

HISTORIC PRESERVATION TASK FORCE

Location: **Pinellas County Planning Dept. Conference Room**

Date: **January 10, 2008**

Time: **12:00 noon**

Attendees: Commissioner Karen Seel, Brian Smith, Becky Nielsen, Kimberly Hinder, Cynthia Tarapani, Terry Fortner, Sam Casella, Joan Deming, Deborah Lyons, Loretta Wyandt, Bob Jeffrey, Bob Ray, Harlan Meikle, David Walker, Marcel Mohseni and Susan Kinney-Lowell, and New South Associates Patrick Sullivan.

I. Call to Order – 12noon

Commissioner Seel called the meeting to order. Around the room with introductions followed.

II. Minutes – September 20, 2007

Moved by Sam Casella, seconded by Cindy Tarapani, and passed that minutes be approved as published.

III. Belleview Biltmore Project Presentation

Richard Heisenbottle, President of RJ Heisenbottle Architects and Preservation Architect for the Belleview Biltmore Hotel Project. Mr. Heisenbottle introduced George Radder, Legal Counsel for Legg Mason Real Estate Investment, new owners of the Belleview Biltmore Hotel. He then presented a detailed overview of the plans for the restoration of the Belleview Biltmore. After the presentation, Mr. Heisenbottle answered questions from the committee.

IV. Program Status

Review of input from Workshops and Presentations

Brian Smith and Commissioner Seel went to numerous city council meetings from one end of the county to another with overwhelming support as well as the County Commissioners for a brief overview of the Ordinance and it is set to go before the full board on January 22.

Input received included – 1) develop a working group of governmental employees to help in the development review process which could include local building department officials and fire marshals, 2) how a property would be designated ‘historic’ – does someone apply for the designation or would the city or county designate the property ‘historic’ – most everyone felt that the person ought to be able to apply for that designation rather than have it forced upon them, 3) how to designate historic school buildings and keep them from demolition, i.e. South Ward Elementary which is closing next year – it’s been very well maintained over the years and a very historic structure in the City of Clearwater, 4) we’re asking Channel 622 (former Channel 18) to do a show and overview of the Historic Preservation Ordinance and will be taping next week, so that will be available to the cities – the backdrop is going to be a the Belleview Biltmore.

We have also been charged with looking for models where communities have re-used their historic buildings, another suggestion was how the Convention and Visitor’s Bureau could promote tourism for historic resources, districts - the Biltmore and Fenway Hotel (Dunedin) will be prime examples.

Another idea was to have a ‘helping group of experts’, i.e. who would be a structural engineer, historic preservationist, who has a background at looking at a historic hotel that is here locally that someone could consult, having a database of resources that are available so people would know who is talented in this direction.

V. Finalize Draft County Historic Preservation Ordinance

Review of Historic Preservation Ordinance (see attached)

Brian reviewed the red and blue mark-ups and the explained the steps for completion. (*On the BCC agenda for January 22 for authorization to go to public hearing for adoption on February 19*). Much discussion followed on each of the changes proposed by staff and/or the County Attorney's Office. The changes were marked accordingly.

Bob Jeffrey moved, seconded by Cindy Tarapani, to approve the Ordinance as amended, motion carried.

VI. Report on Consultant (New South) Project

Patrick Sullivan, Historian and GIS Technician for this project, works for New South Associates in Stone Mountain, GA.

- Tasks One and Two are close to completion (see Project Update Notes attached) and Mr. Sullivan went into more detail about each tasks success and 'failures'.
- The 1991 Historical and Archaeological Piper Survey only included sites in the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County and only identified 100+/- historical sites. There are 10,000+ Florida Master Site Files (FMSF) in the County which includes all the historic resources in the Pinellas County's municipalities.
- The committee asked several questions and revisions to the Historic Themes. These were discussed and changed/modified.
- Each category would have two primary themes and two sub-themes to each (or most) primary themes.
- First draft of report is due February 20 to Marcel and then send electronic copy to each member of this committee for review and feed back around March 1. The final report is due (approximately) the second week in May.

VII. Grant Submittal for Tool Box Project to State - attached

VIII. Review of other aspects of the Program

- February 19 at 6:30 p.m. for Ordinance adoption – as many attend as possible
- Final Report – Cindy reviewed the items the committee talked about including in the report - with a deadline for presentation by February 19 - do you want hardcopy, electronic or both

IX. Adjourn – 3:05 p.m.