

VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

May 5, 2021, 5:00 pm
Virtual Meeting via WebEx
Approved June 2, 2021

Present:

Officers: Chair, James Wood; First Vice-Chair, Sharon Prescott; Second Vice-Chair, Mac Rawls; Secretary, Bobbie Gribble; Immediate Past Chair, Bill Gambrell

Members: Finnley Brakke, Sharon Felton, Harriet Frenzel, Albert Henley, Richard Klobuchar, Lee Lockamy, Christi Lyons, Timothy Oksman, Katie Paulson

Staff: Mark Reed

Welcome/Introductions/Remarks – Jimmy Wood

Jimmy Wood called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He read the Commission's purpose and mission. Al Henley was welcomed by Mr. Wood as the most recent appointed member to the Commission.

Approval of April 7, 2021 Minutes

Jimmy Wood asked if there are any questions or corrections to the April 7, 2021 minutes. Rick Klobucher made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Timothy Oksman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Sharon Prescott reported on **Historic Preservation Month**. She noted that this is the third year that the Commission has celebrated Historic Preservation Month. A Mayoral Proclamation was read at the May 4 City Council meeting. She said that coordination has been done with our partner microbreweries to schedule sales of the glasses. Ms. Prescott noted that they will be sold at Deadline on the 8th, Vibrant Shore in the ViBe District on the 15th and at Pleasure House on the 22nd. She said that volunteers are needed to assist on these dates.

Ms. Prescott noted that we are pleased with the work the students have done for Historic Preservation Month. She said the Kahoot quiz was really neat. She also noted that the students are excited about the Scavenger Hunt. She asked if anyone has been able to get additional prizes for the Scavenger Hunt. Rick Klobuchar said he is making a pendant. Ms. Prescott said she has secured family four-packs for the Aviation Museum. Mr. Reed noted that Bill Gambrell donated a gift certificate for Doc Taylor's restaurant and also secured some free passes for Jungle Golf. He said that some of the students had obtained prizes. Blake McCullough got some movie passes and Daisy Fernandez got passes for the petting zoo at Hunt Club Farm.

Finnley Brakke reported for the **Student Leaders Committee**. Ms. Brakke confirmed the prizes that Mr. Reed had discussed. She said the committee met virtually in April and assigned video clues for the Scavenger Hunt to various members. They have some members working on the publicity process. They are publishing notices on their Instagram accounts. Ms. Brakke noted that they are still working on the Clio entries

Sharon Felton reported for the **Underrepresented Communities Committee**. Ms. Felton noted that there are seven members that will be sitting on the committee. She said they will work to show that the Historic Preservation Commission is committed to highlighting all of the underrepresented communities. She thanked

Chair Jimmy Wood for the opportunity to chair the committee and said they will be scheduling their first meeting shortly. The slide displayed by staff listed the members:

- Sharon Felton, Chair
- Lee Lockamy
- Becky Livas
- Edna Hendrix
- Jackie Malbon
- Jackie Murray
- Chona O'Galvin
- Cale Werkheiser

Mark Reed presented several **Project Updates**.

Mr. Reed noted the online Public Input survey for the **Historic Preservation Program Strategic Plan**. He encouraged Commission members to complete it and said it will be live through May 16th. He also encouraged members to promote the survey on social media.

Mr. Reed discussed the progress of the Historic District Design Standards and Review Guidelines project. He said they held a property owner/public meeting on April 15 with about 35 participants. He noted that they had sent out a mailing about the meeting to approximately 180 property owners. Mr. Reed said the consultant has provided the Design Guidelines outline to the Steering Committee and Historical Review Board and they are being reviewed for comment. After receiving comments, they will put together the first draft and it is expected to be received later in May. Once the initial draft is available there will be a second public meeting in June.

Mr. Reed provided information on the **National Register Nomination for L & J Gardens**. He said that Debra McClane, Architectural Historian has been contracted for this project. A kickoff meeting was held April 15 with her team and with some civic league members, DHR staff and City staff. Debra McClane is scheduled to meet with the L & J Gardens Civic League on May 27th.

Mr. Reed said that we now have a firm under contract for the **National Register Nomination for Seatack**. He said that Commonwealth Preservation Group has been contracted for the project. He noted that the trickiest part of this project will be determining the boundaries for the district. Mr. Reed said they held a kickoff meeting on April 20th for the project. He said the contractor is scheduled to meet with the Seatack Civic League Board on May 6th and with the whole civic league later in the month.

Mr. Reed then shared additional project news. He noted that there are two PIFs now under contract. He said Debra McClane, Architectural Historian has been contracted to do the **Chesapeake Beach Neighborhood PIF**. He said this neighborhood had been identified in the 2018 architectural survey update as being potentially eligible for the National Register. Mr. Reed said we have also contracted with Debra McClane, Architectural Historian to do a PIF for Newsome Farm Cemetery. He noted that it is a historically African American cemetery dating to at least the 1880s. He said it is located in the Newtown Road/Diamond Springs Road area in the Newsome Farm neighborhood.

Mr. Reed noted the **Courthouse Interpretive Signs** and said that we have contracted with Riggs Ward Design for this project. One sign is to provide context for the Confederate Monument, one is to provide context for the Princess Anne County Courthouse. He noted that a third item is a plaque to document that the Courthouse was the location of auctions of enslaved persons in the 19th century. He said the contract with Riggs Ward is for design, text, graphics and fabrication for two interpretive sign panels. Mr. Reed noted that these are laminated fiberglass embedment panels that will be 2' x 3' in a metal frame. He said the contract is also for text and design for the plaque but does not include fabrication.

Mr. Reed said that the **Research Grant Program FY21** has had a delay, partly due to his being out of the office on vacation for the last week of April. He said he needs to review and change the deadlines, but it is possible that we may not be able to extend money into the next fiscal year. Sharon Prescott asked if the funding budgeted for the grants in current year could be used to have the signs fabricated in the Courthouse area. Mr. Reed said the current contract includes fabrication of two of the signs. He said it does not include the fabrication of the plaque or its stand. He noted that the procurement process would not allow us to add to the contract since it would put us over the cost threshold that would require us to have issued an RFP.

Mr. Reed provided a preview of items going to the Historical Review Board this month in the **Historic Properties Glimpse**. Mr. Reed said that he is expecting the May meeting will include a proposal to construct a Royal Farms convenience store with fuel canopy and car wash in the Nimmo Church Historic District. He displayed two images of the proposed store, one represented their original submittal, the other was a revised submittal after some guidance from staff. He noted that finding compatibility in this district is difficult since Nimmo Church is the only building currently in the district. Mr. Reed said they referred the applicant to examples of commercial properties in the Courthouse District, including the 7-11, which has a fuel canopy. He also showed a diagram of how the buildings will be sited on the property, which is currently wooded.

Mr. Reed noted a couple of other items that are coming before the Review Board in May. In the Courthouse District, HRT is proposing an additional bus stop shelter on Princess Anne Road. It will match an existing shelter across the street. In both the Francis Land House and Lynnhaven House districts, the City of Virginia is replacing the light fixtures on top of existing light poles in the parking lots and around the sites. Mr. Reed said the fixtures are similar to the existing and were previously approved for use in the Courthouse District. He said the reason for the replacement was for energy savings as the new fixtures will have LED lights.

Mr. Reed provided an update on the Nimmo Church proposal that went to the Historical Review Board on the 21st of April. He noted that the Review Board wanted the proposed Fellowship Hall addition to be less fancy to keep the focus on the historic section of the church. He said they wanted to see less ornate brackets and entries on this section. For the proposed Choir Room, the Review Board had similar requests for less ornate brackets and removal of a proposed cross feature. These two additions plus the proposed Administrative Office addition were approved pending review of the design changes.

Mr. Reed said the other proposed addition was the Welcome Center in front of the historic church and this segment of the proposal was deferred to allow for redesign. He said the Review Board liked a previous rendering of the addition better than the proposal that was submitted. This had been shown to the Review Board during a site visit last fall. Mr. Reed said that for the earlier design staff had said they didn't like having an addition in front of the steeple. They asked the architect to look at other locations for the Welcome Center. The response was they had but the functionality of the addition was diminished in the other locations.

Mac Rawls asked if the Historical Review Board is asking for these changes. Mr. Reed said for the other three additions, staff had recommended the changes, or something similar, and the Review Board supported those recommendations. For the Welcome Center, it was the Review Board's request for the applicant to come back with a revised design. Mr. Rawls asked if it is like the Planning Commission where staff provides a recommendation and the Commission makes a decision based on the recommendation. Mr. Reed said that is correct.

Mr. Reed then discussed an eventual Section 106 project that will be coming forward to the Commission. It is the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind Commercial Project, which, although it is an offshore energy project, it has to come on shore to a transmission station located near the Fentress Airfield. He said that Dominion Energy wants to provide a presentation to the Commission. They are looking to determine the potential impact on

historic resources. Mr. Reed showed an illustration of the wide area they are looking at for running the transmission lines.

Mr. Reed said he is not sure if they will all be above ground or some above and some below. They will be looking to mitigate as much environmental and historic impacts as they can with the route. He said that Dominion Energy will likely have an initial meeting with him and then would want to have a meeting with the Commission. He said in the initial materials sent to him they define historic resources as places listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. He noted that City staff and the Commission may have a broader view of what is a historic resource that needs protection during this project.

Al Henley asked if it would be possible to attach the transmission lines to cellphone towers or will they be above ground high transmission lines. Mr. Reed said he has no idea at this point. He said his assumption is they are more like the high voltage transmission lines.

Jimmy Wood asked if there is any **Old Business**. Mark Reed said he had just learned today that the Cape Henry Lighthouse will be reopening on Friday, May 7th. Mac Rawls noted that is great news.

Lee Lockamy said it looks like they took the windows and doors out of the Lighthouse and reinstalled them. Mr. Reed said Preservation Virginia has a new Preservation Technician who has been overseeing the reconstruction and repair of the wooden windows. He said there are a lot of issues with the stone above the windows, as well. Mr. Reed said he had a meeting with Preservation Virginia today to talk about their preservation needs. We are hopeful that we may be able to get some Transportation Enhancement Funds to help them address the stone repairs and repointing needs.

Sharon Prescott asked if we decided to have a quiz or questions to give out with the pint glass sales, perhaps using the Kahoot questions. Mark Reed said he will try to have it done for the dates at Vibrant Shore and Pleasure House, but he knows he won't have it in time for this Saturday. Christi Lyons asked what we are trying to do. Ms. Prescott said just a quiz that we can roll up and put in the glass for people to take home. Ms. Lyons said she can do that. Ms. Prescott suggested using the graphic image from the Commission's banner across the top.

Jimmy Wood asked if there is any **New Business**. Jimmy asked Tim Oksman if he had touched base with Mac Rawls. Jimmy said that Mr. Oksman has something for Mr. Rawls' Buildings and Sites committee.

Jimmy Wood asked what members would like to do for the June meeting. Do Commission members want to hold it in person or via WebEx? A vote was taken, and the plan is to do a WebEx meeting in June.

Jimmy Wood encouraged members to come out for the Pints for Preservation events at the local breweries. Sharon Prescott said we need to help promote the Pints for Preservation at the breweries. Mark Reed said he is expecting that the breweries will post on their Facebook and Instagram pages. He said he will email the glassware image to everyone with the dates of the events so members can post on their social media.

Sharon Felton and Rick Klobucher both noted the Interpretive Planning Meeting they attended today for the City's historic houses and mentioned the participation of other Commission members.

Mac Rawls said he attended the meeting and a good idea came up that was suggested by Harriet Frenzel. She said we should compile a publication of all historic markers and the history behind them. He said we should put that on our "to do" list. Mr. Wood asked Mr. Reed to include it for discussion at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Jimmy Wood said the next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 2, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via WebEx.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbie Gribble
Secretary