

## **VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

January 6, 2021, 5:00 pm  
Virtual Meeting via Webex  
Approved February 3, 2021

Present:

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

Members: Jennifer Estes, Richard Klobuchar, Hannah Levi, Ian Lichacz, Becky Livas,  
Christi Lyons, Timothy Oksman, Katie Paulson

City Council: Rosemary Wilson

Staff: Mark Reed, Carolyn Smith, Kevin Fairly

### **Welcome/Introductions/Remarks**

Jimmy Wood recognized newly appointed member Becky Livas and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

### **Approval of December 2, 2020 Minutes**

Mr. Wood asked everyone to look over the minutes of the December 2, 2020 Commission meeting, which had been distributed via email and asked if there were any changes or corrections. A motion was made by Sharon Felton to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ian Lichacz.

Mr. Wood then noted that he would take a roll call vote and he polled the members present for their approval. The motion passed unanimously with two abstentions by Rick Klobuchar and Jennifer Estes as they were not at the December 2 meeting.

### **Election of 2021 Officers**

Jimmy Wood asked Christi Lyons of the Nominating Committee to present the recommended slate of officers for the Historic Preservation Commission for 2021. Ms. Lyons presented the following slate:

**Chair, James Wood**  
**First Vice-Chair, Sharon Prescott**  
**Second Vice-Chair, Mac Rawls**  
**Secretary, Bobbie Gribble**

Mr. Wood opened the floor for additional nominations. No other nominations were made. Tim Oksman made a motion that the nominations be closed and the nominated slate be approved by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Rick Klobuchar. The motion passed by acclamation

### **Committee Reports**

**Historic Preservation Month** – Sharon Prescott reported for the Historic Preservation Month committee. She said we have developed an outline for the Historic Preservation Month activities. Ms. Prescott said we will start with the Mayor’s Proclamation.

She then noted that we will do one of our most popular events the Pints for Preservation. For that activity we will:

- Update the logo
- Select a glass for the Pint Glass sales
- Mark will coordinate with our Craft Brewery Partners
- Host Happy Hours Events if possible
- Provide Coasters with logos for breweries
- Donate proceeds to benefit Cape Henry Lighthouse

Ms. Prescott noted that the Student Leaders Committee will hold their Scavenger Hunt and she asked Hannah Levi to provide some details. Ms. Levi said the event will be held on National Scavenger Hunt Day. She also noted that they would promote the month in their schools.

Ms. Prescott said we are looking forward to another successful and rewarding year.

### **Historical Register Review Committee**

Katie Paulson reported for the Historical Register Review Committee. She said we received an application for a property to be considered for the Historical Register. It is 149 Pinewood Road. It was built in 1924 and there is some additional information here. Ms. Paulson said she has reviewed the application, but we still need to make the site visit to assess it and complete our checklist.

### **Student Leaders Committee**

Hannah Levi reported for the Student Leaders Committee. She said the committee members participated in the Strategic Plan stakeholders focus group at their last meeting. She noted that they also reviewed progress on Clio entries and will continue working on that and hopefully have them done by February.

### **Project Updates**

Mark Reed provided updates on several ongoing projects.

Historic District Design Standards and Review Guidelines – Mr. Reed said the RFP closed Dec 4<sup>th</sup> and that staff submitted questions to one of the offerors. They are waiting on the responses and will negotiate final arrangements. He said we plan to have the firm on board and contracting finalized by the Commission’s February meeting.

Historic Preservation Program Strategic Plan – Mr. Reed noted that the Student Leaders Focus Group took place in December. Earlier today we had a focus group meeting with City Staff that work with issues of Sea Level Rise and Recurrent Flooding. A lot of good information came out of that meeting. He said next up is the Steering Committee with a date to be determined.

The first general participation Public Meeting will follow. This will be a virtual public meeting. Commonwealth Preservation Group is the consultant and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources is administering the project for us and will ensure that our strategic plan complies with state and federal standards.

National Register Nominations Seatack and L & J Gardens – Mr. Reed said the good news there is the National Park Service has approved our draft RFPs and those got issued today by Purchasing. He noted that they were issued as two separate RFPs, one for each neighborhood. Responses are due from cultural resource management firms on February 8.

Resort Motels MPD/Jefferson Manor Motel NRHP Nomination – Mr. Reed said all materials have been submitted by the consulting firm to DHR. We are waiting for their review comments. He said we think we are still on target for the March State Review Board meeting. The consultants will be making a presentation to the Commission at the February or March meeting. We also still need to schedule a meeting with the hotel owners.

deWitt Cottage Archaeology – Mr. Reed said this project is being done in advance of a project that the Back Bay Wildfowl Guild has to build a gazebo on the property. The Commission felt it was important to have an archaeological assessment performed on the site. The City has contracted with James River Institute for Archaeology to do the project. Mr. Reed said the project came in just a few dollars above his estimate of \$6,500. He noted that the field work will probably begin later this month.

Woodhurst Neighborhood PIF – Mr. Reed noted that this project has mostly been discussed with the Executive Committee and not the whole Commission. It is a mid-century Modern neighborhood, located off of Mill Dam Road. He noted the photo in his PowerPoint slide that shows the neighborhood was built before other development occurred in that area of the City. The neighborhood was platted in 1955 and pretty much built out by 1958. He said it is 81 homes, all in the mid-century modern or contemporary style. This is an architect designed neighborhood with four models. The Norfolk firm of Oliver and Smith designed the homes.

Mr. Reed said that the nomination was included in the FY22 budget draft that the Commission reviewed. Debra McClane prepared and submitted VCRIS forms for the neighborhood and did it thoroughly enough that there is sufficient information for Mr. Reed to prepare a PIF and compile the associated materials. If we are lucky it will get on the March State Review Board agenda. If not, it will be on the June agenda.

### **Historic Properties Glimpse**

Mr. Reed gave an overview of upcoming historic preservation issues. He said that there is a Historical Review Board meeting scheduled on January 20, at 4:00 p.m. He noted that in the Lynnhaven House District there is a 21<sup>st</sup> century building, the Lynnhaven House Education Center, that has wooden decking surrounding it. He said the City wants to replace the decking around the building and they are proposing to use TREX composite boards since the wooden decking is constantly warping and deteriorating and providing a safety concern.

Mr. Reed noted that last month he had talked about the Francis Land House project and had apologized for not having an image to share of the strange pipes in cellar. He said that it is an interesting network of them but he is not sure of their use. The contractor bored some holes in them and they have been determined to be dry.

Mr. Reed noted that the replacement of the fire suppression system has some issues. The current system is Halon and has been out of production for some time. The contract calls for a Clear Agent system but the house is not air tight so its viability is questionable. A wet system is currently preferred in museums. We are looking into that, but it is more expensive and creates some other challenges.

Mr. Reed then discussed a potential Convenience Store /Car Wash/Gas Station for the Nimmo Church District. He said that it is just coming up for a pre-submittal meeting tomorrow and that is why it came to his attention. There is a proposal for construction of a convenience store, gas pumps, car wash on the wooded parcel adjacent to the church property. He said it seems that it will be quite a challenge for it to be compatible with the district. There are also archaeology concerns with this project. Mr. Reed noted the church cemetery is adjacent to the wooded parcel and he said that we usually expect that what is seen above ground is only a fraction of what is below ground. He said he will know more after the meeting tomorrow and will keep us informed.

Jennifer Estes said that the trustee chairman at Nimmo did not have any information on that but Ms. Estes said she alerted her. Mr. Reed noted that the pre-submittal tomorrow is the first step for bringing the project in front of the City and they will be sure to keep the church informed.

### **Old Business**

USS Iowa gun barrel placement Fort Story – Mr. Reed noted that at the December meeting we discussed the proposed location and some members expressed concerns. The Navy responded by saying they had looked at other locations and no other good locations were identified. The question came up about Preservation Virginia's response. Mr. Reed noted that he sent them an email the next day and shared the Commission's letter to the Navy with them. Preservation Virginia submitted their comments to the Navy the following day on December 4 saying they wanted to see if there was a more appropriate location and perhaps perform a view shed analysis.

Mr. Reed noted that at the request of the Executive Committee he contacted DHR. He said he shared the letters from the Commission and Preservation Virginia. Their response was they had determined No Adverse Effect for movement and display of the gun barrel on October 29.

Rick Klobuchar commented it was great we were getting a gun barrel from the USS Iowa. He said these are the largest guns in the world and they don't make them anymore. This will enhance visitorship to the lighthouses. Mr. Reed commented that the response from the Commission and from Preservation Virginia agreed getting the gun was great. It is the location in proximity to the lighthouse that we are concerned about.

Confederate Monument – Mr. Reed said he is working on a presentation to the City Council tentatively scheduled for January 26. He said he will outline options including the 2 proposals received and keeping it in storage and request their direction. One of the options will include the Historic Preservation Commission's recommendation from a year ago for a history museum feasibility study.

### **New Business**

Preservation Virginia Webinar Disasters and Historic Resources Solutions and Planning – Mr. Reed said he sent out information to the Commission and the Student Leaders Committee about the webinar that is tomorrow on Advocacy in the Age of COVID 19. He noted that we have done the advocacy day with our students in the past. The webinar is free, but you must register.

Mr. Reed said there is another webinar they are sponsoring on January 14, Historic Resources and Disasters: Solutions and Planning. He said he is one of the panelists and will discuss what Virginia Beach has been doing to align itself to plan for recurrent flooding issues, such as the architectural surveys, archaeological assessments, strategic planning and GIS mapping.

Financial Disclosure Forms – Mr. Reed reminded the members of the February 1 deadline for submitting the Financial Disclosure Form to the City Clerk. He noted that it is a requirement of

being an appointed Commission member and encouraged everyone to submit it on time. He also noted that the Student Members are exempt from submitting the form.

Mr. Wood asked if there was any new business. Ian Lichacz said he would like to bring something to the Commission's attention. He noted his desire to see the old Munden's store preserved and has some friends that are interested and have the capital that could potentially help them to preserve and restore the building. He said he wanted to meet with Mr. Reed to discuss that possibility.

Mr. Reed said he would be happy to meet with them. Ms. Prescott asked if there had been plans submitted to the City. Mr. Lichacz said it was some time ago. Mr. Reed suggested that Carolyn Smith might have more information on the status of the project. Ms. Smith said it was approved some time ago but there have been no additional submittals. She suggested that Mr. Lichacz meet with her and Mr. Reed for assistance.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Wood said that the next meeting is on Wednesday, February 3, at 5:00 p.m. and will likely be in a virtual format. Mr. Reed noted the Commission's appreciation for Kevin Fairley of ComIT hosting this evening's meeting for us. Rosemary Wilson suggested that Mr. Reed check with those members that did not attend to see if they experienced issues with the technology for the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbie Gribble  
Secretary