

# **HISTORIC PRESERVATION TASK FORCE**

*(Audio Tape was indecipherable; notes are from D. Walker notes)*

Location: **Pinellas County Planning Department**

Date: **July 12, 2006**

Time: **9:00 a.m.**

Attendees: Commissioner Ronnie Duncan, Brian Smith, Jan Luth, Sam Casella, Joan Deming, Bob Jeffrey, Becky Nielsen, Terry Fortner, Robert Ray, Cynthia Tarapani, Jenny Fortner (visitor), and David Walker

## **I. Call to Order – 9:05 a.m.**

### ***Opening Comments –***

- Commissioner Duncan discussed his intent to update the BCC as to the progress the task force has been making – particularly since the request for funding (through the Penny) is expected to be made. Wants to develop a PowerPoint presentation.
- A draft ordinance of the historic preservation program is in today's packet. Would like to have a prototype developed in the Fall for presentation.
- Congratulates Bob Jeffrey and the City of St. Petersburg on a successful Mayor's Summit on Historic Preservation.
- Duncan feels that there is an upswell of historic preservation as redevelopment continues throughout the County. Illustrates the newspaper article on an overlay district in Ozona in order to maintain the character that attracts people to the community in the first place.

## **II. Minutes – May 31, 2006**

- Tarapani commented on page 2 of the minutes. She believes that the State may have a listing of CRMs that have conducted historic surveys. It is understood that the State cannot recommend any one firm but a listing of firms that do this type of work may be obtainable.
- With no further comments, minutes of May 31 passed as corrected.

## **III. Update on (St. Petersburg) Mayor's Summit on Historic Preservation:**

- Bob Jeffrey presented an overview of the proceedings on the Summit. Approximately 200 attended; among them were 50 owners of buildings of historic consideration. He felt that the illustrations of the financial incentives provided a better understanding that preservation projects are financially doable rather than demo/rebuild. The discussion of building codes and preservation was well received because the City's building official has a preservation background and that he understands how to work with the regulations to be code-compliant and respect the historic nature of the structure.
- By August 1, the presentations from the Summit will be on the City's website. Also, the Summit will be replayed on City Government Access, Channel 15.
- City wants to follow up with walking tours.

## **IV. Database Survey Project**

- Staff is continuing to work with Purchasing on finalizing the RFP
- A draft will be forward to the HP RFP subcommittee (Jan, Joan, Becky, and Wally) for further comment.
- With the scheduling for RFP advertising, RFP reviews, etc., it may be October before a consultant would begin the tasks at hand.

## V. **“Road Show”**

- There was considerable discussion on information dissemination and educational component of the HP program. There is a desire to take the HP message “on the road”.
- Joan Deming said that the consultant should be able to help with the public workshops
- Cynthia Tarapani noted that a “canned” presentation would be good for a basic road show; and that she would be willing to do some presentations.
- Others echoed the sentiment that such presentations before a variety of groups would be great to educate and increase awareness.
- Jan Luth stated that she is meeting with St. Pete Beach Preservation Board regarding a locally historic structure. They thought about a museum, as Jan proposed an adapted reuse of the structure as long as the significance was maintained.
- Com. Duncan said that he would like to take a stab at an outline of the PowerPoint presentation within the next couple of weeks
- Beck Neilsen said that this presentation could be used in part for the BCC update presentation.
- J. Luth asked whether we start working at the grassroots level before public officials to get buy-in. We need to get started to see what HP societies’ schedules are like. We need to respect their calendars and agendas.
- C. Tarapani echoed that we need to get to the politicians with the support of the various HP societies. B. Jeffrey said that the HP societies can be our cheerleaders.
- Com. Duncan said that a calendar can be put together over the next two weeks. We can possibly to a road show in strategic areas rather than at individual group meetings. Venues such as Gibbs High School, Largo Feed Store, Palm Harbor White Chapel, Tarpon Springs Train Station or Old City Hall.
- It was noted that the development community needs to be apprised of the HP Task Force effort.
- J. Luth starting a list of groups.

## VI. **Carrots and Sticks:**

- B. Jeffrey presented a tool box of programs, incentives, and information. The tool box was divided by Legislative, Programs, Incentives, and Honors and Information. Responsibilities for the individual tools would need to be denoted. Each item would have a further explanation/definition. It was also suggested to rank or tier the categories to depict the ease to accomplish.
- It was suggested to include “By-Ways” designations

## VII. **Draft Ordinance for HP Program:**

- Brian Smith did an overview of the 1<sup>st</sup> draft of an ordinance for the Countywide Historic Preservation Program. The ordinance is intended to be a model preservation/conservation ordinance. It should define resources or a resource group from whom assistance can be sought.
- There was discussion regarding the creation of an oversight group (can also function as a resource group). J. Luth suggested consideration to naming the Pinellas County Historic Commission as such a group so that a whole other entity does not have to be created. Some staffing of the oversight group may be necessary.
- It was noted that archaeology needs to be mentioned in the ordinance.
- Regarding the implementation of the ordinance, B. Jeffrey emphasized that there needs to be consistency across the County.

- Possibly having a county-wide board (PPC-like makeup) for Preservation
- C. Tarapani thought that a dedicated staff would be needed to carryout the ordinance provisions, because other “priority” can easily overtake preservation projects.
- B. Jeffrey stated that the St. Petersburg neighborhood partnership setup has worked well.
- Com. Duncan stated that he would not like this to become a heavy-handed regulatory ordinance.

VII. **Next Meeting:**

- Next Meeting is slated for Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 am in the Planning Conference Room.