



Historic Preservation Commission

Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2021

This meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held at the Parks, Recreation & Tourism (PRT) Office at 1224 Progressive Drive on October 14, 2021. Chairperson Knight called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Knight announced the Memorial Service of her father, US Navy Captain Don Sharer. Sharer was a Combat Veteran of the Vietnam War and a survivor of the Iranian Hostage Crisis. The Memorial Service will begin at 11 AM at the Veteran's Memorial in front of Chesapeake City Hall on Saturday, October 16, 2021. A Celebration of Life Event will be held immediately after the Service at Tap It Local Restaurant on Grassfield Parkway. All Commissioners are welcome to attend.

Members Present:	Mr. Gerald Martin; Mr. James "Ervin" Young; Ms. Jennifer Knight; Mr. Kyle Taduran; Ms. Amelia Wallace
Members Absent:	Dr. George Reed
Staff Present:	Park Planner Ana Elezovic; PRT Director Mike Barber; City Planner Kevin Finn; Historical Services Manager Jessica Cosmas

Ms. Cosmas called the roll. Attendance reflected a quorum with 5 voting members present, 1 voting member absent.

MINUTES:

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Chairperson Knight asked if there were any corrections to the September minutes as presented. There were no corrections. The minutes stand approved.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

None.

REPORTS:

A. Staff Reports:

i. Cornland School

- a. The Cornland School Foundation Board and City staff had an enjoyable trip to the Historic Jarvisburg Colored School Museum in North Carolina. Board and Staff agree that the Jarvisburg Museum

- seems to be a good model for the future restoration and interpretation of the Cornland Schoolhouse.
 - b. The Schoolhouse has been lowered onto its new permanent foundation. The reconstruction of the historic wooden timbers, gables, etc. to support the new metal roof is on a weather-dependent timeline. The contractor expects to reassemble the historic portions and install the new roof by the end of October.
 - ii. **Sunray Ceramic Center**
 - a. Staff met with community members to hear their hopes for the building. There is a desire to restore the building and use it as a programming space.
 - b. The Rehabilitation of the Sunray building was proposed as a Capital Improvement Project for the City. The matter is still under review.
 - iii. **Arboretum**
 - a. Commissioners and Staff worked together during the AutumnFest Event held at the Chesapeake Arboretum on October 2, 2021. The audience at the event was informed about upcoming projects like the renovations to the Williamson Farmhouse at the Arboretum and the Historical Village at the Great Dismal Swamp Canal Trail.
 - b. Special thanks to Commissioners Martin, Reed, and Wallace for their assistance and participation during this event.
 - iv. **Bower's Hill Interchange Study by VDOT**
 - a. Staff provided comments on the Draft Technical Report regarding the proposed lane expansion of 664/64 in the Bower's Hill section of Western Branch. Staff shared specific concerns on how VDOT's proposal may interfere with the historic Indiana United Methodist Church located at 4505 Indiana Avenue and the Bright Family Cemetery located off Rotunda Avenue. Each of these sites holds significance to the Nansemond Nation. Staff consulted with representatives of the Nansemond Nation during the commentary process.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. **Bear Quarter Sign:** Staff provided an updated draft of the Bear Quarter interpretive panel to replace the current marker at Cornland Park. Commissioner Taturan marked some spacing issues that need to be corrected. Commissioner Wallace expressed concern on the draft map, especially regarding the Gertie School being within the marked boundaries of Bear Quarter as it relates to prior comments made by community members. Commissioner Knight asked if the community had seen this version of the panel. Staff answered that they will make the edits suggested by the Commissioners and then send it out for community feedback.
- b. **HARB Review:** Staff discussed the upcoming scheduled review of the Historic District Design Guidelines belonging to the Chesapeake Historic and Architectural Review Board. Staff reported that the Planning Department has requested monies for an outside consultant to be contracted to guide this review. Staff encouraged the Commissioners to conduct a critical reading of the current guidelines and be prepared to discuss the guidelines at the upcoming December meeting. City Planner Kevin Finn noted that

special attention should be paid to the issues of new build, in-fill developments. Mr. Finn also reported that literature regarding the Certificate of Appropriateness has been printed and will be distributed throughout the South Norfolk Local Historic District. These brochures will be mailed directly to property owners in the District and be made available to local realtors and at City locations like public libraries.

HEARING OF BOARD MEMBERS:

- It is Vice-Chairperson Wallace's birthday! City Staff and Commissioners wished her well and sang "Happy Birthday."

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business was reported.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 PM.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 5:00 PM at PRT Office at 1224 Progressive Drive.

Minutes submitted by Jessica Cosmas, Secretary