



Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) Meeting Minutes November 14, 2019

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

Staff/Others Present: Councilmembers Dr. Ella Ward and Debbie Ritter; Senior Planner Alexis Baker; Assistant City Attorney Meredith Jacobi; Parks Planner Ana Elezovic; HPC Staff Advisors, Parks Manager Kevin Kaul and Public Works Project Manager Wayne Mortimer; and Tourism Manager Kim Murden for Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

The official meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by the Chair.

Ms. Stephens made a motion to approve the October 10th meeting minutes. Ms. Kemple seconded the motion. All members present at the October meeting voted yes by voice vote.

Ms. Kemple made a motion to amend the agenda to add Ms. Murden to the beginning of the agenda to discuss Parks, Recreation and Tourism's African-American tourism plan.

Ms. Murden discussed creating an African-American history driving tour and brochure combined with a podcast. This will be launched in February. It will include the following topics: Cornland School; Billy Flora and the Battle of Great Bridge; the Great Dismal Swamp (including Moses Grandy and the Maroon communities); The Unknown and Known Afro-Union Civil War Soldiers monument; Now You're Cooking Culinary Studio, focusing on African-American food and history; and African-American Literature (Kwami Alexander and Nathen Richardson as Frederick Douglass).

The HPC mentioned that recent African-American history should also be included. This includes the segregated beaches, like Plantation Beach, and outdoor arenas in Chesapeake, such as Sunset Lake Park, where famous African-American musicians like Little Richard played.

Mr. Mortimer, who is resigning in December due to retirement, presented his research on the bridges in Chesapeake. There are 270 bridges, culverts, and ditches over 50 years old that are still in use. He brought several old construction drawings of the Old Jordan Bridge and Centerville Turnpike.

The HPC brought several photos to the Heritage Festival. The Chesapeake Photography Club will display their photos of the Dismal Swamp in the South Norfolk Library in November. The next photography theme will be "Faces of Chesapeake."

Ms. Jacobi discussed the tax exemption in Abingdon, Virginia. The exemption is for up to \$2500 or work performed over 10 years. Tax exemptions can be made for up to 50% of renovations

over 15 years. The City of Chesapeake has two tax exemptions for the South Norfolk Revitalization Area, a commercial and a residential exemption.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm.