



Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Meeting Minutes January 11, 2018

Members Present: Patricia McCambridge (Chair), Venetta Stephens, David Schleeper, Melissa Kemple, and Bruce Grulke

Staff/Others Present: Senior Planner Alexis Baker, Assistant City Attorney Meredith Jacobi, Park Manager Kevin Kaul, and Senior Planner Benjamin Camras

The official meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by the Chair.

Benjamin Camras, Senior Planner, briefed the HPC on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. He is working on a the 2232 Process, which is derived from Section 15.2-2232 of the Code of Virginia, to determine if the construction would be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Camras mentioned that the impact would likely be minimal due to 80% of the pipeline being in transmission easements.

Mr. Grulke made a motion to approve the December 14, 2017 minutes as written. Mr. Schleeper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

A clarification was made to the December 14, 2017 minutes regarding the HPC's bylaws. The bylaws do not need City Council review but must be signed and approved by the HPC. Ms. McCambridge received the final version and signed the new bylaws as approved by the HPC at a previous meeting.

The HPC discussed their social media presence and educational outreach. They will make Facebook posts more regularly. Also they will work on adding information to the Clio mobile phone history application. Pictures of historic churches will also be added to their photography collection. It was also suggested that smaller children could learn history by following the story of a person who lived in the area during the era represented in the HPC's historic map collection. The school printshop can laminate all HPC's copies of the historic maps.

The HPC discussed having Nathan Richardson, who portrays Frederick Douglass, to present in character during Historic Preservation Month in May. This program could coincide with the Norfolk Historic Society meeting in May and homeschoolers, historic

groups, girl scouts, boy scouts, and children needing school credit could attend. A restaurant could sponsor the event by catering.

The HPC would also like to have a meeting in May at the Arboretum as well as possibly have an event there in April for Arbor Day to give away heritage trees.

Ms. Jacobi spoke more on the recently passed Federal Tax Bill. The Tax Bill eliminated the historic tax credit's 10% credit for old non-historic buildings (pre-1936). The 20% historic tax credit remains with the provisions that it must be claimed in 5 years. She also spoke more on the Abingdon tax abatement program. Tax credits are available for up to \$2,500 for every \$2,500 of rehabilitation.

The HPC would like to have a similar tax abatement program for historic properties that are not necessarily in a historic district or on a national or state register. Ms. Jacobi will research the Virginia Code and also summarize the existing tax abatement programs that Chesapeake currently has.

Ms. Stephens made a motion to pursue a historic tax credit or abatement program in Chesapeake. Ms. Kemple seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ms. McCambridge will schedule time to discuss the tax credit with the Planning Director.

Virginia History Day is on March 24th at the Virginia Wesleyan College. The Master Tree Programs and Champion Trees were discussed. Roxanne Stonecypher, who works as the City's Landscape Coordinator, will be contacted regarding historic trees. Finally, the haunted Cherry Hilliard House in Deep Creek was discussed.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Schleeper to adjourn. Mr. Grulke seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.