

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD (HPB) MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 21, 2013

Time: 10:00 a.m..

Location: Pinellas County Strategic Planning & Initiatives
310 Court Street, Clearwater

Attendees: Commissioner Charlie Justice; Wally Clark; Gina Clayton; Emily Elwin; Rae Claire Johnson; Marcel Mohseni, John Peter Barie; David Sadowsky; Gordon Beardslee; Loretta Wyandt; Vinnie Luisi; Brian Smith

- I. Call to Order - Commissioner Charlie Justice called the meeting to order. He then reminded the HPB about the Sunshine Law, and to act accordingly.
- II. The Minutes of July 17 were approved unanimously.
- III. Discuss and Consider Approval of Rules and Procedures: Marcel Mohseni presented the updated draft . Brian Smith asked about the alternate; if they can participate in discussions without voting, and would they be sworn in. He also asked about the annual elections- should there be a date? Loretta questioned what constituted a quorum, if an alternate can replace a member and vote. David Sadowsky clarified that if a Board member is not present, the alternate can vote in their place. The Rules and procedures were unanimously approved.
- IV. Review of Certificate of Appropriateness Application in Palm Harbor: Marcel reviewed the application using photos and graphics for further clarification. He explained the design criteria and how the design of the duplex met the criteria. He stated that the surrounding property owners have been notified of the construction, and there have been no objections. John Barie questioned the gable roof in the examples being compatible with a hip roof. He also asked if any color samples were submitted. Commissioner Justice asked if there is a process for swearing in. Using a simple oath, the applicant was sworn in. He declined to make a presentation, and went to answering questions from the Board. First question was on colors - he submitted 3 or 4 color samples, if the Board does not like the colors, he will work with the Board and change them. Brian suggested having a paragraph on the first page describing the proposal, as it's currently on the 4th page. The question of the structure having a hip roof was brought up again. A hip roof is compatible, but a gable roof would better blend with the design of the surrounding buildings. Loretta asked if there was a reason the front & rear windows are different. The applicant responded that it had to do with the view, and one is a bedroom window. John requested the applicant have a wider trim on the windows, 4 or 5 inches, and to include a sill. Gina asked about the setbacks on Florida Ave. Marcel stated that there is a minimum for the old buildings of 10 feet, but some other buildings have 20 feet. The applicant building will have a setback of 21 feet. Gina expressed concern about the fact that there is no front door on Florida Ave, where the other buildings are orientated to Florida Ave. Discussion followed on pros and cons of the doorway facing Florida Avenue. A suggestion was made to giving the building an illusion of a door. The applicant stated that he is willing to change the door. As there were no other comments from the public, Commissioner Justice closed the public hearing. John Barie made a motion to ask the applicant to consider changing the hip roof that faces Florida Ave. to a hip roof with a gable, similar to one that exists at the Witches Brew. The motion was passed to make this request.

Brian Smith requested that the modification to the windows and door be recorded. A motion was made to approve the COA , with a request for modifications to the window sills on the south side facing Florida Ave., the location of the door, and the consideration of a gable roof. The motion passed without objection. John Barrie requested that in the future, the Board receive the materials, such as paint colors, as part of the presentation for the COA so that they might review them ahead of time.

V. Consideration of Local Designation of Fort DeSoto Site – This item was postponed until the next meeting.

VI. Summary and Status of Committee Work Programs:

Toolbox Committee: Gina presented the status of her committee, and gave an overview of the progress since 2007. As they never received funding for a booklet, they are now hoping to post the information on the website. The next step is to figure out how to present the information to the public. She asked if any Board members might be able to use their expertise to help. Discussion followed on how best to move forward. The question and answer format was discussed. Brian suggested dividing it into subjects, and using a summary page, in addition to the question and answers. Vinnie, Wally and Gina are on the committee, and Rae Clair (?) offered to join the committee. John offered to join the Education Committee. John has looked at the website, but is awaiting a return phone call from Cynthia Tarapani then he will discuss it at the next meeting.

Historic Preservation Network and Summit – Commissioner Justice asked the Board if they are still interested in the summit. The members all agreed that it was a good idea, and worth pursuing. The original list of the Historic Preservation network needs updating, and then a notice inviting those listed can be sent out. Commissioner Justice reminded the Committees about the requirements for notices for the meetings. David Sadowsky told the Committees to work with staff to set up the meetings, to comply with public record. An email will be sent out with the official members of each committee.

Other Items – Marcel mentioned the large number of emails received through the County's HP website regarding requests to save the Biltmore. Rae Clair gave an update on the status of the hotel, they are still hopeful that it can be saved. She suggested that the County have a Historic Preservation office since the City of Belleair, nor the friends of the Bellview Biltmore, do not have the resources. Gina suggested that her organization needs to network with a larger organization. Brian mentioned the CLG application that was made to the State. The approval should help with this process. Marcel said it takes between 3 to 6 months for the review and decision on CLG applications. Brian mentioned the 500 year anniversary proclamation. Comm. Justice will send out a link to the proclamation. Marcel will send a summary of COA staff report the members for their review, the vote is final- this is just a summary.

The next meeting will be September 18th, Commissioner Justice will not be at that meeting. There was some discussion on a date for the summit, Brian suggested coming up with a date at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am