



**Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)
Meeting Minutes
May 13th, 2021**

This meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was held electronically on Microsoft Teams on May 13, 2021.

Members Present: Amelia Wallace, Jennifer Knight, James Young, George Reed, Jason Miller

Staff/Others Present: Park Planner Ana Elezovic; Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Director Mike Barber; Park Manager Kevin Kaul; Assistant City Attorney Joseph Melton; Planning Administrator Mark Woodward; Planner Ben Camras

A. Call to Order and Announcements

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

Ms. Knight made the following announcements:

- Due to the number of attendees for this meeting, which may include vulnerable population members, social distancing cannot be observed. Therefore, an electronic meeting is being held pursuant and in compliance with the Amended Ordinance adopted by Chesapeake City Council on April 28, 2020 to effectuate temporary changes in certain deadlines and to modify public meeting and public hearing practices and procedures to address continuity of operations associated with pandemic disaster. Extension of these temporary changes is in accordance with the Amended Ordinance adopted by Chesapeake City Council on September 8, 2020.
- The meeting is being recorded.
- Meeting information for the Historic Preservation Commission, along with provisions for public access, are posted on the link to [Historic Preservation Commission web page](#).
- Public comments will be received via audio during the Hearing of Citizens (state when and how that will happen according to the agenda and that they will be called on individually by the Chairman or Secretary). Time limit is 3 minutes.
- Speakers will identify themselves verbally by name before speaking.
- All votes will be by roll call and recorded in the minutes.
- Attendees must be called on by name by the board chairman before speaking, or identify themselves by name before speaking at any time during the meeting.

Ms. Knight asked if anyone had any questions about the process and there were none.

B. Roll Call

C. Approval of April 8 Meeting Minutes

The April 8, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

D. New Business

Indian River Plan

Mr. Camras from the Planning Department presented the Indian River Plan to the commissioners. Commissioners were asked to submit comments regarding the plan prior to May 23rd.

E. Old Business and Reports

Owens-Melvin sign update

Mr. Barber shared that the commissioners were invited to attend the Owens-Melvin sign dedication on May 26th at the Owens-Melvin home.

Historic Village Update

Mr. Barber provided an update on the Cornland School relocation. A \$3 million dollar grant from the state was in the process of being approved and signed by the governor. This grant would be used for exhibits for maroon communities and the Underground Railroad. The City has committed \$400,000 to moving the Cornland School and an additional \$600,000 in capital improvements for the site infrastructure. He also shared that this project is a finalist for federal money in Congress and that the department would find out the outcome in the coming weeks. The grant may be up to \$3 million dollars and would be used for restorations of the Cornland School and Superintendent's House, as well as the creation of a Visitor Center and outdoor classroom. He also shared that the City and Army Corp of Engineers were working on a lease to include the Superintendent's House within the Historic Village concept.

Historic Registry Update

The Historic Registry presentation was moved to next month's meeting as there were issues with Esri software.

Historic Preservation Month series update

Ms. Elezovic shared that new videos were being released in honor of Historic Preservation Month. She invited commissioners to reach out to her if they were interested in participating.

Commission City-Wide Tour Update

There is interest amongst commissioners and staff in visiting the City's historic structures and amenities as a group. As such, Ms. Elezovic asked the commissioners to consider their availability for a potential bus tour on June 26th.

Review of ARC agenda and new developments in the City

Commissioners and staff discussed how the development review process will be addressed in the future and established an internal system for the City reviewing applications and providing comments for the HPC. It was determined that only application for structures on the local or national historic register required comments from the Historic Preservation Commission.

F. Public Comment

None

G. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 PM.