

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes meeting held on December 13, 2006 at the Department of Land Use and Growth Management

Members Present: Hal Willard, Chairman
Jim Grusholt, Vice-Chairman
Bill Farrar, Member
Rob Gibbs, Member
Mary Hayden, Member
Danny Johnson, Member
Ruth Mitchell, Member
Teresa Wilson, LUGM staff

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 16, 2006 meeting were approved as submitted.

Final HPC Budget

The HPC discussed the FY 2008 Commission Budget. Members recommended reducing funds in Advertising and Legal Notices and Printing and Binding. They suggested increasing funds in Supplies and Materials, Staff Development and Other Contract Services. The amount of the total budget would remain at the same level as requested in FY07.

The Commission also requested that institutional memberships be obtained for it to the Maryland Archaeological Society, the Cemetery Protection Coalition, and the St. Mary's Historical Society.

Public Outreach 2007

Ms. Mitchell noted that the Society for Historical Archaeology will be having its annual meeting in January 2007 in Williamsburg, Virginia. She and three other archaeologists will join a panel to present papers on the topic Southern Maryland Architecture. She and Ms. Wilson discussed the possibility a public program for Historic Preservation Month here in St. Mary's County that would feature talks by these scholars. Since they would present their papers at Historic Saint Mary's City as part of Archaeology Month, it may be preferable to invite panelists from other institutions instead. Ms. Mitchell suggested Al Luckenbach of Anne Arundel County or Sara Rivers-Cofield of Jefferson Patterson Park, who will also participate in the Williamsburg conference, as possible speakers.

Ms. Wilson suggested that another outreach could involve a PowerPoint presentation about the Local Historic Landmarks program and tax credits that she and members could take out to community groups to increase public awareness.

Mr. Johnson suggested that a display board about the HPC and County historic programs be created and displayed out side the County Commissioners meeting room on Commissioner meeting days. In this way the information would be available to the large number of people who attend.

Mr. Farrar mentioned that he has extensive experience with television programming and would be willing to make an appearance on Channel 95 to publicize the HPC and the Local Historic Landmarks Program.

Mr. Willard observed that the HPC has not received too many opportunities to appear before the County Commissioners, but will be presenting the Historic Roads Survey to them early in 2007.

Mr. Gibbs said that the best opportunity to educate the public about historic preservation is at the annual County Fair. Ms. Wilson agreed, but noted that the Co-Operative Extension Building where the HPC display has been in the past is not an ideal location. Mr. Willard agreed that there is not enough traffic through that building.

Ms. Mitchell thought that the HPC may want to consider purchasing a background screen, similar to one used at Historic St. Mary's City, which would outline the HPC mission and programs. Mr. Willard noted that a screen could also be used to set up temporary displays in local banks or businesses such as Lowes to publicize historic preservation.

Mr. Farrar said that the Illinois State Preservation Office regularly presented information about historic preservation at county fairs in the fair areas that were connected with food exhibits, and found that this location was the best place to reach many people. The Commission agreed that looking into a new location for the HPC at next year's County Fair would be a good idea.

Mr. Grusholt suggested that the HPC team up with the Travel and Tourism Committee for a possible fair display. Ms. Wilson noted that historic preservation in recent years has increased its focus on the promotion of heritage tourism, so that working with Travel and Tourism would be useful.

Moving some HPC meetings into Room 14 at the Governmental Center would also be a way to get greater exposure for special presentations.

Ms. Wilson mentioned that she and her colleagues from Calvert and Charles Counties presented a half day program at the Southern Maryland Realty Association. The program educates real estate agents about the National Register, Maryland Inventory, and local historic designation programs, as well as presenting tips on marketing historic properties. Each year the enrollment increases, so she feels that agents are becoming more aware of resources that they can use.

Grant Update

Ms. Wilson informed the HPC that she will be applying for a Certified Local Government Grant for a second phase of the Historic Roads Survey and for the Educational Sub-Grant that is used to send members to conferences.

Items from the Floor

Mr. Willard mentioned that he had spoken to Ms. Guazzo, a member of the Planning Commission, about historic preservation issues. She stated that the Planning Commission would welcome the HPC's input about strengthening preservation protections in the Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Willard read a letter sent to the HPC by former Commissioner President McKay thanking them for their work during his tenure in office.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by: _____ Signed by: _____