

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD (HPB) MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 19, 2014

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Pinellas County Sustainable Planning & Development
310 Court Street, Clearwater

Attendees: Gina Clayton; Commissioner Charlie Justice; Ralph Reid; Gordon Beardslee; David Sadowsky; Marcel Mohseni; Vinnie Luisi; Cyndi Tarapani; John Barie; Wally Clark; David MacNamee; Bill Wallace, (Clearwater Historical Society); Rebecca S.Schwarz(FDOT); Todd Rogner (FDOT) Eyra Cash (FDOT) Chris Muhrlin; Bob Browning

- I. Call to Order – Commissioner Charlie Justice called the meeting to order.
- II. The Minutes of January 15th – were unanimously approved. Several attendees were sworn in for the Public Hearing portion of the meeting by Marcella Mitchell-Faucette. They were Chris Muhrlin, Bob Browning, Eyra Cash, Rebecca Spain Schwarz, and Todd Rogner. Comm. Justice introduced the new Historic Preservation Board member, Mr. David MacNamee, who then briefed the Board on his background.
- III. Public Hearing: Landmark Designation of Ft. Desoto Batteries: Gordon Beardslee introduced the public hearing, and Marcel Mohseni provided a description of the proposed Landmark & Landmark site. He then introduced two Parks & Conservation employees who work at Fort DeSoto Park. Bob Browning described the history and details of the Fort DeSoto activities, including the history of the Batteries and structures that once stood at the military post. After this presentation, a motion was introduced to recommend designation of the Fort DeSoto Batteries and Military Post as a Landmark & Landmark Site. The motion was passed unanimously, 6-0.
- IV. Sunshine Speedway-DOT Request for Evaluation & Review: Commission Justice moved this item up on the agenda to accommodate the FDOT staff present at the meeting. FDOT made a presentation describing the Gateway transportation project that involves the Sunshine Speedway property. The first phase of the project will start in July of this year. Several cultural resource surveys was done, including one by Janus Research, of the Sunshine Speedway property and concluded that the property was a historic cultural resource. The Cultural Resource survey has determined that the Sunshine Speedway property is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The boundaries were then defined by the resource group that makes up the Speedway. FDOT reviewed the Gateway project's impacts to the Speedway. They discussed the entranceway and the columns on Ulmerton Road, and efforts to preserve the original columns. They are reaching out to the community, and Historic Preservation organizations that are interested in working with them. The Speedway will remain open, and the only impact so far will be a reduction in parking, and possibly moving the entrance columns. FDOT will look at preserving/relocating the columns as Ulmerton Road is reworked. John Barie questioned the need for sidewalks, as then the columns would not have to be moved. It was agreed that FDOT will keep the Board informed as to any developments/impacts as the project moves forward, to enable the Board to weigh in before any decisions are made on the final design for the Gateway Project.

- V. 2014 Historic Preservation Summit-Follow-up Commissioner Justice reviewed the results of the Historic Preservation Summit. He distributed the survey responses, which were very positive. John Barie asked if any sponsors came forward for the next Summit. It was noted that no one has come forward. He then asked how many people signed up to be part of the network. Marcel said it was 22, including some members of the Board. Discussion followed on selecting the next date, and how often to hold it during the year. It was decided that June 18th, at 1:00 pm will be the next date for the Summit. John questioned posting the names of the network members on the web. It was decided that the names and email addresses will be posted. He also asked about a blog, and chat room on the website. David Sadowsky replied that it should not be run through the website. A separate Facebook page would be permissible. Commissioner Justice's office will coordinate with the CVB for the next Summit. Gordon will check on Heritage Village's availability for the Summit.
- VI. Ozona (OVIS) Letter for Ozona Hall National Register Designation – Brian Smith was not able to attend this meeting, so Gordon discussed with the Board the status of this item, and discussion ensued as to the role the Board would play, and how much assistance should be made available by the Board staff. It was decided to further discuss this with Brian when he is available.
- VII. Clearwater Historical Society email/request re: South Ward School – Comm. Justice read the request from William Wallace, President of the Clearwater Historical Society requesting County assistance obtaining a lease from the School Board to operate it as a museum. Gordon questioned if the Board should be involved in negotiations between the School Board and the CHS. Bill Wallace introduced himself, and gave a history of the South Ward School. The Clearwater Historical Society would like to convert it to a resource center with a museum, along with other non-profit groups. They are asking for any assistance/help as they are currently working with the School Board on the lease. The Board agreed to draft a letter of support for the CHS.
- VIII. National Register Recommendation Letters from FL Dept. of State – These are the three letters from the Dept. of State for Gulfport Casino, Tarpon Springs Sponge Docks and the Dunedin Golf Course. Gordon stated that it was hoped they would receive information on exactly what these are. They did get information on the Casino and the Sponge Docks, then they are being reviewed at the State level, and the State has recommended that they be listed on the National Register. We did not get anything regarding the Dunedin Golf Course. Gordon stated that these are just informational, as there is no back up material yet from the State. Commissioner Justice asked if these three sites will go on our list of potential sites for local designation. Gordon replied that they are all in municipalities, and Comm. Justice replied that they might be able to move up on the list with the municipal support.

- IX. Other Business– Marcel reported he had the final staff signature for contractual agreements on the CLG contract agreement. Marcel also stated that it will go before the Commission for signature, then to Tallahassee. Three applications were received from the City of St. Petersburg requesting property tax exemptions. John Barie spoke with Senator Latvala in Tallahassee asking his support of State Cultural Grants, and their support for Historic Preservation.