



## Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Meeting Minutes December 14, 2017

Members Present: Patricia McCambridge (Chair), Thomas Sledge (Vice Chair), David Schleeper, Edd Conner, and Bruce Grulke

Staff/Others Present: Senior Planner Alexis Baker, Assistant City Attorney Meredith Jacobi, Park Manager Kevin Kaul; and HPC Staff Advisors Public Works Project Manager Wayne Mortimer and Development and Permits Code Compliance Inspector Pam Witham

The official meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by the Chair.

**Mr. Sledge made a motion to approve the November 11, 2017 minutes as written. Mr. Schleeper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Ms. Jacobi's legislative updates were moved to the top of the agenda as she needed to leave early. Currently the House and Senate are working to pass a new federal tax bill. No formal committee has met on the subject of the historic tax credit. Unfortunately, it does not appear to be a hot topic for the U.S. Congress. She also spoke about Abingdon, Virginia. The town has a tax abatement program that issues tax credits of \$2,500 for town property taxes for every \$2,500 of exterior work performed in the historic district over 5 years. It is similar to Chesapeake's partial real estate tax exemption program for properties in the South Norfolk Revitalization District, which allows for a tax exemption on the increase in the assessed value of property, provided the rehabilitation increases the value of the real estate by 10%. Finally, Ms. Jacobi mentioned that the HPC's bylaws will likely be on a January City Council meeting.

Mr. Grulke mentioned revolving loan funds. Staff mentioned that the City is working on additional grants for property owners in South Norfolk.

New HPC members were introduced. Bruce Grulke was recently appointed as a voting member to the HPC. He has considerable experience as an architect and educator. Kevin Kaul will likely be appointed to the HPC as a Staff Advisor for Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. Pamela Witham was recently appointed as Staff Advisor for Development and Permits.

For social media outreach, Mr. Schleeper has contributed to the Clio mobile phone application by including information about Gertie School. The HPC would also like to create a YouTube channel with historic videos. All the State Highway Markers have been identified and a StoryMap can be created. Mr. Mortimer knows the builder of Bunch Walnuts Bridge, which Mr. Conner mentioned was ranked as one of the most beautiful bridges. Mr. Mortimer will continue compiling information on historic bridges. The Fire Department is also working on creating a museum.

For Preservation Month in May, several opportunities could be pursued such as inviting a Nat Turner re-enactor to the Central Library and sponsoring a historic photo or video contest with for the high schools similar to the Reflections Contest through the Parent Teacher Association.

Ms. McCambridge discussed attaching nameplates to their framed historic photographs. The other members of HPC concurred. She will research prices and will create a design for them. Mr. Grulke mentioned that City should have plaques for historic buildings.

Mr. Schleeper updated the group on Bear Quarter in Southern Chesapeake. A drawer is reserved in the Wallace Room for any information on the area. A map and sign for the area could designate the historic area.

Ms. McCambridge is working on getting prints of historic maps. Mr. Grulke mentioned that the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) may have grants available to help with archiving and printing historic information for libraries.

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