

**Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission**  
**April 4, 2018**  
**Towne Bank Building, 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500**  
**Approved May 2, 2018**

**PURPOSE** The purpose of the Commission is to advise the City Council and the Departments of Planning and Community Development and Museums on all issues related to the preservation of historic buildings, structures and sites located in the City of Virginia Beach.

**MISSION** The mission of the Commission shall be to preserve, protect and maintain the historic identity of Virginia Beach and the former Princess Anne County through a program of advocacy and increased public awareness and involvement.

Attending: Bill Gambrell (Chair), Jimmy Wood (1st Vice-Chair), Sharon Prescott (2nd Vice-Chair), Bobbie Gribble (Secretary), Bernice Pope (Immediate Past Chair)

Members: Glenn Carwell, Jennifer Estes, Sean Diment, Sharon Felton, James Jordan, Mac Rawls

City Council Liaison: Rosemary Wilson

Staff: Mark Reed, Carolyn Smith

Public: Cheryl Scott, Linda Alcox, Steve Alcox

**Welcome/Introductions/Remarks - Bill Gambrell**

Bill read the Commission's purpose and mission. It was noted that Lt. Col. John W. Penree had passed away. Bernice Pope had coordinated sending flowers to Madeleine Penree. A card for Madeleine was passed around at the meeting for Commission members to sign.

**Approval of March 7, 2018 Minutes - Bobbie Gribble**

Motion was made by Sharon Prescott for approval of the March 7, 2018 minutes as submitted. Sharon Felton seconded the motion. The March minutes were approved.

**Public Meeting 2018 - Wednesday, April 18, Central Library - Sharon Prescott**

Ms. Prescott noted that we would like to have all commissioners present. She passed around a signup sheet and asked members to please sign if you can attend and note if you can assist. The meeting program appears below as Appendix 1.

Mark Reed briefly ran through his draft slides for the Public Meeting PowerPoint presentation. He noted that presenters should review their slides and get changes and additions to the text to him. Bill Gambrell asked that there be a slide with the mission and purpose. There was some discussion about whether we are still using the Protect It, Preserve It, Post It hashtag.

**Strawberry Festival – May 26 – Sharon Prescott**

Ms. Prescott noted that the Strawberry Festival is a great place for getting the word out about the Historic Preservation Commission and tax exemption and tax credit programs. She talked about purchasing a professionally made banner for the table/tent. Sharon suggested Vistaprint or E-Sign as local companies that can produce reasonably priced banners. She noted that she only thought of having the Commission's

name and maybe the City seal and suggested that our student members might come up with a good idea for the graphics.

Jennifer Estes suggested a slide show to highlight what we have done. There was some discussion about access to electricity. Councilperson Wilson said she has a digital picture frame that might work. Ms. Prescott said we need volunteers to work a morning and afternoon shift on Saturday, May 26. She noted that last year Jennifer had brought a tent and chairs. She passed around a signup sheet for volunteers to assist at the event

### **2017 Historic Preservation Program Year-end Report - Mark Reed**

The Planning Department staff presentation on the 2017 activities of the historic preservation program, Historic Preservation Commission and Historical Review Board had been postponed from the March meeting agenda due to events at the Cavalier Hotel. Mr. Reed provided a PowerPoint presentation. Please see Appendix 2 below for the text from the slides.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Cape Henry - Mac Rawls**

We came up short on the last bid for the work to be done at the Cape Henry Lighthouse. We were \$200,000 off. The project will be rebid. The bid opening will be May 16th.

The Cape Henry Historic Site committee met on March 22. The really big development is the plan to open up the newer lighthouse as part of the Cape Henry tour when the older lighthouse is closed for construction. Preservation Virginia has proposed to the Coast Guard to be allowed access to the newer lighthouse on the first level. There is a lot to see, it is an interesting building. It would add a whole new dimension to the planned tours. Preservation Virginia has worked with the military and suggested they may use the lighthouse and would also maintain it.

There is a plan to ask City Council to purchase two buses for shuttling those interested in visiting the lighthouse. The shuttle plan may help on getting people on base.

Preservation Virginia has started a capital campaign to raise funds to build rest rooms for the old lighthouse site. Mr. Rawls said he didn't know what the status was for the Cape Henry train station, which at one time seemed to be the best option for Preservation Virginia for bathrooms. Sharon Felton suggested the Train Station would be a great place for interpretive history.

#### **Princess Anne County Confederate Monument - Jimmy Wood & Sharon Felton**

A meeting of the PACCSR was held on March 9. Mr. Wood said that the committee is moving towards a public meeting. The group is working well together. The current idea is they will have round table discussions with members of the public when the public meeting is held.

#### **Recognition of Historic Buildings - Katie Paulson**

Katie was unable to attend the meeting. Jimmy Jordan reported on the committee to update the 50 Most Historically Significant Houses and Structures in Virginia Beach publication. The committee met on March 29. There are challenges. The major challenge is funding. Money is identified in this year's budget for graphic design. We would need to have that under contract by the end of May to be able to spend from this year's budget.

Mr. Reed noted that next year's funding may be tight since the Archaeological Assessments and Architectural survey projects are expected to each cost in the \$30,000 range. We have been depending on grants to help us stretch these dollars and a Cost Share Grant was applied for in March for the archaeological assessment for the southern part of the city.

Mrs. Wilson asked if we had approached the Hampton Roads Realtors Association, which had provided graphic design services for the first publications. The committee had not.

Mr. Jordan noted that of the fifty historic buildings and structures in the original publication, two have been demolished (the Roland Court Theater and the Gresham-Ives House). He said we will have to expand it from 50 Most Significant. The committee feels they will come up with at least 70 or 75. If anyone has any ideas for new subject matter please let Katie Paulson or Jimmy Jordan know.

Mr. Reed noted that the City's photographer has offered to do the photography.

### **Student Leaders - Sharon Felton, Sean Diment, Madeleine Penree**

Sean Diment said there are 7 live Clio posts. Sean talked with the City's Director of Communications about Facebook. They are addressing it in May (which is Preservation Month). The committee members are looking on creating Facebook ready blurbs.

They will be presenting at the upcoming Public Meeting and plan to assist with the Strawberry Festival. Face painting and colonial games have been discussed and simple coloring pages, such as drawing a basic lighthouse.

Mr. Diment showed the final version of the flyer that had been created for Counselor's offices in local High Schools. Please see Appendix 3. This has to be approved by each school to be posted.

Sharon Felton commented on SAPLINGS which is in Elementary Schools.

Jimmy Wood asked what the level of participation has been on the committee. Mr. Diment said it has been a little spotty since they have never been able to get everyone there at the same time. He noted that business is still getting done. One thing is they have to understand the proper administration processes. Each member is keeping track of their time, they are working on Clio, etc., not just attending meetings.

### **Project Updates:**

#### **Architectural Survey - Mark Reed:**

The firm that has been hired is Cultural Resource Analysts, Inc. and they have also subcontracted with Debra McClane, Architectural Historian. They are identifying 100 new resources and looking at neighborhoods for Historic Register eligibility north of North Landing, Princess Anne and Sandbridge Roads. There will be a public information session on April 19th at 6:30 p.m. at the Central Library Auditorium. We are hoping people will attend and assist the consultant in identifying buildings.

#### **Cavalier Shores National Register Nomination**

The consultant has been selected. It is Dutton + Associates, which is the firm that did the PIF for Cavalier Shores last year. They came in at close to the budgeted amount. The kick-off meeting is Tuesday, April 24th. The nomination will probably make it to the State Review Board in March of 2019.

## **Courthouse Village and Municipal Center National Register Historic District**

The National Park Service updates their listings on a weekly basis. We are still waiting for approval on the Courthouse Village and Municipal Center nomination.

## **FY18 Research Grant Program**

We have had a lot of interest in this grant cycle. We received eleven project applications requesting \$22,003. Final decisions should be made at the Executive Committee on April 18th.

## **Old Business**

There was no old business.

## **New Business**

400 Facts Publication - Mac Rawls requested this be deferred to a later date pending more research on his part.

FY 2018/19 Budget - Mark Reed noted that our operating budget for Historic Preservation in the current year's amount is included in the FY19 City Manager's budget and is funded. He noted that the request for photo documentation for the Cavalier Hotel was not funded. He said he would need to check on the budget public hearing dates and he will get them to the Commission.

Bernice Pope said we need to keep our eyes on the telephone building on 22<sup>nd</sup> Street. She has heard that the owner of the adjoining lot has submitted another request to purchase and demolish the building. Bernice feels it still needs to be pursued to designate this building as a local Historic and Cultural District.

Bill Gambrell suggested the Commission send a formal letter to Barry Frankenfield about the desire to keep that building.

## **Adjournment:**

Next Meeting, Wednesday, May 2, 2018, 5:00 p.m., Towne Bank Building, Suite 500

The meeting closed at 6:29.

## APPENDIX 1

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission

Public Meeting Program

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Meyera E. Oberndorf Central Library Auditorium

**Welcome and Introductions** – Bill Gambrell, VBHPC Chair

- Overview of VBHPC

**Award of Distinction for Excellence in Historical Rehabilitation** – Bill Gambrell

- 1927 The Cavalier Hotel – Bruce Thompson

**Accomplishments and Highlights**

- Cape Henry Historic Site – Mac Rawls, Committee Chair
  - Status of 1792 Cape Henry Lighthouse project
  - Base Access
- Historic Registers – Katie Paulson, Committee Chair
  - Oceana Neighborhood National Register Historic District
  - Courthouse Village and Municipal Center Virginia Landmarks Register Historic District
  - Cavalier Shores Preliminary Information Form
  - Virginia Beach Historical Register
  - Establishment of 2 new Historic and Cultural Districts
- Princess Anne County Confederate Statue – Sharon Felton, Jimmy Wood, Co-Chairs
- Student Leaders Committee – Sean Diment, Madeleine Penree, Co-Chairs
- Research Grant Program – Mark Reed, Staff

**Research Grant Project Presentations**

- *History of African-American Communities in Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach*  
Ms. Edna Hawkins-Hendrix and Dr. Joanne H. Lucas
- *Seaview Beach and Amusement Park: An African-American Gem on Virginia's Chesapeake Bay*  
Ms. Sherry A. DiBari

**Audience Survey and Input** – Mark Reed and Commissioners

- FY18 Priorities and Goals Survey

**Closing** – Bill Gambrell, VBHPC Chair

Stop by one of the tables at the front of the auditorium after the program to learn more about volunteer opportunities, historical registers, the research grant program and the African-American Communities and Seaview Beach research grant projects.

## **APPENDIX 2: Highlights of 2017 Accomplishments**

### Historic Preservation Program 2017 Year End Report

#### Historic Preservation Program Overview

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF AN ACTIVE & PRODUCTIVE YEAR

- Certified Local Government (CLG)
  - Met CLG Agreement requirements 1-9 and 10b
  - “You guys are a model CLG” quoted from Lena McDonald, DHR 12/19/17 email
- Full-Time Staff
  - First FT Historic Preservation Planner hired 8/03/17
- Recognition
  - Numerous individual properties and several multiple-resources districts were recognized at the local, state and national levels

#### HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

#### Highlights of an Active and Productive Year

- Princess Anne Courthouse
  - Mold mitigation and repairs completed
  - Historic Structure Report completed
- Research Grant Program
  - 5 of 6 FY16 Grant projects successfully completed
  - 4 FY17 Grants awarded
- Publicity
  - Print and TV media provided many positive news stories on historic preservation program initiatives

#### VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC AND CULTURAL DISTRICTS

#### 2 New Districts established:

- deWitt Cottage
- Seatack Life Saving Station/U.S. Coast Guard Station

These were the first local historic district created since 1996. Met CLG requirements 10b.

#### VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC DISTRICTS

#### Two Historic District Nominations Submitted

- Oceana Neighborhood
- Courthouse Village and Municipal Center

#### One Preliminary Information Form Submitted

- Cavalier Shores

### OCEANA NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORIC DISTRICT

Became first residential National Register Historic District in Virginia Beach on September 18, 2017

- Platted in 1906
- Contains 135 contributing resources
- Received good media coverage

### COURTHOUSE VILLAGE AND MUNICIPAL CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

Placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register on September 21, 2017

- Placement on National Register was pending at the end of the year
- Focal points are the 1822 Princess Anne County Courthouse and the 1969 City Hall
- Contains 37 contributing resources

### CAVALIER SHORES HISTORIC DISTRICT

Preliminary Information Form

- Recommended to be eligible for nomination to the VLR and NRHP by Virginia State Review Board  
December 14, 2017

### VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORICAL REGISTER

10 Properties added in 2017

- 216 Cavalier Drive
- 3300 Pacific Avenue
- 8 National Register Properties

Commission initiative to add all NRHP properties is now one short of 100%

### HISTORIC MARKERS

2 State Historic Highway Markers Dedicated

- Col. John Thorowgood Jr.
- Cape Henry Railroads

Both funded by 2016 Research Grants

Received good media coverage

### FY RESEARCH GRANTS

4 FY 17 GRANTS AWARDED - \$8,460

- Seaview Beach and Amusement Park Research Paper and Website
- Historic Highway Markers
  - Camp Ashby POW Camp
  - Skirmish at Kemp's Landing
  - Washington, Rochambeau and deGrasse Meeting on Lynnhaven Bay

### PUBLIC MEETING APRIL 20, 2017

- Threatened Buildings and Sites identified as top concern
- Cape Henry Historic Site and Historic Resources Surveys identified as top priorities
- Elizabeth Kostelny of Preservation Virginia presented on the Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program
- Award of Distinction presented to Jack Pope for Kempsville High School Rehab

### GRANTS RECEIVED

Transportation Alternatives Program VDOT

- Cape Henry Lighthouse - \$362,80
- Cost Share Program - DHR
  - Archaeological Assessment - \$18,700

### PRINCESS ANNE COUNTY CONFEDERATE MONUMENT

Public Input at September 6 General Meeting

- Princess Anne County Confederate Statue Roundtable formed with formulating recommendations

### TRAININGS ATTENDED

Historic Preservation Commission

- 4 members attend Virginia Preservation Conference

Historical Review Board

- 1 member attended AIA sponsored workshop on historic rehabilitation
- 2 members attended ARB/CLG Training
- 1 member attended Virginia Preservation Conference

Staff:

- Attended ARB/CLG Training
- Attended Virginia Preservation Conference
- Attended Keeping History Above Water Sea Level Rise Conference

### HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION STUDENTS

10 Students Recommended and Interviewed

2 Appointed by Council

- Student Leaders Committee Established

### HISTORICAL REVIEW BOARD

2 Applications for COA received

2 Applications for COA Approved

- 2625 & 2629 Princess Anne Road
  - Assisted Living and Memory Care Residence
- N. Landing Rd. & Geo. Mason
  - Princess Anne Shoppes Sign

4 Members attended CLG approved training

## COMING UP IN 2018

### Cape Henry Lighthouse Project

- Open Construction Bids, Begin and Complete Construction

### National Register Nominations

- Complete Cavalier Shores nomination and initiate another PIF (unidentified)

### Presentation to Update City Council

- Last update was September 2016
- Courthouse Historic Structure Report
- Confederate Monument Recommendations Research Grants
- Complete FY17 projects and make FY18 awards

### Historic District Standards and Guidelines

- Produce draft document

### City-wide Resource Surveys

- Complete Archaeological Assessment (northern half)
- Complete Renaissance Level Architectural Survey Update (northern half)
- Initiate southern half studies

### Update Historic Resources Management Plan

- Hold public input sessions and produce draft document

### Appendix 3: Flier for Counselor's office in Middle Schools and High Schools



*Preserve Virginia Beach!*



## VIRGINIA BEACH WANTS YOU TO VOLUNTEER!



## GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Do you like history? Do you like Virginia Beach? If so, reach out to the Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission! We help preserve history in Virginia Beach, and we could use your help too! Students have the opportunity to learn more about the city and historic preservation on our Student Leaders Committee, and the Commission can also help you obtain service hours through volunteering.

There are so many sites that you can volunteer for in the city. For example, Virginia Beach has numerous historical programs that need more volunteers. From the SAPLINGS program at the Francis Land House which allows you to interact with kids and history, to the Cape Henry Lighthouse, there is no shortage of activities to participate in!

The Student Leaders Committee works on a variety of things, from planning events for Neptune Festival and the Pungo Strawberry Festival, to writing historical data entries on an app called Clio. Furthermore, students can even get their work published on the City Government's Facebook page! So what do you say? Reach out today, and do your role to preserve Virginia Beach history!

**"Preserve It. Protect It. Post It."**

Virginia Beach Historic Preservation Commission

Picture Sources:

Kalb, C. "King Neptune Statue." (2011).

Walter, M. "Cavalier Hotel." (2016)

"Princess Anne County Courthouse." *Princess Anne County Historical Society*. (2001).



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