

**Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission**  
General Meeting Minutes – February 1, 2017  
Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Town Bank Building, 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500  
Approved March 1, 2017

**Present:** Bill Gambrell, Chair; James Wood, First Vice Chair; Sharon Felton, Second Vice Chair; Bernice Pope, Immediate Past Chair; Katie Paulson, Secretary; Michel Ashe; Dr. Glenn Carwell; Harriet Frenzel; Bobbie Gribble; Diane Horsley; James Jordan; Sharon Prescott; Mac Rawls

**Student Member:** Lucas Anderton

**Staff:** Mark Reed

**Council Liaison:** Rosemary Wilson

Chair Bill Gambrell called the meeting to order at 4:59 pm.

The meeting began with Mr. Gambrell introducing the Commission's newest member, Bobbie Gribble. Councilwoman Wilson introduced Ms. Gribble to the Commission, noting that she serves as the chair for the Historic Kempsville Citizen Action Committee and is involved in the restoration of the Taylor-Whittle House in Norfolk. The Commission members introduced themselves to Ms. Gribble.

Mr. Gambrell asked that the Commission review the minutes from the January meeting, which were approved unanimously.

Mr. Wood introduced the 2017 Priorities and Goals for discussion. The executive committee made revisions to the document, which was provided to the Commission for review. Mr. Wood noted that Mr. Gambrell would like to focus on advocacy this year, so that item was moved to the top of the list. Mr. Wood asked for additional suggestions; there were none, so he made a motion to approve the current list of Priorities and Goals, which was seconded by Ms. Prescott and unanimously approved.

Mr. Reed updated the Commission on the establishment of the new Historic and Cultural Districts, which include the deWitt Cottage, Seatack Life Saving Station/US Coast Guard Station, and the First Telephone Building. The recommendation to add these districts (which are all city owned) was made by the Commission to the Planning Department. Staff will provide a briefing at the February 8<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting. A staff recommendation for approval will be presented at the Planning Commission's March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Councilwoman Wilson asked about the advantages of creating these districts. Mr. Reed explained that the districts create an additional level of review for these properties, requiring a Certificate of Appropriateness to be issued by the Historical Review Board prior to the issuance of permits. The creation of the districts also helps the City of Virginia Beach meet requirements of the CLG designation.

Ms. Prescott notified the Commission that the City-owned Buildings Committee will meet in early February. Mr. Reed has added GPINs to the existing spreadsheet and found some discrepancies between GPIN and address information. The Committee will continue to fine-tune the spreadsheet so that it contains accurate information.

Dr. Carwell updated the Commission on the Princess Anne Courthouse HSR, which was presented in preliminary draft form to city staff for review. The report contains a significant amount of research on the development of the building over time and provides guidance for maintenance needs moving forward.

The Historical Register Review Committee had a site visit on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 216 Cavalier Drive and Mr. Reed is in the process of scheduling an additional site visit for 1500 Still Harbor Lane. Ms. Paulson reminded the Commission that the four properties previously listed on the State and/or National Registers that requested inclusion on the local register will be presented with their plaques and certificates at the March meeting. Two additional properties (Adam Thoroughgood House and Francis Land House) responded to the form letter and will be invited to attend the meeting, as well. Ms. Paulson also let the Commission know that the Historical Register has received write ups in both *Southside Daily* and the *Beacon*, and encouraged the Commission to share these articles on social media or with owners of historic properties.

Mr. Reed provided a number of updates on old projects. The Oceana Historic District is on target for the June State Review Board meeting. The consultant, Debra McLane, and the civic league have been unable to coordinate for a presentation. Ms. McLane has been invited to make a presentation at the March 1<sup>st</sup> Historic Preservation Commission meeting and the civic league will be invited to attend.

Commonwealth Preservation Group has been selected to prepare the National Register nomination for the Courthouse Village and Municipal Center Historic District, which is planned to go to the State Review Board in September.

The solicitation for quotes has been sent out for the Cavalier Shores PIF. The deadline for submissions is February 22.

The Commission requested funding one last time for the FY17 research grant program. An additional \$7,000 was identified by the Planning Department in the current budget. The executive committee decided to take an additional \$3,000 from existing projects in the budget to get the funding to the \$10,000 level of the FY16 grant program. The press release for the program will go out this month, so the awards can be made before the end of the FY.

Mr. Reed circulated a letter to Aldi's attorney to consider the preservation of the historic portion of the Willis Wayside building. The Commission is asking the developer to review their store model to determine if it's possible to preserve the building while meeting their needs. The Commission noted in the letter that the Commission would like to have intensive level survey done of the building before renovation or demolition, which Aldi's previously agreed to do.

Mr. Reed provided an update on ongoing legislation that threatens the Virginia Historic Tax Credit program. Two of the bills which provided sunset provisions for the program were defeated. SB1034 is still active and would add a \$5 million cap on credits per tax payer for 2017 only to make up the budget shortfall.

Mr. Reed and Ms. Pope attended the legislative reception on January 26<sup>th</sup> in Richmond. The reception focused on the economic benefits of historic preservation. Preservation Virginia announced that their final installment of their economic study will be released in a few months. Mr. Gambrell requested that Commission members attend such events and meet with legislators when possible.

Mr. Rawls notified the Commission that the Frank Lloyd Wright house in Virginia Beach was sold in the fall and the new owners are planning to make drastic changes to the interior. He asked that Mr. Gambrell and Mr. Reed set up a meeting with the new owners and walk them through the incentives for preserving the building.

Ms. Felton notified the Commission that Cheryl Snowden, a research grant recipient, will present her findings on February 18 at 6:30 pm at the Seatack Community Center.

The next meeting will be on March 1, 2017 at 5 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.