly easily. Mr. Rawls volunteered to do groundwork for it to be held in Kempsville; however, Pleasant Hall is not able to participate this year and it was decided that they would need to be involved to make the tour work. The Commission will continue to work towards a tour, but it will not be possible this winter.

Ms. Paulson notified the Commission that the Virginia Tax Credit Program is being reviewed by the Joint Subcommittee to Evaluate Tax Preferences. The state tax credit program provides 25% of eligible rehabilitation expenses back in tax credits for properties that are listed on the National Register. The joint subcommittee is considering making changes to the program and Ms. Paulson wanted the Commission to be aware. After some discussion, Councilwoman Wilson asked the Commission to look into the issue and advise her on potential impacts and concerns.

Mr. Reed reminded the Commission of the tour of the new Education Center at the Adam Thoroughgood House on September 15.

Ms. Wilson asked for information so she can sponsor a resolution to be Native American Heritage month again this year. Mr. Reed said he would get the information to her. The November 1 City Council meeting is the target date.

Ms. Pope had an item of new business to help streamline the Commission meetings. She asked that committee chairs send a report to Mark if they have an update so Mr. Reed can add it to the agenda. This will provide the Commission with an overview of the update, so the meeting time can be set aside for discussion items related to the reports.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 pm.