



## Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Meeting Minutes November 8, 2018

Members Present: Patti McCambridge (Chair), Melissa Kemple (Vice Chair), Edd Conner, Thomas Sledge, and David Schleeper

Staff/Others Present: Assistant Public Works Director Earl Sorey, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director Mike Barber, Assistant City Attorney Meredith Jacobi, Senior Planner Alexis Baker; HPC Staff Advisors, Park Manger Kevin Kaul, Public Works Project Manager Wayne Mortimer, and Development and Permits Code Compliance Inspector Pam Witham; and Sam Leary, former HPC member and Civil War Roundtable representative.

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

***Mr. Schleeper made a motion to approve the October 11, 2018 minutes as written. Mr. Sledge seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.***

Mr. Sorey discussed the decommissioned 22<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge. The new bridge construction will begin next month and will likely take 16 months. There has been a lot of interest on the two bridge plaques, which represented the commissioning of the old bridge in 1937. One of the plaques will be cast into the new bridge. The other will likely be turned over to the Wallace Room with the potential to be loaned to the South Norfolk Memorial Library. Ms. McCambridge suggested creating a special display with a picture of the old bridge and a written history.

The HPC asked Mr. Sorey if any other bridges may be replaced. He mentioned the Deep Creek Bridge, which is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers, will be advertised next July for construction. Starting in the fall, the Army Corps of Engineers will need to purchase property for the bridge construction.

Also, the Centerville Bridge is undergoing a feasibility study. The North Landing Bridge, owned by ACOE, would likely be replaced with a fixed span bridge. The Benefit Road Bridge in Cornland may also be up for replacement. Mr. Sorey also defined a bridge as spanning more than 20 feet.

Next, Mr. Barber spoke on the need to inventory Chesapeake's historic artifacts, such as those from the old Jordan Bridge. The HPC suggested that City of Chesapeake High Schools are in need of social studies projects. They could assist with the inventory and writing the history of the artifacts.

The HPC asked Mr. Barber about heritage tourism. Mr. Barber spoke on leveraging our water resources. He mentioned that the new Battlefield and Waterways Museum is a good opportunity to celebrate waterways heritage. The bridge operators with the Army Corps of Engineers have information packages on Chesapeake. He also mentioned that markers should be put on bridges and signage on the expressways and interstates to welcome those unfamiliar with

Chesapeake. Additionally, he mentioned a potential visitors' center at the North Trail of the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail as well as existing visitors' centers in Chesapeake such as the one on Progressive Drive.

Mr. Conner asked Mr. Barber about the fort on Jolliff Road. Mr. Barber anticipates a resolution from Council to the Virginia Department of Transportation sometime in December with an official request shortly after for a possible lease or dedication to the City.

Mr. Leary followed up on the fort requesting that the HPC take the lead instead of the Civil War Roundtable.

Mr. Barber mentioned his concept of a Historical Services Division as a future division within the City.

Mr. Schleeper has been working on a concept for a sign for Bear Quarters. Mr. Barber suggested that there may be grants through the Virginia Tourism Corporation. Mr. Schleeper envisions that a Bear Quarters sign could be located in the Cornland Park near the fire station. He will verify the site is a good location.

The HPC mentioned that they would like to see a history trail with interpretive signs.

Another initiative that HPC assisted on was obtaining Cornland School. The Cornland School Foundation now owns the historic African-American schoolhouse. The HPC and Cornland School Foundation would like to potentially move the schoolhouse onto land near the Dismal Swamp Canal Trail. They envision this location as a possible site for a historic village along with the Superintendent's House or a re-creation. Mr. Barber would like to see a list of the HPC's initiatives to see what is doable.

As a legal update on the lending of artifacts and historical items, Ms. Jacobi advised that the public credit clause does not apply to loaning objects.

A brief discussion on a Christmas Social was mentioned. Ms. McCambridge will send out potential times and dates.

**With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.**