



**Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)
Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2018**

Members Present: Thomas Sledge (Vice Chair), Venetta Stephens, Melissa Kemple, and Edd Conner

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

The official meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. by the Vice Chair.

Mr. Kaul gave a presentation on the Northwest River Park, including acquisition and a history of moonshiners.

Ms. Kemple made a motion to approve the March 8, 2018 minutes as written. Mr. Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Several HPC members presented facts that could be used on the HPC Facebook page. Mr. Conner presented information on a tract of land south of Taft Road that was donated by Andy Griffith to the Nature Conservancy. Mr. Sledge talked about the 2nd U.S. Colored Calvary skirmish with the 49th NC Confederate regiment at Old Somerton Road in Suffolk on March 9, 1864. Ms. Kemple found several black and white pictures from the Library of Virginia, such as a picture of an African-American school, now Southwestern Elementary, in Western Branch during the segregation era. The location of Bear Quarter School is believed to be near the Lake Drummond Causeway and Benefit Rd.

Mr. Conner would like to recommend adding a signage program for historic communities to the strategic plan and work plan, as well as adding information on cemeteries.

Staff reminded the HPC that a proclamation for National Preservation Month will be held during the City Council meeting on April 24th.

There were no active planning applications with the presence of historic resources. No legal updates were presented by Ms. Jacobi.

The review of the HPC strategic plan and work plan will begin next month in anticipation of the beginning of the fiscal year.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Stephens to adjourn. Mr. Conner seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.