

VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

March 2, 2022, 5:00 pm

Approved April 6, 2022

Present:

Officers: Chair, James Wood; First Vice-Chair, Sharon Prescott; Second Vice-Chair, Christi Lyons (remote); Immediate Past Chair, Mac Rawls

Members: Glenn Carwell, Sharon Felton, Harriet Frenzel, Natalie Hubbard, Richard Klobuchar, Ian Lichacz, Becky Livas, Lee Lockamy (remote),

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/Introductions/Remarks

Jimmy Wood called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He welcomed all of the members attending. Sharon Prescott recorded the minutes for Secretary Bobbie Gribble, who was unable to attend.

Ms. Prescott requested check in by the remote attendees. Christi Lyons said she is attending from home due to medical reasons. Lee Lockamy said he is attending from home due to medical reasons.

Approval of February 2, 2022 Minutes

Jimmy Wood asked the Commission members to review the meeting minutes from the February 2, 2022 Historic Preservation Commission meeting. Ian Lichacz made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Sharon Felton seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Sharon Prescott reported for the **Historic Preservation Month committee**. She said the artwork for glasses, and other items related to Pints for Preservation has been approved. The design was shown in the meeting slide presentation and was discussed.

Ms. Prescott said that staff and the Executive Committee had talked about working with the Cultural Affairs Department to sponsor a panel discussion for Historic Preservation Month. The panel would consist of a professional archaeologist, dendrochronologist, architectural historian, and historian to discuss how we know what we do about historic buildings and sites. It would be held at the Central Library. The proposed panel event was discussed and Commission members were supportive.

Natalie Hubbard reported for the **Student Leaders Committee**. She said Clio entries have been completed and the committee members are now working on the scavenger hunt for May. The next committee meeting will be on March 9.

Ms. Hubbard discussed the Legislative Advocacy Day that the students attended on February 22. She told the Commission about their day at the General Assembly, meeting our State Delegates and Senators. She said they enjoyed the tour of the Capital Building and learning the history of the building and the art. She said they also had a tour of the State Supreme Court building. Ms. Hubbard said it was very well planned and enjoyed by all who attended.

Sharon Felton thanked Ian Lichacz for all of the work he did to make the arrangements for the students and Commission to visit. She said everything went smoothly and the Delegates and Senators were very impressed by the students.

Christi Lyons also thanked Mr. Lichacz for his work to arrange everything for the day. She said it was a great experience for the students.

Jimmy Wood expressed the Commission's gratitude to Mr. Lichacz. He said that the Legislative Advocacy Day is one of the most important activities that we have for the Student Leaders Committee members to participate in each year. Mr. Wood said it is an experience that they will always remember.

Mac Rawls reported for the **Cape Henry Historic Site committee**. He said the Navy had submitted three Cape Henry interpretive signs for review. This is a Section 106 review based upon an executed Programmatic Agreement as part of the mitigation for demolishing the remaining Cape Henry cottages. Mr. Rawls said that wording on signs was not satisfactory and recommendations for new wording has been submitted. He said the photos were also not very representative of the creation of the Cape Henry community and additional images were recommended.

Mr. Rawls said the City had submitted a grant application in October for Transportation Alternatives funding in the amount of \$1.5 million for repointing brick and glazing work on the Cape Henry Lighthouse. He said we have learned that we did not receive funding. He said we plan to reapply in the next cycle. We will try to find out why the application was not funded. There were 20 applications for funding from Hampton Roads, none from Va. Beach were funded. Mr. Rawls said the most critical need is the repointing of the brick on the majority of the lighthouse.

Mr. Wood said he would like to jump ahead to New Business to make sure there is a quorum present when it is discussed. The Commission agreed to this deviation from the agenda.

New Business

Mr. Reed said that “Filipinos in the U.S. Navy” historical highway marker will have an unveiling ceremony on May 28. He said this topic was selected for a marker as part of a contest for Asian American and Pacific Islanders heritage project by former governor Northam for new highway markers. He said the Commission has received a letter requesting funding for a reception after the marker is dedicated. No specific amount was given.

Mr. Wood said he is in favor of the commission making a donation as it supports our mission and supports an underrepresented Filipino community. He said he spoke with Sylvia Nery Strickland and she said \$500 or \$1,000 would be an appropriate amount.

Mr. Rawls made motion to provide a \$1,000 dollar donation to support the historical marker ceremony. The motion was seconded by Glenn Carwell. There was some discussion. Mr. Carwell said that Filipinos are a very important part of the community. Rick Klobuchar asked if we wanted to do a proclamation. Mr. Reed looked it up and said that Filipino History month is in October and it would be appropriate to sponsor one at that time. The motion to provide financial support in the amount of \$1,000 was approved.

Project Updates

Mark Reed provided updates on several ongoing projects:

Historic and Cultural District Design Guidelines - Mr. Reed said staff will be meeting soon with the deputy city manager on how to move forward. A city council member has expressed some concerns about new restrictions/requirements on properties. He said it may be June before we can go to City Council since the budget season will be underway soon. Mr. Wood stated that we have to consider the economic impacts to the property owner. He said the Historical Review Board needs to have discretion about what is required to help property owners with economic impacts. Mr. Reed discussed contributing and non-contributing resources and the flexibility this could provide and how the appeal process would work. Mr. Wood expressed concerned that this could stifle designating new historic districts as property owners would not want restrictions. Elizabeth Nowak said that the guidelines do have suggestions for some alternatives. Appeals have to go to city council. There was some discussion if we should delay going to council. The Chairperson and first vice chair did not feel that is a good approach. They think the new guidelines are better than what is currently in place, and it is better for us to move forward.

Historic Preservation Program Strategic Plan – Mr. Reed said we are waiting on final cost proposal from the contractor.

National Register Nominations and PIF Projects – Mr. Reed noted that we have several in progress. He has received a revised draft of the L & J Gardens nomination. He will be sending it on for National Park Service review. He said this is a strong nomination and he is hoping for the June agenda for the state review. Mr. Reed said Seatack is progressing and is the other part of this federal grant. The other historic district nomination we have moving forward is Woodhurst and there is a community meeting scheduled on March 26th to get that project underway. Mr. Reed said the Blue Marlin and Cutty Shark motels nominations are under contract.

For the PIFs, Newsome Farm Cemetery has been approved by DHR staff and will be on the State Review Board's March agenda. Mr. Reed said the Chesapeake Beach Historic District boundaries have been changed and now represents a much smaller area. He said we are hoping to go to the State Review Board with this on in March also. Finally, he noted that the Pleasant Ridge School PIF is under development.

FY22 Research Grant Program – Mr. Reed said the call for applications has been advertised and applications are due on March 3. He said \$10,000 is budgeted for grant awards.

Mr. Reed said there is a new DHR Historical Marker Policy that will likely have an impact on some of the Commission's grant projects. He said their policy provides that DHR will only approve 5 markers per quarter. All applications will be scored on a 100 point scale and the top 5 scored applications will move forward. Mr. Reed reviewed and discussed the new marker scoring criteria. He said this development will prompt strong consideration for Virginia Beach to activate a local marker program to fill the void.

Historic Properties Glimpse

Elizabeth Nowak discussed items going to the Historical Review Board in March.

North Landing Estates – Ms. Nowak said this project is proposed on North Landing Road on a parcel adjacent to the Courthouse Elementary School building. She said it entails demolition of several buildings and construction of 7 new homes. The existing buildings are in various stages of disrepair and the site is currently heavily wooded.

Nimmo Church Welcome Center – Ms. Nowak said the church has submitted a different design than what was previously denied by the Review Board. The Historical Review Board will be making a site visit on March 3 to learn more details about the addition and alternatives pursued for other locations for the Welcome Center.

Building 2 and 11 changes – Ms. Nowak said the proposed alterations on Building 2 are to an approved design for a ramp leading to a basement level entrance. These changes are necessary due to drainage issues. The proposed alteration for Building 11 is the installation of a mechanical gate to close off the loading dock area.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no additional new business

Adjournment

Mr. Wood adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m. He said the next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.