



Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Meeting Minutes August 8, 2019

Members Present: Patti McCambridge (Chair), Venetta Stephens, David Schleeper, Melissa Kemple and Thomas Sledge

Staff/Others Present: Parks, Recreation and Tourism Sales Manager Toby Word, South Norfolk Revitalization Commission Chair Clint Crews; Senior Planner Alexis Baker; Assistant City Attorney Meredith Jacobi; Code Compliance Inspector Robby Creech, and HPC Staff Advisor, Public Works Project Manager Kevin Kaul.

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

Ms. Kemple made a motion to approve the May 9th meeting minutes. Ms. Stephens seconded the motion. All members present at the May meeting voted yes by voice vote.

Mr. Schleeper made a motion to approve the July 11th meeting minutes. Ms. Stephens seconded the motion. All members present at the July meeting voted yes by voice vote.

Mr. Schleeper made a motion to amend the agenda to add Mr. Crews as item number two on the agenda. Ms. Kemple seconded the motion. All members present voted yes by voice vote.

Introductions were made by staff and guests.

Ms. Word, Sales Manager for Parks, Recreation and Tourism, presented the *Historic Tourism Experience in Chesapeake* plan outline. This outline reflects the need to focus on stories, people, and places in Chesapeake. The outline also reflects the historical assets in Chesapeake, ideas for a marketing strategy, and five potential sites with focus on the African-American experience.

Ms. Word also reflected potential initiatives addressed by the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director Mike Barber. These initiatives included a discussion regarding a potential Historic Division within her department. Additionally, a Bear Quarter and Underground Railroad interpretive sign will be created. A new park planner was also hired.

Mr. Crews mentioned a potential slogan for Chesapeake: "Take Another Peek at Chesapeake." Mr. Crews mentioned Plantation Beach and Fernwood Records as historic African-American sites. He also mentioned that there used to be African-American tours in Chesapeake.

Mr. Crews and Ms. Kemple discussed the idea of ghost stories and cemetery walks as ways to promote historic tourism. These cemetery walks could include re-enactments by local student drama clubs.

Mr. Crews introduced himself as the chair of the South Norfolk Revitalization Commission. The South Norfolk Revitalization Commission focuses on solutions and not barriers for South Norfolk. They have several ongoing initiatives including, litter control with three clean-up days a year; Paint the Door campaign; and a Business Engagement campaign, focusing on re-establishing the South Norfolk Business Consortium.

Ms. Jacobi discussed the membership for the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and the Historic and Architectural Review Board (HARB). Instead of changing membership on the HARB, Council Member Ritter asked that a quarterly South Norfolk meeting be held with members of the HPC, HARB, the South Norfolk Revitalization Commission, and the Chesapeake Land Bank Authority. However, Ms. Jacobi discussed the possibility of adding two new members to the HPC. The new members could include a student, a resident of a historic district or owner of a historic house, a member of a historic group, and/or a person with outreach or research experience, such a person involved in public information or library science. Additionally, the HPC has an open position on their board for an architect. It was discussed that that position could be broadened to include a person from the shelter industry or a building designer.

The HPC also suggested that the HARB could add two alternative or proxy members to their board for a professional architect and a person in the shelter industry.

Ms. Stephens made the following motion: "Ms. McCambridge, I move that we approve the resolution to support and attend a quarterly meeting with the Chesapeake Land Bank Authority, Chesapeake Board of Historic and Architectural Review, and the South Norfolk Revitalization Commission." Mr. Sleeper seconded the motion. All members present voted yes by voice vote.

A special exception was discussed by Ms. McCambridge. The applicant is requesting an exception from the Planning Commission to the South Norfolk Business Overlay District regulations in order to build a Family Dollar with spandrel windows and parking to the front of the building facing B Street. The HPC and South Norfolk Revitalization Commission commented on the auto-oriented design of the Family Dollar, which is in conflict with the South Norfolk Business Overlay District. They requested that the applicant work to create a design more in keeping with the historic and pedestrian oriented nature of the South Norfolk Business Overlay District.

Ms. McCambridge received a Section 106 notification regarding the North Landing Bridge Replacement. She asked for any comments by next Thursday.

Ms. Stephens worked with the fire station to find historic artifacts. She has found a South Norfolk fire station year book from 1952. There is information on each of the fire stations on the City website. It was also mentioned that there is a link to NASA in Portlock. There was a practice module for the space program.

Ms. McCambridge is working with a local photography group. They will have two photo contests per year. In November, the photo contest will be on the Dismal Swamp. The HPC will decide

which photos should be chosen to be displayed in the libraries. Other themes for the photo club could include the civil war, festival, hidden gems, a time capsule, spell a word out, architectural studies, or a seasonal study.

Ms. McCambridge is also working with the schools on a history curriculum. Due to copyright, the HPC will need to provide the photographs to the schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.