

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission
General Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2016
Convention and Visitors Bureau
Towns Bank Building, 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500
Approved November 2, 2016

Present: Bernice Pope, Chair; Mac Rawls, Vice Chair; Katie Paulson, Secretary; Sharon Felton, Treasurer; Michel Ashe; Dr. Glenn Carwell; William Gambrell; Diane Horsley; Sharon Prescott; James Wood

Council Liaison: Amelia Ross-Hammond; Rosemary Wilson

Student Members: Lucas Anderton

Staff: Mark Reed

Guests Michelle Hughes and Bennett McCutcheon; Phyllis Sawyer; Bob McGoon

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

The meeting began with the presentation of plaques and certificates to new members of the Virginia Beach Historical Register. Ms. Hughes and Mr. McCutcheon accepted the plaque and certificate for their home, the John Biddle House, at 704 Kings Grant Road. Ms. Sawyer accepted the award for the Whitehurst-Buffington House on behalf of the Friends of the Whitehurst-Buffington House.

The Commission reviewed the June and September minutes. There was a quorum so the Commission voted on each; both were approved unanimously.

Ms. Pope asked for the Commission to review the amendments to the bylaws. There were no questions or clarifications. Mr. Gambrell made a motion to approve the amendments to the bylaws, which was seconded by Mr. Ashe. The revised bylaws were approved unanimously. Mr. Reed said he would send a clean, updated copy of the bylaws to Commission members for their files.

Mr. Rawls gave an overview of what has been done since the Cape Henry Committee formed in January. He noted that it's difficult to stick to their initial schedule since there are so many different parties involved. Preservation Virginia has been an important partner in getting the second lighthouse open, as they would serve as the operator. They are eager and interested to move forward. Due to construction on the lighthouse, however, the Coast Guard has not allowed anyone from the Committee inside yet, so the work of the Committee is on hold until they can gain access. Mayor Sessoms wrote a letter to the Coast Guard District Captain, requesting the appointment of a liaison to the Committee.

Ms. Prescott provided an update on the City-Owned Buildings and Sites Committee, which met on October 3. They reviewed the spreadsheet put together by city staff. The spreadsheet is still missing some information and the nomenclature used by the city differs from what the Committee has been using. The spreadsheet brought up more questions than answers and there are still some gaps to fill. Ms. Prescott noted that a question was raised about school buildings, but they are technically not city-owned buildings. The Commission agreed that schools should be added to the Committee's spreadsheet and watch list. Once the Committee has completed the spreadsheet, they will set goals and priorities for the buildings and sites. Mr. Reed used the CLG listserv to determine what other cities are doing; he already received a response from Charlottesville with information and suggestions.

Ms. Felton provided an update on the Seatack Historic District. The neighborhood civic league met in August with Ms. Phillips and Mr. Frankenfield, who presented on the new overlay district. Mr. Reed clarified that the overlay is a "suburban focus area," not a historic district. The Committee will continue to encourage the neighborhood to consider a district nomination. In the meantime, grant awardees Cheryl Snowden and Edna Hendrickson met at the groundbreaking for the African American Cultural Center. There was a write up on them and their work in the *Beacon*, where they asked for members of the community to provide information about what they remember about the history of the neighborhood. Ms. Prescott noted that at the 200 year anniversary of the neighborhood the civic league asked for historic materials and put on an exhibit at the Convention Center.

Ms. Paulson updated the Commission on the Historical Register Review Committee, who met on Tuesday, September 13th. The committee reviewed three properties and approved two for inclusion on the Register: 813 Simpkins Lane and the Whitehurst-Buffington House. Mr. Reed noted that the new Planning Department intern, Jessica Collins, is currently working on a letter to owners of National Register listed properties for inclusion on the local register.

Mr. Wood updated the Commission on the Sea Level Rise committee, which met last week. He introduced Mr. Bob McGoon, the newest member of the Committee, who has served on other similar committees throughout his career. The city is assisting with mapping. Mr. Reed sent out a call to the CLG listserv for ideas and prior experiences and Mr. McGoon agreed to speak with the archaeology community in Williamsburg and the representative with the Navy on infrastructure work.

Ms. Pope presented the slate for the nominating committee for the new executive committee. Ms. Horsley will serve as chair. Ms. Paulson and Mr. Ashe will also serve on the committee. The Committee will present a new slate of officers at the December meeting and the Commission will vote in January.

Mr. Reed updated the Commission on a number of projects. The Oceana Historic District is being completed by Debra McLane, who finished surveying in September. She is currently working to complete the forms and VCRIS entries. The project is on track for submission to DHR in February and to the State Review Board in June.

The Princess Anne Courthouse historic structures report draft is expected in October, with a final draft in December or early January. They are currently completing drawings and research.

Ms. Felton had an update under old business, reporting on the SAPLINGS Program. The school board provides opportunities for Title I schools to get children to city resources. Ms. Felton is facilitating contact between the program director and city staff to encourage visiting properties within Virginia Beach; previously the program was organizing visits to nearby cities, such as Norfolk.

Ms. Pope reminded the Commission that Mr. Lockamy will be at the Brock Environmental Center with the Nansemond Tribe on October 22nd from 10 am until 2 pm. Mr. Reed noted that the proclamation for the mayor to announce November as Native American Month is moving forward. Rosemary will sponsor the proclamation.

Mr. Wood notified the Commission that the Willis Wayside is being torn down. The building was originally built as a tuberculosis hospital and was later used as the headquarters for Camp Ashby. The Commission was interested in having the building documented prior to demolition.

Dr. Carwell noted that the Princess Anne Courthouse Committee is set to meet on October 27 at 4pm for a tour of the renovations with Tom Nicholas. The committee meeting will follow the tour.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 pm.