

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the meeting held on December 16, 2004 at the Department of Land Use and Growth Management

Members Present: Peter Himmelheber, Chairman
Hal Willard, Vice Chairman
Jack Williamson, Member
Teresa Wilson, LUGM Staff

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

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the November 18, 2004 HPC meeting was postponed until January because of lack of a quorum.

Comments:

Mr. Himmelheber noted that a historic roads survey is much needed in St. Mary's and he hopes the grant will be awarded.

Mr. Willard observed that the grant funds would be paid to a consultant and inquired whether the survey could be completed without one.

Ms. Wilson said that the Maryland Historical Trust requires surveyors be certified as qualified as per the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 36.

The members agreed that the HPC needs to spearhead further efforts to educate realtors and the public about the voluntary design guidelines and inform them about the mission of the HPC.

Zoning Ordinance Chapters 21 and 42

The HPC discussed the Zoning Ordinance Chapters and the letter from the Maryland Historical Trust cautioning local jurisdictions and their historic commissions to follow due process procedures and avoid tying local historic regulations to the Maryland Inventory. The members agreed that future local historic designation applications will have to follow the mandatory public hearing schedule. Ms. Wilson noted that the text of Chapter 42: Historic Landmarks and Districts Overlay was crafted with assistance from the Maryland Historical Trust and reviewed for legal sufficiency by the County Attorney. She briefly explained the process of publishing the notices of public hearings in the local newspaper.

Scenic Byways Grant

Ms. Wilson informed the HPC that the Board of County Commissioners signed a letter of support for the State Highway Administration Scenic Byways grant application at their meeting on December 14th. The letter has been mailed to State Highways and a copy sent to the Charles County Historic Preservation Planner who will submit the grant application by December 31st.

New Member

The Board of County Commissioners has appointed Robert Gibbs to the HPC. Ms. Wilson must wait until she receives official notification from the Public Information Office before she can send Mr. Gibbs his first meeting packet. In early January she will follow up with PIO.

Budget Fiscal Year 2006

Due to lack of a quorum the members placed consideration of the FY2006 HPC Budget on the agenda for January 27, 2005. Some of the observations made were:

Mr. Himmelheber noted that the HPC needs to spend some of its Supplies and Materials line item on mailing out information about the guidelines and HPC.

Ms. Wilson observed that the Printing and Binding line increased when the Design Guidelines were being drafted, but grant monies were used for printing and this line was not drawn upon.

Additional Comments

Mr. Willard noted that in addition to mailings, it would be smart to create links from the HPC webpage to the relevant sections of the Zoning Ordinance. The members agreed and Ms. Wilson said she would look into doing so.

Mr. Himmelheber asked about the Memberships line and Ms. Wilson explained that it is used to pay HPC dues to Preservation Maryland, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, and other organizations.

Honorarium Money

Due to lack of a quorum the HPC delayed a decision about where in its FY 2005 budget to deposit the \$50.00 check received from the Genealogical Society for Ms. Wilson's presentation.

Items from the Floor

There were no items from the floor.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by: _____ Signed by: _____