

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission
General Meeting Minutes – May 3, 2017
Convention and Visitors Bureau
Town Bank Building, 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500
Approved June 7, 2017

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

Student Member: Lucas Anderton

Staff: Mark Reed; Carolyn Smith

Guests: Linda Daniel, Lesley Carmody

Chair Bill Gambrell called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

Ms. Paulson and Mr. Gambrell presented the newest member of the Virginia Beach Historical Register. Ms. Linda Daniel and Ms. Lesley Carmody accepted a plaque and certificate for their property at 216 Cavalier Drive.

After the guests left, Mr. Gambrell asked the Commissioners to review the minutes from the April meeting. There was one change: Lucas Anderton was not in attendance, as showed on the minutes. Mr. Wood made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, which was seconded by Ms. Pope; the minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Ms. Felton provided a recap of the public meeting, thanking all of the presenters from the Commission and applauding the guest speaker, Elizabeth Kostelny from Preservation Virginia, who made a presentation on the historic rehabilitation tax credit program.

Mr. Reed reviewed the public input on the priorities and goals survey from those in attendance at the public meeting. The threatened buildings category ranked the highest. Mr. Rawls suggested that the Commission establish a committee for this issue. This would include starting a list of privately owned buildings that are threatened. Mr. Reed noted that specific sites ranked higher than less concrete priorities and goals, as these are easier for the public to recognize and identify with.

Ms. Prescott provided a report for the city-owned buildings committee, which met on May 2. They have revised their spreadsheet, which will remain a work in progress. They decided on focus areas and will create an Administrative Directive; Tom Nicholas will develop this document and it will go through city staff to be approved by the city manager.

Ms. Felton provided an update on the Historic Districts Committee. The Historic and Cultural Districts for the Seatack Life Saving Station and Virginia Beach Coast Guard Station and the deWitt Cottage are moving forward to City Council. The C&P Telephone Building's nomination is on hold due to concerns from Councilmember Uhrin. Mr. Reed reminded the Commission that the public hearing for the Oceana Historic District nomination will be on May 11 at 7 pm at the Convention Center; he encouraged Commission members to attend. The nomination will go to the State Review Board on June 15.

Ms. Paulson notified the Commission that the owner of the Hermitage, a National Register listed property, has responded to our form letter and has been added to the Historical Register. The committee has also received two new applications to the Register: 213 53rd Street and the Jefferson Manor Hotel Apartments at 3300 Pacific Avenue. The committee will schedule site visits soon, followed by a review meeting. Additionally, Ms. Paulson was approached at the public meeting by several people who are interested in applying to the program, including the owners of two private residences and the owner of the Pocahontas Hunt Club.

Mr. Jordan suggested that the Commissioners have bios handouts at future public events so that interested parties know who to contact directly with questions about specific issues.

Ms. Felton updated the Commission on the search for new student members. Nine nominations had been received. Interviews will take place later in May.

Mr. Reed provided an update on the grant applications. The staff is in the process of evaluating applications, after which the executive committee will review the applications and the staff report and award the grants.

Mr. Reed also brought up the Strawberry Festival for discussion, which is held Memorial Day weekend every year. Ms. Prescott spoke to Rev. Whitehurst who is allowing the Commission to set up a tent in his yard again this year. She has a folding table she can bring, but will need help with set up. Ms. Pope spoke with Mr. McAtamney, who has all of the signage and handouts from last year. Mr. Gambrell asked for someone to organize volunteers. Ms. Gribble and Ms. Estes volunteered to assist Ms. Prescott.

Mr. Reed notified the Commission of new business, including the DHR Cost Share, which was awarded to Virginia Beach for an archaeological assessment. The cost share will provide \$10,000 for the survey with a \$10,000 match from the City. This meets a CLG requirement. DHR will do most of the work, including writing the RFP, contracting the work, and overseeing the project. Work will begin sometime after July 1.

Mr. Reed also mentioned that two of the grants awarded in FY16 for historic markers will have unveiling ceremonies. The Cape Henry Railroads will be unveiled on August 5th. The dedication will be part of the celebration of National Lighthouse Day at Cape Henry. The event for the Col. John Thorowgood Jr. marker will be July 1. Ms. Jean will invite local DAR chapters to that event. Both are good opportunities for publicity for the Commission and the grant program.

The next general meeting will be on June 7, 2017 at 5 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 pm.