

Harford County Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Summary: June 5, 2019

Members Present: Carol Deibel (chair)
Iris Barnes
Phil McCall
Dan Coates
Jacob Bensen
Christina Presberry
Jackie Seneschal

Staff: Caitlin Merritt
Joel Gallihue

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 7:05 PM.

Welcome & Introduction

Ms. Deibel welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the Commission's newly appointed members, Ms. Iris Barnes and Mr. Philip McCall. Ms. Deibel asked all members to introduce themselves.

Review and Approval: May 1, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Bensen moved to approve the meeting summary. Mr. Coates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Historic Preservation Awards Follow-up

Ms. Merritt shared with the Commission all the praise she received for this year's award ceremony. Mr. Allan Vought sent a thank you card to the Commission. Ms. Merritt passed it around for them to read.

She also mentioned that there were about 98 RSVPs for the event and 75 guests signed the guestbook. This was an increase from the 2017 awards.

CLG Application Update

Ms. Merritt gave a brief overview of the Certified Local Government program for Mr. McCall and Ms. Barnes. There was a general discussion about the benefits of becoming a CLG by the Commission.

Ms. Merritt said she plans to submit the application within the next two weeks. She said that she is waiting on a resume from Mr. Coates and get the submission letter signed by the County Executive.

Briefing Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions 2019 Symposium

Ms. Deibel asked for Ms. Merritt to brief the Commission about the MAHDC's symposium that was held on May 18th.

Ms. Merritt mentioned that the topics and presentations weren't as interesting or informative as they have been in the past. The first session dealt with reevaluating historic districts and the afternoon session dealt with hazard mitigation.

Ms. Deibel commented that the symposium also offers opportunities to discuss and learn what other HPC/HDCs are doing and issues they are facing.

Administrative Business

Housekeeping – Binder Updates

Ms. Merritt provided updated copies of the Historic Preservation Code and Landmark List for their binders. There was a general discussion about the order the Landmarks are listed. Ms. Merritt said that they are listed in order of designation. She continued to explain that since the list is no longer within the text of the County Code, it is important to note of the designation date for legal purposes. Ms. Merritt said that she can make an alternate list for them that has the landmarks listed alphabetically or grouped by area.

HPC Terms

Ms. Merritt shared the new terms now established from recent Code changes to create staggered terms. Ms. Deibel, Mr. Coates, and Ms. Seneschal have four year terms, ending in 2023; Mr. Bensen and Ms. Presberry have three year terms, ending in 2022; Ms. Barnes has a two year term, ending in 2021; and Mr. McCall has a one year term, ending in 2020. After these initial terms are over, all terms will be for four years.

Ms. Deibel explained the benefits of having staggered terms and mentioned that it was a requirement to become a CLG.

Co-Chair Election

Ms. Deibel asked for nominations for a new Co-Chair, who will preside over the meeting if the Chair is absent.

Mr. Bensen nominated Mr. Coates for Co-Chair. There were no objections or other nominations. Mr. Bensen moved to elect Mr. Coates as Co-Chair. Ms. Presberry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Mr. Coates was elected as Co-Chair for the length of his four year term.

New Commissioner Onboarding

Ms. Merritt presented a PowerPoint presentation briefing the newly appointed Commission Members about Harford County's Historic Preservation Program, including, Historic Landmarks, tax credits,

Certificate of Appropriateness application. She also outlined the basic roles of the Commission and staff members.

There was a general discussion about Historic Landmarks and the Maryland Inventory.

Training

Ms. Merritt provided some training on meeting dynamics and an effective review process. Information was adapted from the Maryland Association of Historic District Commission's tutorials. Ms. Merritt went over the steps for reviewing an application, procedures for addressing the applicant, and making defensible motions. She added that she will provide scripts when applications are on the agenda.

There was some discussion about the public providing notice to staff before a meeting if they would like to speak at a meeting. Several members of the Commission felt that this isn't fair practice. Ms. Merritt said that it is a procedural process noted in the Commission's *Rules and Procedures*, but can be waived by the Chair.

Public Comments – None

Ms. Deibel asked if anyone had any additional comments.

Ms. Seneschal asked Ms. Merritt for an update of Tudor Hall painting and the Graham property for the August meeting.

Ms. Deibel mentioned that the owners of the Scott House at Bel Air Memorial Gardens met with the State regarding funds for rehabilitation. She continued to mention that this is a great opportunity to push for it to become a designated County Landmark.

Adjourn

Ms. Seneschal moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Coates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting ended at 8:35 PM.

There will be no July meeting. The next meeting will be August 7, 2019.