

VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

February 2, 2022, 5:00 pm

Approved March 2, 2022

Present:

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

Members: Glenn Carwell, Derrick DuBay, Campbell Clay, Sharon Felton, Harriet Frenzel (*remote), Natalie Hubbard, Richard Klobuchar, Ian Lichacz (*remote), Becky Livas, Timothy Oksman, Katie Paulson, Mac Rawls
* (Ian Lichacz calling in remotely from Hampton Sydney College, medical; Harriet Frenzel calling in remotely from her home, medical)

Staff: Mark Reed, Elizabeth Nowak

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

Welcome/Introduction/Remarks

Jimmy Wood read the Historic Preservation Commission’s Purpose and Mission. He introduced Glenn Carwell who is joining the Commission for a second time. The Commission members introduced, or reintroduced, themselves to Dr. Carwell.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Wood asked the members present to review the minutes of the January 5, 2022 Commission meeting. Rich Klobuchar made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Tim Oksman seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

BYLAWS AMMENDMENT

Mr. Wood presented an overview of the proposed bylaws amendments. He noted that it provides a process to add a fifth member to the Executive Committee should the immediate past chair not be able to fill that position. Tim Oksman made a motion to approve amendment of the bylaws as presented. Rich Klobuchar seconded the motion. The amendment of the bylaws was unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cape Henry Historic Site

Mac Rawls reported for the Cape Henry Historic Site committee. He noted that Rachel Balderson is the new site coordinator for the Cape Henry Lighthouse. Mr. Rawls said there was a meeting of the Cape Henry Historic Site committee this past Monday. He said the Lighthouse is open to the public. He noted that the train station is still a high priority, but we are losing out on the hoped for opportunity for the utilization of this space. Mr. Rawls said we wanted Preservation Virginia to have some artifacts on display there and potentially some exhibits. He noted the Commanding Officer is not showing any interest in this, although the pass they give when you enter includes the train station within the tourist area on its map.

Historic Preservation Month

Sharon Prescott reported for the Historic Preservation Month committee. She said planning is underway. She noted that over the past two years we have done two models in the way we have done Pints for Preservation. One was a Happy Hour at each brewery on a weeknight where 10% of the beer sales were donated to the lighthouse and pint glasses were sold. For the other, we set up on Saturday and sold the pint glasses at each brewery.

Ms. Prescott said that this year the format we were talking about is a Trivia Night at each brewery. People can buy a glass and play trivia. She noted that Christi Lyons and Mark Reed will be leading this. Mr. Reed noted that the key to a successful trivia night is good prizes, so they will be asking Commission members to get donations of prizes or purchase them, such as gift certificates to restaurants.

Ms. Prescott provided an overview of some of the details of the activity. She said we will have 3 brewery partners that will each brew a Historic Preservation Month beer and donate \$1 per pint sale to the Lighthouse. She said we have Graphic Arts Consulting Service working on creating the artwork for us to use in 2022 on the glasses and other promotional items. She noted that we plan to host a History Trivia Night at each brewery and have the commemorative glassware sales during the event. In addition, Ms. Prescott said the promotional item that we will donate for the breweries is a commemorative pint glass koozie. She said we are also expecting to produce a promotional poster for display in the breweries and elsewhere.

Student Leaders Committee

Campbell Clay and Natalie Hubbard reported for the Student Leaders Committee. Mr. Clay said that the members are wrapping up development of their Clio entries. He said at the last meeting they talked about the details of posting their entries in the app. Mr. Clay noted that the students will hold their next meeting on February 9 and they will start working on the details for the Scavenger Hunt.

Christi Lyons said that Kris Troch, who heads the history section for Virginia Beach Public Schools, has attended the meetings and is very interested in the work of the committee and the opportunities it offers for students. Ms. Lyons said that Ms. Troch will be packaging information to assist us in recruiting students and will be sending that out to the Principals at all of the schools.

Ian Lichacz reported on his progress in setting up activities for the Student Leaders Committee for Legislative Advocacy Day. He said that there are two dates that will work for the local delegation, February 22 and March 1. He has the Virginia Beach representatives lined up to meet the students, including Knight, DeSteph, Tata and Davis. The students will be introduced by Delegate Tata in the House chamber. Mr. Lichacz said the group would need to arrive around 9:00 or 9:30 in Richmond.

PROJECT UPDATES

Mark Reed provided updates on several ongoing historic preservation projects.

Historic and Cultural District Design Guidelines – Mr. Reed said staff took the Design Guidelines to the Planning Commission on January 12. They presented ordinances for amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and to Article 13 of the Zoning Ordinance that include references to the Design Guidelines. The Planning Commission recommending approval by a unanimous vote. Mr. Reed said the next step will be to make a presentation to City Council.

Historic Preservation Plan – Mr. Reed said that revised Objective and Actions for the Preservation Plan were sent to DHR last week. DHR will forward to Commonwealth Preservation Group (CPG) and they will put together a proposal to revise the document based on our recommended changes. He said the goal is to get it completed by the end of March.

National Register Nominations – Mr. Reed said that National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations are generally moving forward on a good path.

The L & J Gardens nomination is on track for the State Review Board for June 2022. He said he expects a presentation will be made to the Commission by the consultant in April or May.

The Seatack nomination is on track for the State Review Board for September 2022. He said he expects a presentation will be made to the Commission by the consultant in September since the Commission does not meet in July and August.

For the Woodhurst nomination, we now have Debra McClane, Architectural Historian, under contract. He said she will begin working on this in February.

For the Cutty Sark and the Blue Marlin Motels nominations, a proposal has been received for the Blue Marlin project and we are awaiting expenditure approval. The proposal for the Cutty Sark is due this week.

PIF - Preliminary Information Forms – Mr. Reed said there has been some positive movement with the PIF projects, too.

The Chesapeake Beach Historic District has been on hold while we work on scheduling a site visit with DHR staff. That has been scheduled for next week for them to visit the district and discuss their evaluation of not eligible

Mr. Reed said the Newsome Farm Cemetery PIF has been submitted to DHR. Staff is waiting to hear the results of DHR's evaluation.

The Pleasant Ridge School PIF kickoff meeting/site visit was held on January 14. This project is finally underway and should be interesting. There are still people around that attended the school back in the 1950s.

Research Grant Program – Mr. Reed said we are now accepting applications for the FY22 research grants. He noted that a Press Release went out Monday, January 31. He said he sent emails to all previous awardees to inform them of the opportunity. Applications are due March 3rd. Mr. Reed said he has received several responses from potential applicants. He said we have \$10,000 budgeted for this year's program. He noted that added this year is a clause that will require grantees doing research papers to draft an article on the subject of their research that the Commission can seek to be published in the newspaper or other news source.

African American Heritage Month Proclamation – Mr. Reed said he is working with Edna Hendrix on the information for the proclamation. He said it will be read at the February 15 City Council meeting. This year's theme is "Black Health and Wellness." Mr. Reed noted that there were several types of groups that provided health care services for the African American community. These included mid-wives and the United Order of Tents organizations. The Tents organizations provided care to the sick and the elderly and several organizations formed near the end of the 19th and the beginning of 20th century and are active today.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES GLIMPSE

Mr. Reed said that there are no items for the February agenda for the Historical Review Board.

C&P Telephone Building - 302 22nd Street

Mr. Reed said that staff is working on moving forward with the proposal to establish a Historic and Cultural District Zoning Overlay for this property. He said a Staff Report and Agenda Request Form have been drafted for Planning Administrator review.

Mr. Reed said that a proposal for a development project on the surrounding property is starting to move forward. It may put additional pressure on the C & P Telephone building parcel.

Mr. Reed noted the news article about the opening of the building in 1927 that was in the Commission members' meeting packet. It helps provide context for the building as an important part of the town's growth in the early 20th century. He said that staff recommends that we contract for a PIF to determine the resource's eligibility for listing in the NRHP. If it is eligible, that may give us more leverage for preserving it in place. If it is not eligible, then that could open up the option for relocation as a last resort. Mr. Reed said the Executive Committee wanted the full Commission to approve moving forward with a PIF if that is their desire.

Derek DuBay asked why the City hasn't made the building into a museum. Mr. Wood welcomed Mr. DuBay to the challenges of historic preservation. He said the potential value of the property for redevelopment impacts all decisions and that is why the Commission is seeking the zoning overlay to ensure a review process is in place and required.

A motion was made by Christi Lyons to approve contracting for the preparation of a PIF for the C& P Telephone Building. The motion was seconded by Rick Klobuchar. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Jimmy Wood reminded the members that their 2022 Financial Disclosure Form was due to the City Clerk on February 1. He asked those that had not submitted their forms to please do so as soon as possible.

Rick Klobuchar asked the status of the resolution for Bill Gambrell. Mr. Reed said he is working on it.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. DuBay said that there is an oyster shack at 1805 Estates Court that is threatened. The property is for sale and has been subdivided for several homes. He said maybe it can be moved somewhere, like the Brock Center. Mr. Reed said that the property also has significant archaeological potential. He said he had asked the owner several years ago for permission to come on the property to do archaeology and was turned down. He noted that he would follow up to find out the current status of the property. Mr. Wood said that this should be turned over to the Threatened Properties committee and he appointed Mr. DuBay to join the committee.

Mr. Wood said the City of Virginia Beach is planning for the 60th Anniversary of the modern City in 2023. They are putting together an oral history video. Mr. Wood said he is trying to get a meeting with the City Manager and suggest that Mac Rawls be interviewed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wood said the next meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.