

VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Planning and Community Development Conference Room, 2875 Sabre Street, Suite 500

October 6, 2021, 5:00 pm

Approved November 3, 2021

Present:

Officers: Chair, James Wood; First Vice-Chair, Sharon Prescott; Secretary, Bobbie Gribble

Members: Campbell Clay, Sharon Felton, Harriet Frenzel, Natalie Hubbard, Richard Klobuchar, Ian Lichacz, Becky Livas, Timothy Oksman, Katie Paulson

Staff: Mark Reed, Elizabeth Nowak

Purpose The purpose of the Commission is to advise the City Council and the Department of 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

Welcome/Introductions/Remarks

Jimmy Wood called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. He welcomed everyone. He said we are still working out the kinks at having a virtual option for attendance. He noted that with that we still have to have a majority present in the room.

Department of Planning – Elizabeth Nowak, Planner II

Mark Reed introduced Elizabeth Nowak, who has recently been hired by the Department of Planning and Community Development as a Planner II. He said she will be providing staff support for the Historical Review Board. Mr. Reed noted that the responsibilities and duties of the position have been expanded beyond what it had been previously. He said Ms. Nowak will also be working with some of the Commission's initiatives.

Ms. Nowak said she grew up in Northern Virginia. She said she always knew she wanted to do something with history and people. Ms. Nowak had lived in Virginia Beach previously and worked at Cape Henry Lighthouse for a year and a half. She said she graduated from James Madison University with a degree in history and she has a master's from UVA in urban and environmental planning with a certificate in historic preservation. Ms. Nowak said that in Indianapolis she was a one woman show. She oversaw a project to update 16 historic district plans. She noted that she is a collaborative communicator.

The Commission members then introduced themselves to Ms. Nowak

Approval of September 1, 2021 Minutes

Mr. Wood asked the members to look at the minutes from the September 1 meeting and provide any additions or corrections. A motion was made by Rick Klobuchar to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Sharon Prescott. The September 1, 2021 minutes were unanimously approved.

Flood Protection Program Video

Mr. Reed said that the City Manager has requested that staff show a Flood Protection Program video for each board and commission. He said there is a bond referendum on the November 2 ballot and the video explains what the referendum is expected to fund. The video was played for the Commission.

Election of Nominating Committee

Mr. Wood said that the Commission needs to elect a Nominating Committee to propose a slate of officers for 2022 for the Commission. He said last year the committee was Bill Gambrell, Christy Lyons, and Harriet Frenzel. He noted that he had spoken with each and they are willing to serve again this year. Sharon Prescott made a motion to nominate Mr. Gambrell, Ms. Frenzel and Ms. Lyons to serve as the Nominating Committee. Sharon Felton seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion and the vote to elect the Nominating Committee per the motion was unanimous.

Committee Reports

Mr. Reed reported for Mac Rawls on the Cape Henry Historic Site committee. He said the committee met on October 4. He noted that Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek Fort Story has been restricted to HP CON Charlie since August 26. That means that civilians no longer are allowed on base without someone with a Department of Defense identification. Mr. Reed said that Preservation Virginia staff has been working on virtual and outreach education programs during this lull in visitation.

He said City staff submitted a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application for a \$1.9 million Cape Henry Lighthouse restoration project. He said the project would entail sandstone repair/replacement in the window and door surrounds, extensive repainting of the tower, reglazing in the dome, and ventilation improvements for the dome.

Student Leaders Committee

Campbell Clay and Natalie Hubbard reported for the Student Leaders Committee. Mr. Clay said they held their first meeting in September, and it went well. He said they discussed what they will do this year. He noted they will be working on Clio entries, the Scavenger Hunt, getting more publicity in schools, and developing a greater Social Media presence. He said they started up Instagram with the first post of the year. Their goal is to have more followers.

Ms. Hubbard said their next meeting is October 13. She said they will get Clio entries started with everyone picking a location for their entry development.

Project Updates

Mr. Reed provided several updates on current projects. He said the Historic and Cultural District Design Standards and Review Guidelines (Review Guidelines) are close to completion. He said that the consultant will be making a presentation at the Historical Review Board meeting on October 20 at 4:00 p.m. in this conference room and Commission members are invited to attend. He said the Planning Commission briefing is expected to be in November.

Mr. Reed said that a draft of the Historic Preservation Strategic Plan document is due to us on October 8. He said we will have two weeks to turn around comments. He thought a presentation to the Historic Preservation Commission could likely be in November. We may also be able to

have a briefing ready for the Planning Commission in November. He noted the plan is to have it adopted by reference to the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Reed then gave an update on the progress of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations for Seatack and L & J Gardens. He said that the L & J Gardens nomination is progressing well. He said the neighborhood survey has been completed and staff is reviewing the VCRIS forms and related materials. In addition, the interviews with residents and former residents have been completed and the development of the nomination draft is underway. He said the project is on track to go to the Board of Historic Resources and State Review Board in June 2022.

Mr. Reed said the Seatack nomination is also progressing, but at a little slower pace. The neighborhood survey is underway, as is the research for the nomination narrative. It is expected to go for state review in September 2022.

For the Preliminary Information Form (PIF) projects Mr. Reed said the Woodhurst Neighborhood Historic District was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP by the State Review Board on September 23. He said staff is working on getting the nomination for Woodhurst under contract. He said that if we can have the project under contract by January the target date for taking it to the Board of Historic Resources and State Review Board will be December 2022.

Historic Properties Glimpse

Mr. Reed provided information on items coming before the Historical Review Board (HRB) at their October meeting, as well as previous items they have reviewed. He said the only item on their October agenda is for the deWitt Cottage. He said the HRB had approved the construction of a gazebo approved in February 2021. The intention of the Atlantic Wildfowl Heritage Museum is to build the gazebo and donate it to the city, since the city is the property owner. The city's Public Works Department has asked that they change materials to architectural shingles, composite deck, and vinyl/composite material for the railings. He said staff is likely to recommend approval for the shingles and composite decking but not the railings. He noted that they are waiting for a sample of the balusters to make a final determination on the railings. Mr. Reed said the draft design guidelines are recommending against vinyl since they don't hold up as well in the long term as does well maintained wood.

Mr. Reed then updated the Commission on some recent projects. He said the proposed Royal Farms store, fuel station and car wash in the Nimmo Church district had the rezoning request approved by the City Council 7 to 2. He noted that the property owner is required to perform an archaeological investigation for the entire site prior to initiation of the project.

Mr. Reed said the proposed Nimmo Church Welcome Center, also in the Nimmo Church district, was denied by the HRB on September 15. He noted that the applicant has said they will appeal, but they have not yet submitted their letter.

Mr. Wood said he recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission oppose the appeal. Sharon Prescott made a motion that the Commission Chair write a letter to City Council about the Nimmo Church Welcome Center in support of the HRB's denial of the Certificate of Appropriateness for the Nimmo Church welcome Center in the event the applicant appeals. The motion was seconded by Becky Livas. There was no additional discussion. The motion was

approved unanimously. Katie Paulson abstained on the basis that her employer is under contract with the project.

Mr. Reed discussed the upcoming application of a red wash on the Princess Anne County Courthouse building. He said that repointing of the building was recently completed by Landmark Preservation. When the project was being scoped, the historic masonry consultant suggested the red wash should be applied to the building for historic reasons, as well as to protect the bricks. He said the red wash is expected to be applied this fall.

Mr. Reed said the analysis of the historic red wash was performed by Dr. Susan Buck. She found evidence that red wash that had been applied to the building. The microscopic analysis provided evidence that it had been applied very soon after the building was constructed. She was able to analyze three layers of red wash. The first was a deep red. The second was a purplish red. The third was an orange red. They have chosen to replicate the deep red color that was the first color the courthouse was painted with red wash.

Mr. Reed noted that Landmark Preservation will be applying the red wash to the building. They provided a sample panel, which has been approved. He said it is not a paint, it is a lime-based material. It will provide a historic look for the courthouse. Mr. Reed said he will do a press release on it so people understand why it is being done and the historic nature of it.

Old Business

Mr. Wood asked if there was any old business. There was none.

New Business

Mr. Wood said there is some new business. Mr. Reed said that he wants to see if the Commission is interested in sponsoring a Native American Heritage Month Proclamation. He said we would be targeting the November 2 City Council meeting for it. He noted that the Historic Preservation Commission has sponsored similar proclamations since 2016. Rick Klobuchar made a motion for the Commission to sponsor a Native American Heritage Month proclamation for Virginia Beach for the month of November. The motion was seconded by Sharon Felton. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Reed said he would coordinate with Lee Lockamy on the language for the proclamation.

Mr. Wood asked if there was any additional new business. Rick Klobuchar said the Princess Anne County Historical Society has its 50th anniversary this year. He is meeting with the new president soon and will ask if they are doing a proclamation to recognize the anniversary. He asked if they have not started the proclamation process if the Commission would like to sponsor one. Mr. Klobuchar made a motion for the Commission to sponsor a proclamation for the 50th anniversary of the Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach Historical Society if one wasn't already in process. Ms. Frenzel seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Felton said there is a 5/31 committee that is being formed and there was information about it in today's newspaper. She said the Historic Preservation Commission is supposed to have a member on it. Mr. Reed said he has asked the City Clerk's Office about membership for the committee earlier this week but had not received a response. He said he felt the Historical Review Board should also have a member on the 5/31 committee since the location would likely be in the Courthouse Historic and Cultural District. He said he would get information out to Commission members.

Ms. Frenzel said she thought the Commission should send a congratulations letter to the Commission's Council liaison, Rosemary Wilson, who was selected recently as the Vice Mayor. Mr. Wood said we can do that.

Mr. Wood said there has been discussion on how to structure the City Council liaison program. It was recommended that City Council members will not be at every meeting. In addition, another recommendation would be to have two liaisons.

Mr. Klobuchar informed the Commission of the September 20 program at the Lynnhaven House where the Thelaball bible was exhibited. He also informed them of upcoming events with the historic house museums, including Bonfires and Brews on October 15 at the Lynnhaven House and Ghosts of Thoroughgood Past on several dates in October at the Thoroughgood House.

Mr. Wood said the next Commission meeting will be on Wednesday, November 3 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Wood adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.