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4 **Historic Preservation Commission**
5 **Final Meeting Minutes**
6

7 **November 8, 2007**
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9 Members Present: Vice Chairwoman Maria L. Hicks
10 David T. Heim
11 E. Curtis Alexander
12 George M. Nicholos
13 James S. Bokern
14

15 Members Absent: Chairman John A. Kish
16 James E. Canterbury
17

18 Others Present: Catherine H. Lindley, City Attorney Representative
19 Ella P. Ward, City Council Representative
20

21 Vice Chairwoman Hicks brought the meeting to order at 4:04 P.M.
22

23 **Announcements.**

24 The Commission thanked Commissioner Canterbury for organizing and sponsoring the
25 Dismal Swamp Canal boat trip on October 17, 2007.
26

27 **Approval of the Minutes from the September 13, 2007 Meeting.**

28 Commissioner Alexander had two comments on the minutes. He requested that a
29 reference to the Bells Mill Historical Research Restoration Society be corrected. He also
30 clarified a statement made at the meeting regarding Commissioner Bokern's lack of
31 qualifications to re-write his Civil War Trails markers draft narratives. He stated that he
32 wanted the minutes to state that the Planning Department was not qualified to re-write
33 the draft narratives. Commissioner Alexander moved that the minutes be approved as
34 amended. Commissioner Heim seconded the motion and the revised minutes were
35 approved by the Commission.
36

37 **Strategic Plan Update and Revisions.**

38 Commissioner Bokern reported that the Strategic Plan needs to be updated to change
39 member assignments for projects. There have been some changes to the Commission's
40 membership since the original plan was developed. Additionally, in reviewing the
41 previous month's minutes, it does not appear that an official version of the plan has

1 been formally adopted. There are currently two versions of the plan, one developed by
2 Chairman Kish and a revision by staff. Chairman Kish has indicated to staff that he is
3 displeased with the staff version but has been unable to locate an electronic version of
4 his plan. Given the change in membership on the Commission and perhaps the change
5 in goals due to the recent news about Commissions inability to have a budget, the
6 strategic plan should be revised in the coming months. However, Chairman Kish is not
7 present to participate in the discussion so that issue will be deferred to a future
8 meeting.

9

10 **FY 2008-2009 Operating Budget.**

11 The Commission has received notice from the City that it is not allowed to have a
12 budget. Commissioner Heim asked if some of the funding for the Commission's
13 projects could be placed in the Planning Department's budget. Commissioner Bokern
14 stated that more than likely the Commission will have to develop a budget for specific
15 projects and make special requests to City Council for funding. There is limited funding
16 in the budget due to the decline of the economy. Commissioner Nicholas stated that
17 the Commission should develop a series of pilot seed projects with sponsors on the City
18 Council.

19

20 **Civil War Trails Markers.**

21 The Commission reviewed a third draft of the Unknown and Known Afro-Union Civil War
22 Soldiers Memorial marker prepared by the Civil War Trails. Commissioner Alexander
23 stated that there still needs to be two changes to the marker relating to identifying the
24 specific soldiers there and the quote utilized in the narrative. He indicates that he will
25 rewrite the narrative again and submit it to staff.

26

27 **Dismal Swamp Canal Project.**

28 Commissioner Bokern indicated that the Dismal Swamp Trail Phase II will begin later in
29 the month. The Commission representatives appointed to the committee,
30 Commissioners Canterbury and Alexander will be contacted by staff representative Mark
31 Shea in the coming weeks. Commissioner Alexander reviewed some of his research on
32 the Richmond Cedar Works near the canal. Commissioner Heim stated that he hopes
33 the ditches along the canal will be cleared of brush. The Commission discussed the
34 canal in general as a great tourist asset for the City. Members believed that the canal
35 should be developed into a tourist attraction and promoted aggressively for tourism.

36

37 **Cornland School Restoration.**

38 There was a brief discussion of the interviews given to Channel 48 by Commissioners
39 Alexander and Heim promoting the Cornland School Restoration Project. The
40 Commission thanked Channel 48 for their interest in the project. It was determined
41 that the Commission needs to discuss the future of the building with the property
42 owner, Randolph Snead. There needs to be some initial agreement how to proceed
43 with the project. Commissioner Bokern suggested that the Commission invite Camille
44 Bowman of the Department of Historic Resources to a future meeting to discuss

1 potential alternatives in renovating the building. It was agreed by the Commission that
2 both Mr. Snead and Ms. Bowman would be invited to a future meeting to discuss the
3 future of the building.

4
5 Commissioner Alexander requested that staff attempt to get three streets in the City
6 named after four Chesapeake African-American heroes, Marshall Land, John Hope
7 Langston, Charles Hodges and R.G.L. Paige. Commissioner Bokern indicated that he
8 would forward this request to the Current Planning Division of the Planning Department.

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10 The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.