

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission
General Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2017
Convention and Visitors Bureau
Town Bank Building, 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500
Approved April 5, 2017

Present: Bill Gambrell, Chair; James Wood, First Vice Chair; Sharon Felton, Second Vice Chair; Katie Paulson, Secretary; Michel Ashe; Dr. Glenn Carwell; Harriet Frenzel; Bobbie Gribble; Mac Rawls

Student Member: Lucas Anderton

Staff: Mark Reed; Jessica Collins

Guests: Lynn Carwell, Christopher Pieczynski, Gian Petersen (and daughter Anina), Lynn Clemens, Cynthia Spanolis, Sam Reid, Nancy Dabney, Armand Dabney, Mary Anne Simmons, Bill Simmons

Chair Bill Gambrell called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

Mr. Gambrell asked that the many guests attending the meeting introduce themselves to the Commission.

After introductions, Ms. Paulson and Mr. Gambrell presented plaques and certificates to the newest members of the Virginia Beach Historical Register. Dr. and Mrs. Carwell accepted their plaque and certificate for their home, the Adam Keeling House. Staff from the Cape Henry Lighthouse accepted their plaque and certificate on behalf of Preservation Virginia. Gian Petersen and her daughter Anina accepted their plaque and certificate for the Weblin House. Lynn Clemens accepted the plaques and certificates for the city owned properties added to the register: Adam Thoroughgood House and the Francis Land House.

After the Historical Register presentations, Debra McLane presented to the Commission and guests on her work on the Oceana Neighborhood National Register Nomination. The neighborhood has its beginnings in the 1880s, with the construction of the rail line from Norfolk to Virginia Beach, but it wasn't officially platted as a neighborhood until 1906 when a developer platted 70 blocks. The PIF was approved in December of 2015 and the draft is currently with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Next steps include notification letters to property owners from DHR (April), a public meeting (May), and the Joint Board Meeting of the Board of Historic Resources and the State Review Board (June). The Oceana Civic League is supportive of the district and helped Ms. McLane with her research. Objections to districts often come from people who believe listing comes with additional regulations, which is not true; the status is purely honorific. Ms. McLane noted that the listing of the neighborhood on the National Register is a step in recognizing the area, but also makes the contributing properties eligible for state and Federal tax credits. Mr. Reed added that now that Virginia Beach is a CLG, the city is able to comment on any nomination and can write a letter of support. Ms. McLane did note that if the balance between contributing and non-contributing buildings shifts, the status can

be revoked by the state. Since the PIF was written several contributing buildings have been demolished, resulting in a shift in the boundaries of the district.

Next, the Commission reviewed the minutes from the February meeting. Mr. Ashe moved to approve, which was seconded by Ms. Frenzel; the minutes were unanimously approved.

Ms. Felton provided an update on the planning process for the upcoming public meeting. Ms. Frenzel, Ms. Gribble, and Mr. Rawls have all volunteered to help plan the event. The Commission reviewed the draft agenda, which includes an update on the Commission since the last public meeting in November 2015, a presentation by Preservation Virginia on the historic tax credit program, a kick-off for the historic resources management plan, and recognition of the Kempsville High School rehabilitation. The planning committee will meet at Ms. Frenzel's house on March 13th at 4:30 pm and asked that the Commission members send any ideas for the event prior to that date.

The Commission discussed the process for student member nominations. Ms. Felton suggested in addition to public and private schools, to include the DAR, which has a list of students who have been recognized for their interest in American history.

Mr. Rawls updated the Commission on the Cape Henry Historic Site committee, which met on February 28 to review their accomplishments, objectives, and strategies. It seems as though all involved parties are supportive of moving forward. The primary objective is to gain public access to the new Cape Henry Lighthouse, which is currently being renovated by the U.S. Coast Guard. The renovations will take two to three more years, during which time the committee will put a plan in place for the site. The committee was interested in procuring the train depot on post for use by Preservation Virginia, but it has been assigned for use by another military unit.

Ms. Paulson notified the Commission that the Historical Register Review Committee has a site visit on March 9th at 1500 Still Harbor Lane. Once that has been completed, the Committee will schedule a review meeting for that property, as well as 216 Cavalier Drive, which they visited in January.

Mr. Gambrell asked that Commission review the committee assignment sheet. If a member is not currently on a committee, he asked that they find one that interests them and join it.

Mr. Reed provided several project updates:

- The RFP for the Cavalier Shores PIF was due on February 22. Four proposals were received and are currently being evaluated. All came in under budget and will be awarded by the end of March.
- The Commission's recommendation for the establishment of three new Historical & Cultural Districts is with the Planning Commission. Mr. Reed will attend another briefing on March 8th. Additional briefings will be provided to Mr. Hansen on March 16 and to City Council on March 28th.

- The city has completed the ArcGIS map. Ms. Collins has been working on updating the information in the Excel spreadsheet.

There was no old or new business.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 pm.