



Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Meeting Minutes February 7, 2017

Members Present: Patricia McCambridge (Chair), Thomas Sledge (Vice Chair), Venetta Stephens, Sam Leary, Victor Pickett, and Edd Conner

Staff/Others Present: Senior Planner Alexis Baker, Assistant City Attorney Meredith Jacobi, Melissa Kemple and David Schleeper (incoming Historic Preservation Commission members), and Robert Hitchings, President of the Norfolk County Historical Society and Curator at the Wallace room in the Chesapeake Central Library.

The official meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by the Chair.

The incoming members, Melissa Kemple and David Schleeper were introduced to the current HPC members.

Mr. Sledge made a motion to amend the agenda to include Dr. Hitchings presentation as the first item of business. The remaining items will be discussed after his presentation, with the exception of the Bylaws and City Code regarding the HPC, which will be discussed at the March meeting. Ms. Stephens seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Hitchings spoke about a World War II project at the Central Library. They are also having a display of Valentine's Cards from 1895. A presentation on February 19th at the Central Library will give the history of St. Valentine's Day. In July and August, there will be an exhibit in the library on "Lost Chesapeake" which will display buildings that are long gone. Dr. Hitchings is also working on an article for the Clipper on the Superintendent's House.

Dr. Leary made a motion to accept the January 12, 2017 meeting minutes as written. Mr. Sledge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A discussion followed regarding the recent request for applications for the 2017-2018 Virginia Department of Historic Resources Cost-Share Grant. The project idea for the application is the economic aspects of the Dismal Swamp Canal. This project would also include a study on the feasibility of relocating the Cornland School on a 12 acre site owned by the City between the Old and New Highway 17 as well as the relocation, preservation, or re-creation of the Superintendent's House. The discussion will be

continued by email with Staff working to create a grant narrative for review and approval.

The HPC's facebook page is going very well.

Several members of the HPC would like to speak with the Arboretum Board regarding having a working farm near the Caleb Williamson House. Display of old farm tools could be an interesting exhibit on the site.

The letter regarding the duties of the HPC, discussed at last month's meeting, was received by the City Manager.

For 8 years of service to the HPC, Mr. Pickett and Dr. Leary were presented with framed gifts from Ms. McCambridge. She mentioned that Mr. Pickett and Dr. Leary would be instrumental to continuing their work with the Chesapeake Alliance for Historic Preservation.

A presentation on the restoration of Cornland School will be given on May 19th at the Central Library.

The next meeting will be held on March 9, 2017.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Pickett to adjourn. Dr. Leary seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.