

Florida Historical Commission
500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida, Room 307 R.A. Gray Building
Friday, December 1, 2017 9:00 a.m. - Conclusion

Meeting Minutes

Commission Members Present In-Person: Mr. Steve Birtman; Dr. Clifford Smith.

Commission Members Participating via Teleconference: Ms. Marion Almy, Chair; Mr. Rick Gonzalez, Vice Chair; Ms. Kathy Fleming; Mr. John Phelps; Mr. Bob Ward.

Commission Members Not Present: Ms. Judy Kane; Ms. Ellen Uguccioni.

DOS Staff Members Present: Dr. Timothy Parsons, Division Director; Dr. Angela Tomlinson, Assistant Director; Ms. Alissa Lotane, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation; Dr. Sarah Liko, Program Administrator; Ms. Susanne Hunt, Outreach Program Coordinator; Mr. Ruben Acosta, Survey and Registration Supervisor.

Members of the Public Present: None.

Item I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Almy called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and asked Dr. Liko to call the roll. Quorum was confirmed.

Item II. Introduction of Commission, Staff & Guests

Chairman Almy asked the commissioners, staff, and guests to introduce themselves.

Item III. Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Almy proposed an alteration to the agenda – to move the Director’s Comments and Capitol Complex recommendations to Item IV. She asked for a motion to adopt the December 1, 2017, FHC business meeting agenda as amended. Mr. Ward so moved, and Ms. Fleming seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item IV. Director’s Comments

Chairman Almy recognized Dr. Parsons to give the Director’s Comments. Dr. Parsons began by giving his appreciation to the commissioners for their service on the FHC. He provided updates on two primary topics: the effects of Hurricane Irma on historical properties, and congressional tax reform and its effects on the Historic Tax Credit (HTC). He explained that Division of Historical Resources (DHR) staff had reached out to the Certified Local Governments (CLGs), and examined NOAA aerial photography. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) have requested reports from affected states in order to lobby members of Congress for a supplemental allotment. DHR is working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), participating in scoping meetings, but currently does not have an estimate of impact. DHR staff are waiting on an estimate from FEMA, and will then have better idea of how it will affect our workload.

Dr. Parsons then discussed the HTC, and the amendment proposed by Senator Bill Cassidy, Louisiana, during tax reform discussions to preserve the tax credit. He explained that NCSHPO is waiting to see how Congress acts. He informed the commissioners that he would pass on any information as we find out. Dr. Smith asked if the FHC can draft a letter to be sent in support of the tax credit. Dr. Parsons answered yes, if they wish. Mr. Birtman agreed that it was a good idea, but recommended sending a letter to Senator Cassidy thanking him for his support of the HTC, and to copy Florida's federal representatives. Dr. Smith moved to send a letter of support to Senator Cassidy to thank him for his hard work and for preservation of the HTC. Ms. Fleming seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Chairman Almy asked if Dr. Parsons would draft the letter. Dr. Parsons answered yes. Chairman Almy asked if he had further comments. Dr. Parsons added that legislative session would begin soon, and that DHR did not have any legislative budget requests and at this time no indication of any major potential changes to our budget. Additionally, he explained that there was no major legislation that had yet been filed that would affect our programs.

Chairman Almy asked Dr. Parsons to provide his comments on the Capitol Complex recommendations report. Dr. Parsons explained that he had several meetings with Department of Management Services staff regarding what they needed. The recommendations for the monuments themselves came from several sources, including feedback from the FHC, background research on different types of monuments in each of these categories in other states, and guidelines from other organizations, in particular the POW Chair of Honor memorial. He then prepared a document in a straightforward way to receive feedback from commissioners. He added that the Dozier School memorial recommendations came straight from the Dozier task force. Chairman Almy asked Mr. Birtman to provide the FHC his comments on the document, as a member of the review subcommittee with Mr. Phelps.

Mr. Birtman explained that he liked all of the ideas in the document, but thought that there should be a basic inventory of how much space is available. He shared his opinion that there needs to be a thought process that includes setting aside a certain percentage of the space for the future. He added that it is difficult to come up with designs and ideas for monuments if there is no basic information about size and placement. Mr. Birtman believes that some space should be set aside for the future, and that there should be broad guidelines on size and materials. He agreed with the recommendation prepared by Dr. Parsons that specified the type of granite used for monuments. Mr. Birtman said that he believes there is a DMS rule for the selection of artists and thinks that information should be included in the report. Dr. Smith agreed that the general parameters – location, space, limitations (weight, height, materials), shape – must be addressed in the recommendations. Mr. Birtman continued that he also believes the report should address funding. Mr. Phelps said that he wondered if the legislation itself provides enough guidance for DMS to manage this process. He added that there is a question of existing monuments, and that the repositioning of existing monuments should be included in the recommendations. Mr. Phelps thinks that some of the monuments could be replaced in a thematic way as a part of the new plan. Addressing the Holocaust memorial, he believes that the theme of "Never Again" is consistent

among other Holocaust memorials, and thinks that this could be a concept incorporated into the Florida monument in Hebrew and in English. Mr. Birtman agreed but added that the people who are proponents of each monument are going to have their own specific thoughts. He agreed with Mr. Phelps that the underpinning legislation does not provide enough detail to DMS to guide the process. Dr. Parsons answered that DMS does have the authority to go through the rule making process, and it is his understanding that they are going through that process and it will include very specific design guidelines. Dr. Parsons has not been provided their draft design recommendations. He said that he is not sure what stage of the rule making process they are in, but he believes the draft stage. Dr. Parsons added that the FHC recommendations may be incorporated, but he is not sure how wedded they are in their design guidelines. Mr. Phelps asked if rule making is a lengthy process. Dr. Parsons answered that the shortest amount of time it can last is 90 days, but that it is difficult to predict how long it will take. Mr. Phelps asked if DMS considers the guidance it has in the existing statute to be sufficiently clear to make the decisions they need to make about placement or if they need additional refinements of that. Dr. Parsons answered that he cannot speak to that, and knows they must consider primarily the weight limits but without knowing the designs that will be adopted it is difficult to discuss placement of particular monuments. He believes DMS does not have enough guidance from the statute alone. Mr. Phelps would like to know more from Mr. Berger with DMS, but thinks the document is an excellent beginning that will help to rationalize the process. Dr. Parsons asked the commission if the FHC should provide information to DMS before their rule. Mr. Birtman said he would prefer making specific recommendations on design to DMS, and requested a general layout from DMS regarding more specific information on weight distributions and areas of use. Mr. Phelps asked if there needed to be a motion on the proposal. Chairman Almy answered yes. Mr. Phelps moved to provide Dr. Parsons the ability to make whatever changes that would need to be incorporated into the recommendations report. Mr. Birtman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item V. Chairman's Comments

None.

Item VI. Approval of Minutes from August 11, 2017, Meeting

Chairman Almy asked if there were any comments on the draft minutes from the August 11, 2017, business meeting. No comments were heard. Mr. Gonzalez moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Ward seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item VII. Committee Reports

Chairman Almy asked if Dr. Parsons would give the Bureau of Archaeological Research (BAR) updates since Dr. Glowacki was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Parsons began by discussing how the underwater team had completed fieldwork for their 2017 season at the Manasota Key Offshore Site, which is an inundated peat cemetery, similar to Windover. He discussed the variety of artifacts found at the site associated with several burials, including textiles, wooden stakes, and other items. Dr. Parsons explained that the site is at risk due to natural and human impacts, and that BAR underwater staff have been working with law enforcement to protect the site. Partnerships have been made with numerous organizations and universities, including the Gulf Coast Community Foundation (GCCF), Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Historic

Preservation Office (THPO), Florida State University (FSU), the Southeast Archaeological Center (SEAC), and Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). He explained that it is a significant site, and in coming months DHR staff will be working toward a public roll out with GCCF, ensuring that the information put out about the site is geared toward preservation and protection. Dr. Parsons continued the BAR updates by discussing how Public Lands Archaeology (PLA) has been continuing reviewing management plans and conducting archaeological surveys on state lands.

Chairman Almy asked Dr. Parsons to clarify a comment on the Manasota Site. He explained that they seem to be stacked burials, and there are very small pieces of textiles. Chairman Almy asked if there are other artifacts, and Dr. Parsons answered there are no lithics that he knows of, but wooden stakes are present at the site. Chairman Almy added that a site near Little Salt Spring also had these types of stakes. She asked if GCCF could apply for a special category grant for a project related to this site. Dr. Parsons answered yes they could apply. Chairman Almy asked if DHR grants can be used for research and publishing information about the site, presenting it to the public. Dr. Parsons answered yes. He explained that the focus is now on conservation of the artifacts and on presentations and write-ups, including peer-reviewed publications. Ms. Fleming asked if skeletal remains will be repatriated. Dr. Parsons answered that the conversation has only taken place at a high level up to this point, but it is not a matter of if but when they will be repatriated, both the skeletal remains and the associated goods. He added that he has had conversations with Dr. Paul Backhouse of the Seminole THPO and that we fully intend to comply with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Mr. Birtman asked how one determines which group the human remains are related to. Dr. Parsons answered that it is a complicated process, but the law tells us that tribes do not have to prove genetic relationships to claim ancestry. He added that typically with NAGPRA in Florida, the Seminoles are one of the main groups who work on repatriation.

Chairman Almy recognized Ms. Lotane to give the Bureau of Historic Preservation (BHP) updates. Ms. Lotane began with National Register (NR) update, and introduced Mr. Acosta. Mr. Acosta gave a brief report recapping the November 30th NR meeting. He thanked Dr. Smith for being the newly appointed NR Review Board chair, in addition to the other board members. He explained that nine properties had been listed on the NR since the previous FHC meeting. At the previous day's NR meeting, all five nominations were approved and will be forwarded to the National Park Service.

Ms. Lotane continued her updates announcing two new Site File employees and work by Mr. Chip Birdsong on GIS modeling of historic resources and impacts of sea level rise. The Compliance and Review section expects 7,600 reviews in the 2017 calendar year, the most seen since 2008. She also discussed staffing updates, including the resignation of Mr. Daniel McClarnon. She explained that DHR is looking into a new funding agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA). In the Architectural Preservation Services section, she discussed how Mr. Ken Cureton resigned from his position to take other employment and that Mr. Rick Hilburn will take over his workload in the interim. Ms. Lotane next discussed the Main Street program, which completed

two Main Street 101 meetings, organized reconnaissance trips for new Main Street communities, and moved forward with a new online reporting system. The Certified Local Governments (CLG) program is still looking for a coordinator, and DHR staff had been proceeding with interviews. The CLG program has received an application from City of Arcadia, which would bring the total number of CLG's in Florida to 75 if they are certified. She explained to the commissioners that DHR staff resolved issues with the City of Lake Worth on their ordinance, which has been approved by their city commission. Chairman Almy asked how soon DHR staff hoped to replace Mr. McClarnon's position. Ms. Lotane explained that they are working on the position description now, and plan to advertise the position.

Chairman Almy recognized Dr. Tomlinson to give the Grants Program updates. Dr. Tomlinson discussed staff changes, and then briefly recapped the FY 2019 Special Category grant application review meeting on November 2nd. Sixty applications were reviewed by FHC commissioners, and of those 50 met the scoring threshold to move forward. She thanked the commissioners for their hard work to review the applications in one day. She explained that the recommended list had gone to the Secretary of State for his approval, and that DHR staff will share the approved list with the FHC. In terms of outreach, Grants staff have partnered with the Division of Cultural Affairs (DCA) on a series of workshops, and four are scheduled over the next few months. Dr. Tomlinson then discussed how staff were working on improving the grants rule to address questions that regularly come up and to improve the process. She informed the commissioners that they will receive an email with a draft of any proposed revisions.

Mr. Birtman asked Dr. Tomlinson to confirm that there is not yet a finalized recommended Special Category list. Dr. Tomlinson answered yes, it is still with Secretary Detzner. Mr. Birtman said that he asked because legislative session is beginning, and Dr. Tomlinson answered that she thinks the list should be finalized soon. Mr. Birtman and Mr. Phelps said that would like to receive the list, and Dr. Tomlinson answered that staff will send it out to them.

Item VIII. Business Items

The commissioners discussed dates for the next meeting, and agreed to meet in March. Chairman Almy asked Dr. Liko to send out a poll to determine the exact meeting date.

Item IX. Other Business

Mr. Gonzalez provided an update regarding a town hall meeting in Miami-Dade County regarding the Coconut Grove Playhouse. He stressed the opportunity he believes the FHC has to make a difference to whether a major landmark is saved or demolished. Mr. Gonzalez said it is a critical time to change the direction of this project and to prevent façadism. Ms. Fleming asked if there is an action item. Mr. Gonzalez said he believes that the public has been misinformed that preserving the façade of the building will be historic preservation. He suggested sending a letter to the Lieutenant Governor, taking the position that the Heisenbottle proposal for the building is the only one that is historic preservation. Dr. Tomlinson informed the commissioners that a letter mentioned by Mr. Gonzalez regarding seven violations to the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Architectural Preservation was from DHR staff, from the Grants Section specifically, because there was a Special Category grant application for the project. Mr. Gonzalez asked DHR staff to send a copy of the letter to the Lieutenant Governor, and to try to meet with him in person. He also asked if it would be possible to set up a call with Secretary Detzner. Dr. Tomlinson said that

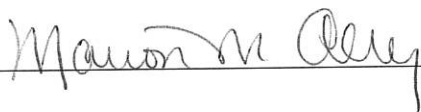
she and Ms. Lotane would talk with Dr. Parsons regarding Mr. Gonzalez's concerns after the meeting.


Item X. Public Comment

None.

Item XI. Adjourn

Mr. Phelps moved to adjourn at 10:36 a.m.

 _____ Presiding Officer

 _____ State Historic Preservation Officer and
Director, Division of Historical Resources

Approved: _____