

VIRGINIA BEACH HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

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

May 4, 2022, 5:00 p.m.

Approved June 1, 2022

Present:

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

Members: Glenn Carwell, Campbell Clay, Derek DuBay, Sharon Felton, Harriet Frenzel, Natalie Hubbard, Richard Klobuchar, Becky Livas, Lee Lockamy, 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 the members attending and then asked Mark Reed to introduce that evening's presenter.

Presentation – Pleasant Ridge School PIF – Marcus Pollard, Jess Archer – Commonwealth Preservation Group

Mark Reed introduced Marcus Pollard from Commonwealth Preservation Group. He said that Marcus Pollard and Jess Archer have been working on a Preliminary Information Form for the Pleasant Ridge School and that Marcus Pollard would be presenting on their progress with the project.

Marcus Pollard thanked the group and reiterated the reason he was presenting that evening. He gave an overview of the Preliminary Information Form process before summarizing some of the key information that Commonwealth Preservation Group had learned about the Pleasant Ridge School, including stories learned from five oral histories of alumni from the school. He said that the school and its history represent an important part of the transitional period between the late nineteenth century and the twentieth century. Mr. Pollard said that they are recommending the Pleasant Ridge School as being eligible under Criterion A for Education and Ethnic History – African American history.

Further, the school is a resource associated with an underrepresented narrative; has a high level of rarity; and is associated with the history of consolidation and segregation in schools. Mr. Pollard closed by sharing the next steps: the PIF was submitted in May and the team expects the Department of Historic Resources Evaluation Team to review the submittal in June. A June or September State Review Board meeting is expected for the PIF. Questions from the Historic Preservation Commission about some of the school's history followed Mr. Pollard's presentation.

Approval of April 4, 2022 Minutes

Jimmy Wood asked the Commission members to review the meeting minutes from the April 4, 2022 Historic Preservation Commission meeting. Rick Klobuchar made a motion to approve the amendments with a revision. The revision is to his discussion of the History Museums interpretive plan development. He said he had recommended that the Commission coordinate public review and comment. Sharon Prescott seconded the motion to approved the minutes as amended. There was no further discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

Sharon Prescott reported for the **Historic Preservation Month Committee**. She said that there will be activities in addition to what the Commission has done in the past. In addition to traditional happy hours, there will also be Trivia Nights at Vibrant Shore, Deadline, and Pleasure House Brewing. She said that Christi Lyons was still working on trivia quizzes and would appreciate any historical tidbits for questions. Ms. Prescott said that they are also still in need for donated prizes for trivia and the scavenger hunt. Finally, Ms. Prescott said that the committee had been interested in coordinating a panel of speakers, but that they would be looking at doing something with this in the fall instead. She and Mr. Reed encouraged Commissioners to take some posters advertising the trivia nights to take to local businesses.

Natalie Hubbard reported for the **Student Leaders Committee**. She said that all the stops for the Scavenger Hunt were ready to be posted. She added that she and other Student Leaders Committee had been putting up posters for registration at their schools and had been spreading the word through friends. They are expecting a good turnout for the event. The Scavenger Hunt is scheduled May 20 through 22.

Rick Klobuchar presented the Student Leaders Committee with a roll of 50 steel pennies from 1943 and 50 coin holders to be used for prizes for the scavenger hunt. He recommended putting some sort of note or label on the holders to say that the penny had been given by the Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Lyons said they could probably print a label to go on them. Mr. Klobuchar also suggested that these could be presented to the first 50 participants who complete the survey. Campbell Clay and Natalie Hubbard thanked Mr. Klobuchar for the donation.

Ms. Lyons also collected donations from members in attendance so that she and Mark Reed could acquire prizes on behalf of the Historic Preservation Commission.

(Sharon Felton left the meeting at 5:30 p.m.)

Mac Rawls reported for the **Cape Henry Historic Site Committee**. He said that some additional monies had been added to the previously awarded TAP grant. Mr. Reed added that some additional funds had been allocated to the program and that the project was now funded in full. Mr. Rawls and Mr. Reed then discussed progress on the three interpretive sign panels that are being developed as part of a Section 106 mitigation plan on Fort Story. Mr. Reed gave an overview of the changes to the text and graphic design of the signs. There was some general discussion about the longevity of the proposed signs and the process that goes into printing them.

Mac Rawls then reported for the **Threatened Buildings and Sites Committee**. He said that the committee met this past month, including Derek DuBay, Becky Livas, Glenn Carwell, and Bernice Pope. He said that the committee had a good conversation and that they would be concentrating on the gun clubs. There was some general discussion about several individual gun clubs and the threats they face from recurrent flooding and sea level rise. Mr. Reed said that an initiative to prepare a Multiple Property Documentation form (MPD) for the gun clubs was due to start soon. He added that the individual resource that would go forward with the MPD was currently planned to be the Pocahontas Gun Club.

Ms. Prescott asked whether anyone was trying to do something with Brinkley's Store. Mr. Rawls said that the committee was interested in Brinkley's Store and Munden Store. There was general conversation about how the committee might reach out to current owners to discuss the properties.

Project Updates

Mark Reed provided updates on several projects that are in process. For the Historic Preservation Plan, he said that the requested additional revisions would bring the cost of the project to what had initially been budgeted for the project and that he is waiting on an invoice from DHR to proceed. The tentative completion date is in August or September 2022.

For the Preliminary Information Form (PIF) and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination projects, Mr. Reed said good progress is being made.

The nomination for L&J Gardens is in the home stretch; everything has been submitted to DHR and the nomination is scheduled for the June State Review Board meeting, which the consultant will attend. Becky Livas made a motion that the Historic Preservation Commission endorse L&J Gardens to become a part of the National Register of Historic Places. Rick Klobuchar seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

(Katie Paulson left the meeting at 6:00 p.m.)

Mr. Reed has received a draft nomination for the Seatack Historic District from Commonwealth Preservation Group. He said that he is working on reviewing the document and that this nomination is very different from L&J Gardens. He added that the consultants had been able to capture some oral histories for the nomination and that the project looks like it is still on track for the September State Review Board meeting. There was some general discussion about the history of Seatack, including the changes in its boundaries over time.

Survey fieldwork has been completed for the Woodhurst Historic District nomination. Mr. Reed said Debra McClane was able to get good access to properties in the district and is now working on research. He added that she has been trying to follow up on reports that brick salvaged from demolition that occurred as part of the construction of the Norfolk Portsmouth Tunnel. Ms. McClane has reported she may have found some salvaged bricks in fireplaces and carports and is following up on this.

Elizabeth Nowak shared an update on the nomination for the Cutty Sark Motel. Kristin Kirchen provided an update to Staff this past week, noting that a draft should be ready for review very soon. Ms. Kirchen is scheduled to present on the project to the Historic Preservation Commission at the June 1, 2022 meeting. The project is on track for the September State Review Board meeting.

Mr. Reed said there were no new updates for the Blue Marlin nomination.

Historic Properties Glimpse

Elizabeth Nowak provided the glimpse into projects and proposals for the May 18, 2022 Historical Review Board meeting. There are two cases to be heard at the upcoming meeting: a request to retain a previously approved temporary structure at the Municipal Center and revisions to previously approved plans for a new veterinary clinic on North Landing Road.

Several Commissioners expressed concern about retaining the temporary structure, recalling that when the initial request had come forward, concern had been raised about a temporary solution becoming a permanent solution. Mr. Wood, Ms. Prescott, and Lee Lockamy shared these comments.

Old Business

Ms. Nowak and Mr. Reed provided a brief update on the denial from the Historical Review Board for the Welcome Center at Nimmo Church. Ms. Nowak said that the appeal has been bundled together by the applicant to accompany applications for a street closure and Modification of Conditions for the church. These cases were to go to the May Planning Commission hearing, but has been deferred as the applicant needs to provide a preliminary stormwater analysis. Ms. Nowak said that only the portions of the application that have already received a Certificate of Appropriateness will be presented to Planning Commission by Staff.

Mr. Wood asked if the Historic Preservation Commission would be willing to send a letter to City Council supporting the decision of the Historical Review Board. Ms. Prescott made a motion to send a letter to Council to support the decision of the Historical Review Board. Ms. Frenzel and Mr. Klobuchar seconded the motion. Before the vote, Ms. Prescott amended her motion to also include sending a letter to the Planning Commission. Ms. Frenzel and Mr. Klobuchar seconded the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Jimmy Wood adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission will be on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Mark Reed reminded the attendees that there will be no meeting in July or August.