



# PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

County Administration Building • 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772  
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**APPROVED 03/19/2019**

## Summary of Actions

Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission  
Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 6:30 p.m.  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Board Room, County Administration Building

Commissioners Present: Donna Schneider, Yolanda Muckle, Vice Chair Lisa Pfueller Davidson, Aaron Marcavitch, Susan Pruden, Royal Reff

Commissioners Absent: Chairman John Peter Thompson, Eddy Campbell, Nathania Branch-Miles

HPC Counsel: Bradley Farrar, Esq.

Staff Present: Howard Berger, Jennifer Stabler, Daniel Tana, Tom Gross, Tyler Smith

### Guest: Name/Organization

### Agenda Item

Deb Stefany	E.
Ben Allen	E.
Denise Haskins	C.
Michael Leventhal	F.
Barbara Duncan	E.
Edith Pulscak	E.
Kacy Rohn	E.
Joanne and Dervon Hampton	E.

## A. Call to Order

Vice Chair Davidson called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Vice Chair Davidson read introductory remarks about the meeting and procedures into the record. Chairman Thompson and Commissioners Branch-Miles, and Campbell had an excused absence.

## B. Approval of Meeting Summary – January 15, 2019

**MOTION:** Commissioner Schneider moved to approve the January 15, 2019 meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Muckle. The motion was approved by acclamation and without objection (6-0).

## C. STAFF BRIEFING: FAIRMOUNT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mr. Stachura introduced the project. The Community Planning Division is preparing a feasibility study for the adaptive re-use of the Fairmount Heights High School which has become part of Community Planning's Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) program. An economic study has been

completed and will inform the feasibility study. The school is owned by Prince George's County Public Schools, who vacated the property in 2015. Ms. Tariq spoke to the Community Planning aspect of the project and described the outreach undertaken over the last several years. Mr. Gross discussed the history of the site speaking to the site's historical and cultural significance as well as its architectural significance. Mr. Gross emphasized that almost all of its significance is historical and cultural because of its role in desegregation between 1954 and the mid-1970s. Ms. Tariq returned to the podium to speak about the architecture of the building, the different building stages and the case study of the Wiley Bates School in Annapolis. She briefly summarized the next steps to be taken by the project which include a community meeting in April and communication with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development about including it in a Sustainable Community or a Community Legacy area.

Vice Chair Davidson asked if the 1950s additions were designed by the same firm. The architect was still unknown. Vice Chair Davidson asked about evidence of the old entrance. Ms. Tariq explained that there was some evidence of its old location but unlikely that any material was still present. Vice Chair Davidson asked if the property would be transferred to the County. Ms. Tariq confirmed that it would. Mr. Stachura explained the deaccession process. Vice Chair Davidson asked about a National Register nomination. Mr. Stachura responded and referred to the Wiley Bates School and the absence of eligibility for Federal Preservation Tax Credits in the case of Fairmount Heights High School. Mr. Gross elaborated that a cursory DOE had been completed by MHT and concluded it was not eligible. Vice Chair Davidson asked about other funding accessed through a National Register nomination besides tax credits like Civil Rights grants. Mr. Stachura concluded that Community Planning would continue giving the HPC updates on the project.

#### **D. PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT**

##### **1. 2019-001, Sunnyside (Historic Site 87B-036-21)**

Mr. Smith presented the staff report. Tax credit work totaled \$22,001.70 and consisted of exterior repairs to siding, porches, and shutters in preparation for exterior painting. Work also included minor window repairs and replacing rear porch flooring. All the work was determined eligible and a tax credit in the amount of \$5,500.42 was recommended.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Schneider moved to approve Historic Preservation Tax Credit 2019-001 in accordance with staff's recommendations. Commissioner Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by acclamation and without objection (6-0).

#### **E. APPROVAL OF FY 2019 HISTORIC PROPERTY GRANT PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Tana presented the staff report. Mr. Tana briefly described the history of the grant program and described how the applications were reviewed. He summarized the grant applications and the Grant Committee's recommendations to award 9 of the 13 applicants partial funding and one full funding. The applicants then had the opportunity to speak.

Ben Allen from St. John's, Beltsville spoke. Deb Stefaney was also present. They agreed with the committee's recommendations and would be grateful for the award. He noted that the repointing work was previously identified but the Church had not been able to complete the work.

Barbara Duncan, Senior Warden, from St. John's, Broad Creek present with Edith Pulscak, stating that they would be applying for more grants in the future and were grateful for the program's funding.

Kacy Rohn from the City of College Park spoke about the project at College Park Parish House/Women's Club. She emphasized that the site was an active community center and an ideal place to showcase

preservation in College Park. She briefly described the work identified and thanked the Commission for its consideration and Mr. Tana's guidance through the grant application process.

Dervon Hampton present with his mother Joanne Hampton from 4505 Oliver Street expressed his disappointment at not being recommended for an award. He referenced his family's history in Riverdale Park as the first African American family in the neighborhood and that the house had been firebombed. He emphasized the charm of their home and Riverdale Park in general.

Vice Chair Davidson encouraged the Hamptons to apply again in the future and to consult with staff about the strengths and weaknesses of their application.

Commissioner Reff asked about the reallocation formula and notice of awards. Mr. Tana reviewed the Committee's formula for reallocating unused money.

Commissioner Muckle asked about notification for the meeting and whether the applicants knew about the committee's recommendations before the HPC's meeting. Mr. Tana said that the applicants were notified of the meeting and sent a link to the grant committee's recommendations posted online.

**MOTION**: Commissioner Schnieder moved to recommend approval of the Historic Property Grant Committee's recommendations to the Planning Board. Commissioners Pruden and Muckle seconded the motion. The motion was approved by acclamation and without objection (6-0).

## **F. NON-CAPITAL GRANT PROGRAM**

### **1. Moyaone Reserve National Register Nomination/Property Documentation**

Mr. Tana presented the staff report. He noted that this was the first Non-Capital Grant Program application. The Moyaone Association submitted an application for \$25,000 to fund the retention of a consultant to conduct research and documentation of the Moyaone Reserve for listing as a National Register Historic District. In conjunction, the Association will be using CLG funds administered by MHT to document 12 properties on MIHP forms. Staff recommended approval of a Non-Capital Grant in the full amount of \$25,000.00.

Mr. Leventhal, current president of the Moyaone Association, spoke about the application. He provided some background on the Moyaone community. He framed the application as part of the conflict with Dominion Energy over the construction of a power plant in part of the reserve. The National Register Historic District designation would trigger Section 106 review of such projects in the future. The Association has some fundraising to do and have reached out to the Mount Vernon Ladies Association and Preservation Maryland.

Commissioner Davidson expressed her appreciation for the Moyaone Association's work.

Commissioner Marcavitch asked about the project's relationship with Charles County. Mr. Leventhal explained that a small part of the Moyaone extends into Charles County and they have been in contact with their County representative.

Commissioner Reff asked about the consultant doing the nomination and MIHP research. Mr. Leventhal said that it was Robinson and Associates and that MHT and the Historic Preservation Section had signed off on the selection.

Commissioner Marcavitch asked Mr. Tana for general feedback about the Non-Capital Grant application process. Mr. Tana responded that it was generally good. Commissioner Marcavitch added that the Non-Capital Grants could be used in combination with some of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area grants.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Schneider moved to approve the Non-Capital Grant in the full amount in accordance with staff's recommendations. Commissioner Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by acclamation and without objection (6-0).

## **E. UPDATE FROM DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION**

Mr. Gross stated that Parks had no substantive items to update the Commission on and asked for questions to relay to the Department of Parks & Recreation.

## **F. COMMISSION STAFF ITEMS**

### **1. HAWP Staff Sign-Offs**

No further questions.

### **2. Properties of Concern**

Mr. Gross said that he and Commissioner Pruden planned to visit the Van Horn-Mitchell House (72-010). Commissioner Marcavitch asked about Williams Plains (71B-003). He said that the City of Bowie was considering mothballing it. Commissioner Marcavitch said that he was going to discuss the matter with the City of Bowie.

### **3. Referrals Report**

No further questions.

### **4. Correspondence Report – No Correspondence Report**

### **5. New Business/Staff Updates**

Mr. Farrar gave an update on Briarley Academy and the County Council's decision (Exhibit 1). Briarley Academy was removed from the County's inventory of historic sites. Staff and Counsel considered appealing the decision and decided against it. Commissioner Pruden asked why an appeal should not be pursued. Mr. Farrar stated the appeal would take a lot of time and resources and if the appeal was successful the cost of repairing the building would be prohibitive.

The joint HPC meeting with the Laurel HPC and staff is planned for March 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Commissioners Schneider and Muckle stated that they would be unable to attend.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Pruden moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Muckle. The motion was approved by acclamation and without objection (6-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Anthony Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'S'.

Tyler Anthony Smith  
Senior Planner  
Historic Preservation Section