

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission
General Meeting Minutes – December 7, 2016
Convention and Visitors Bureau
Town Bank Building, 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500
Approved January 4, 2017

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

Staff: Mark Reed

Chair Bernice Pope called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

Ms. Pope asked that the Commission review the minutes, which were approved unanimously.

Ms. Pope introduced the nominating committee, which included Ms. Horsley, Ms. Paulson, and Mr. Ashe. Ms. Horsley, chair of the committee, presented the slate to be voted on in January:

- Bill Gambrell as Chair
- James Wood as First Vice Chair
- Sharon Felton as Second Vice Chair
- Katie Paulson as Secretary
- Bernice Pope as Immediate Past Chair

Mr. Reed compiled a list of the Commission's 2016 Priorities, Goals, and Accomplishments. Items highlighted in green on the handout were accomplished; this list included the following goals which were met: Princess Anne Courthouse PIF and HSR; support for the completion of stabilization at the Old Cape Henry Lighthouse and initiation of hazmat mitigation at the New Cape Henry Lighthouse; addition of new properties onto the Virginia Beach Historical Register; CLG designation; Oceana PIF and Nomination, as well as the identification of other potential districts, such as Cavalier Shores; mapping of properties threatened by sea level rise; and participation in the Strawberry Festival. After reviewing the list, Ms. Pope asked that the Commission begin to think about goals for 2017.

Mr. Reed provided a report to the Commission for the Cape Henry committee. On December 2nd, Mr. Rawls, Ms. Pope, Councilwoman Wilson, and a representative of Preservation Virginia toured the New Cape Henry Lighthouse. The tour allowed the group to communicate directly with the U.S. Coast Guard, who is still in the process of renovating the structure. The renovations will take an additional two years to complete before it can go up for bid to transfer ownership. Mr. Rawls noted that the committee can now turn their attention to laying the groundwork for Preservation Virginia to take it over when it is released. Preservation Virginia is also anxious to take control of the historic train depot; this would allow them to reconfigure the access to the lighthouse and utilize the building for a gift shop and office.

Mr. Rawls also updated the commission on the potential relocation of the Admiral deGrasse statue from the National Park on base to another location. Mr. Rawls and Ms. Pope met with Councilman Ben Davenport, who is in favor of moving the statue, to explain why it should stay where it is; although, it seems the Councilman still wants it moved in conjunction with the development of the Rochambeau trail.

Dr. Carwell presented for the Princess Anne Courthouse committee. The renovation of the ground floor is complete. The committee also decided to approve the design submitted to DHR for the façade improvements, as the 1960s façade was within the period of significance for the district and the city was ready to move forward.

Mr. Rawls updated the Commission on developments with the Historic District committee. The Oceana nomination will go to DHR at their June meeting. The solicitation for quotes for the Courthouse district are out and due back to the city on December 10. The budget is \$10,000; if it comes in at or less than budget, the commission will move forward with a PIF for Cavalier Shores. The Committee is also researching the best process for identifying a rural historic district in conjunction with surveys and inventory updates. The Committee would also like to establish new local districts to be regulated through the HRB and will help meet CLG requirements. The local districts also provide additional protections. The Committee identified three city-owned buildings for new local districts: deWitt Cottage, Coast Guard Station, and the Telephone Building. The Committee needs Commission approval to recommend these properties to be designated as historic and cultural districts. Mr. Wood made a motion for approval, which was seconded by Mr. Gambrell. With no discussion, the vote passed unanimously.

Ms. Paulson updated the Commission on the Historical Register. Letters were sent to the owners of properties listed on the National Register, asking if they would like to be included on the local register as well. At the time of the December meeting, the Committee had heard back from four properties: Weblin House, Briarwood, Adam Keeling House, and the Cape Henry Lighthouse (Old). Mr. Reed's office will send follow up letters to those who did not respond.

Mr. Reed provided an update on on-going projects. The consultant working on the Princess Anne Courthouse HSR is finalizing the report. The research grant recipients are beginning to complete their projects. Two markers will be sent to DHR for the December 1 deadline to be on the March agenda. Ms. Hendricks and Ms. Snowden, who are both researching African American history, have requested extensions to June 30, 2017.

Mr. Reed followed up on an item of old business: the Oceana High School pillars are on city right of way, school property, and U.S. government property. Mr. Reed suggested that the Commission ensure they're preserved before dealing with ownership and long-term maintenance. Some ideas for future ownership are the city, the schools, Oceana alumni association or the Oceana Civic League.

Under new business, Mr. Reed notified the Commission that NAPC is moving their offices to Virginia Beach. Additionally, a new development is proposed for the location of the Kellam and Eaton property near the new Courthouse Historic District and within its viewshed. The developer has invited members of the commission to attend a number of presentations on December 12 and 14 in order to provide comments and feedback.

The next meeting will be on January 4, 2017 at 5 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 pm.