

VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

April 6, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

Approved as amended, May 4, 2022

Present:

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

Members: Glenn Carwell, Campbell Clay, Derek DuBay (remote), Sharon Felton, Harriet Frenzel, Richard Klobuchar, Ian Lichacz (remote), Becky Livas, Lee Lockamy (remote), Katie Paulson

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.

Bobbie Gribble requested check in by the remote attendees. Ian Lichacz said he is attending remotely for personal reasons from Hampden Sydney, Virginia. Derrick DuBay said he is attending remotely from California due to a death in the family. Lee Lockamy said he is attending from home in Virginia Beach due to medical reasons.

Approval of March 2, 2022 Minutes

Jimmy Wood asked the Commission members to review the meeting minutes from the March 2, 2022 Historic Preservation Commission meeting. Christi Lyons made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Rick Klobuchar 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 that for the Pints for Preservation activities, pint glass koozies and commemorative glassware purchases are

in progress. The Commission is working to put together three Virginia Beach History Trivia Nights. It will be helpful if Commission members can solicit prizes for the Trivia Nights, as well as for the Scavenger Hunt being planned by the Student Leaders Committee. Ms. Prescott noted that gift cards/gift certificates are the best types of prizes. Currently the Trivia Nights are scheduled on May 12 at Deadline and on May 17 at Vibrant Shore.

Ms. Prescott said staff is working on putting together a panel discussion on research processes for historic buildings/sites. The tentative date for the event is May 24 at the Central Library Auditorium. She noted that the library now closes at 8:00 p.m. so it will require an earlier start time. We will likely need volunteers to help conduct the meeting.

Campbell Clay reported for the **Student Leaders Committee**. He said that the committee has selected the sites to be included in the Scavenger Hunt. They are all located along the oceanfront. Mr. Clay said they will be filming the videos for the QR code clues at their next meeting. The Scavenger Hunt is scheduled May 20 through 22. The next committee meeting will be on April 20.

The meeting's PowerPoint slide showed the poster that Christi Lyons had created to promote the event. Becky Livas asked if we could have a report on the Scavenger Hunt at the June Commission meeting

FY22 Research Grant Awards

Mark Reed reported on the Commission's Research Grant Program Awards. He said that a grant was approved for a research paper on the Cape Henry Granite Brick Company (1907 - 1919). He noted that this paper will look at an early 20th-century manufacturing company that operated at Cape Henry. It was located along the rail line, and Mr. Reed said he has a map in his office from 1945 that shows a rail stop in the vicinity named Granite. It is also expected that the work force included African Americans and the paper will look at that aspect of the company, too.

Mr. Reed said a grant was approved to do three videos to create immersive walking tours of LGBTQ sites in Virginia Beach. He said that this builds on a previous video project of oral history interviews on LGBTQ history. The immersive tour videos will be 6 to 8 minutes in length and will feature narrative, clips from interviews and historic photos within a modern "live" streetscape. He said that this technology may have some very interesting applications for other areas of Virginia Beach history in the future.

Mr. Reed said that grants for four historical highway markers were approved. He noted that the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) has a new policy that limits the number of approved markers per quarter, which will impact the production of markers through the Commission's grant program. He said that grants were awarded for the following highway markers:

- Willis Augustus Hodges - Abolitionist; 1st Elected African American P.A. County
- Francis and Sarah Yeardley and Local Interaction with N.C. Indigenous Chief
- Kempsville NIKE Launch Site and Hampton Roads Cold War Defenses

- Bernard P. Holland - 1st Mayor of VB; Builder of deWitt Cottage; Manager of Princess Anne Hotel; Norfolk Southern Agent

Project Updates

Mark Reed provided updates on several projects that are in process. For the Historic and Cultural District Design Guidelines and the Historic Preservation Plan, he said the City Manager wanted the City Council to know about the Design Guidelines. The Manager provided a memo and a copy of the document in Council's March 18 packet. The current plan is to present to City Council once the Historic Preservation Plan has been completed. The proposal from the consultant to complete the project is pending. Mr. Reed said he expects the presentation to City Council will be in June or later.

For the Preliminary Information Form (PIF) and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination projects, Mr. Reed said good progress is being made. At the March 17 State Review Board Meeting, both the Chesapeake Beach Historic District and the Newsome Farm Cemetery were determined to be eligible for listing in the NRHP. Requests for Quotations will be developed so we can move forward with the nomination process. Mr. Reed noted that the Newsome Farm Civic League coordinated a cemetery cleanup on April 2. He said that Public Works provided a large yard debris dumpster, which was quickly filled. Another 60 or so yard bags were filled with leaf and gumball litter. He said the Commission's initiative to raise the profile of the cemetery and get the community more involved with its upkeep seems to be taking root.

Mr. Reed said the first draft of the PIF for the Pleasant Ridge School is nearing completion. They are still waiting on receipt of oral history interviews of former students. A presentation to the Commission on this PIF is tentatively scheduled for the May meeting. He said staff is also looking at that site for its potential for archaeological resources and they hope to get an archaeological investigation going for the site.

Mr. Reed then reported on the NRHP nomination projects. The L & J Gardens historic district nomination draft has been completed. It was submitted to the National Park Service, which was a grant requirement, and was approved to move forward. It was subsequently submitted to DHR. We are waiting for DHR's National Register Historian to provide her review. The consultant has submitted the nomination at the State Level for significance. The required Public Hearing will be held on May 11. The consultant is planning on making a presentation to the Commission in June.

Partial drafts of Sections 7 and 8 of the NRHP nomination form for the Seatack historic district nomination have been received. Staff has reviewed the drafts and provided comments.

A March 26 meeting with the consultant and the Woodhurst neighborhood was held. The meeting went well. The survey work is scheduled to begin the week of April 11. Staff is hopeful that the nomination will be ready to go to DHR in December.

For the Cutty Sark Motel and the Blue Marlin Inn & Suites, kickoff meetings were held for both, so these projects are underway. The consultant for the Cutty Sark project will make a presentation to the Commission at the June meeting.

Historic Properties Glimpse

Mark Reed provided the glimpse into projects and proposals with potential impacts on historic properties. He said that the Historical Review Board has no items scheduled in April.

Mr. Reed said that the Nimmo Church application for a Certificate of Appropriateness received a denial from the Historical Review Board at their March meeting. They have 30 days to appeal.

Jimmy Wood asked that the Nimmo Church be on the Commission's May agenda.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Commission Meeting Attendance – Jimmy Wood talked about attendance at the monthly Commission meetings. He said City Council is discussing attendance issues for all Boards and Commissions. The City Code currently states if you miss 3 meetings (unexcused) during a calendar year you are to be removed. He said it is anticipated that it will be enforced very soon. In doing that there will be a uniformity for what an 'excused' absence is, and it is expected to be narrowly defined.

Rick Klobuchar said he is donating a Cape Henry Memorial Cross rendition to the Student Leaders Committee for their Scavenger Hunt. It is a limited edition collectible. The Cape Henry Memorial Cross rendition was commissioned in 2007 for the 400th Anniversary of the First Landing. He asked that they get a \$200 minimum for it.

Mr. Klobuchar said the Friends of the Historic Houses met with Emily Labows and they approved purchasing new chandeliers and sconces for the Francis Land House. They have allocated up to \$15,000 for the purchase. He said it looks like the Francis Land House will be reopened to the public later this year. He said the Lynnhaven House has been closed since December of 2014 and it isn't scheduled to reopen until 2023. There is some talk of opening it up as is with the plaster interior finishes removed. It would show visitors the construction methods and architecture of that era.

Mr. Klobuchar said the City is developing an interpretive plan for the historic houses. With the initial draft effort, it looks like they will keep the first floor in a Federalist period interpretation. The second floor will be various exhibits to provide a broader perspective on the history of the house and of Virginia Beach. The interpretive plan will need to go before City Council for approval. Mr. Klobuchar recommended that the Historic Preservation Commission could assist with coordination of public review and comment. Such assistance would be well received.

Adjournment

Jimmy Wood adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be on Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.