

## FALLS CHURCH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

### Minutes of Meeting Oak Room, City Hall Thursday, February 25, 2016

**Present:** Ron Anzalone (chairman), Ed Henderson (vice-chair), Kelli Edwards (secretary). Also present: Debra Gee (staff liaison), Tiffanie Chau-Dang (youth representative) and Melissa Teates (planning commission).

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting started at 7:52 p.m.

#### 2. Minutes of the Historical Commission Meeting January 28, 2016

The minutes were approved with minor corrections. Ed inquired about any developments regarding the historic district designation for Tinner Hill (Fairfax County). Ron indicated that Ed could look into the City portion with Debra assisting him with research.

- a. **Motion proposed:** Ed made a motion that the Commission approve the minutes from the January 28, 2016, meeting. The motion was seconded by Kelli.
- b. **Motion passed:** The motion was approved. (All Commission members present).

#### Old Business

##### 1. Report on Tinner Hill Harlem Renaissance Fair, February 19, 2016

Ed reported that the Tinner Hill Harlem Renaissance Fair, which was held at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale campus, was a success. The event, hosted by the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation, honored African-Americans of the jazz era and many attendees wore period attire. Organizers expect to hold the event again next year. A video of the event will be airing on FCCTV in a few weeks.

#### New Business

##### 1. Falls Church City Council Retreat, February 20, 2016

The Falls Church City Council retreat was productive with the City's board and commission chairs engaging with the City Council on planning and economic development. The Council is currently revising the 2012 City Council development work plan and vision statement. Ron mentioned to the Council that it would be nice to see closure on zoning amendments.

##### 2. Participation on Arts & Humanities Council

Ron will be the Historical Commission representative to the newly named Arts and Humanities Council (formerly known as "C.A.T.C.H."). These meetings take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at 9:30 a.m. Ed will serve as the alternate representative. Ron spoke with Barbara Cram and suggested that the

Arts and Humanities website include historical information as the website currently lists only arts and humanities related events.

### **3. Possible Proposal for Historic Preservation Commission**

The Commission discussed the possibility of combining the Historical Commission with the Historic Architectural Review Board (H.A.R.B.). The City has concerns regarding City staff workloads as well as the difficulty in obtaining a quorum to hold meetings. Combining both groups would require changes in both groups' charters. Debra suggested that the Boards at a later meeting, meet for 15-20 minutes to discuss a merger and following the outcome of the meeting, invite Council member, David Snyder, Council liaison to both groups, to a later meeting to discuss the proposal.

### **4. Work Plan Priorities for 2016**

Ron asked Commission members to think about what they want to accomplish over the next 6 months. The Commission discussed possible events that they could participate in to include Arbor Day (April 30); Civil War Day (May 21) and the Tinner Hill Blues Festival (June 11-12). Participation in these events might include setting up an information table with literature available to the public. Ron distributed "Chapter 9 Historic Preservation" to the Commission members for review and comment. This chapter is part of the City of Falls Church Comprehensive Plan, last updated in 2005. Ron asked the Commission members to identify 2-3 of the goals listed in the chapter for the Commission to work on. Ron also noted the survey results that Tiffanie Chau-Dang had provided to the Commission which listed multiple ideas Tiffanie's peers would like to see implemented in Falls Church. These include a Falls Church visitor center and museum; incorporating Falls Church history into schools' social studies curriculum; maintaining signs along the W & OD bike trail; more information regarding the Fort Taylor Park; and stricter codes to preserve historic houses/buildings within the City.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.