

**Florida Historical Commission
R.A. Gray Building
Tallahassee, FL
October 17, 2016**

Commission Members Present:

Commission Chair Marion Almy; Commissioner Bob Ward; Commissioner Rick Gonzalez; Commissioner Steve Birtman; Commissioner Clifford Smith, Ph.D.; Commissioner John Phelps.

Staff Members Present:

Timothy A. Parsons, Ph.D., Director, Division of Historical Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer; Angela Tomlinson, Ph.D., Assistant Director; Nicholas Yarbrough, Assistant to the Director; Drew Begley, Historic Preservation Grants Specialist; Michael Hart, State Historical Marker Coordinator; Alissa Lotane, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation; Dr. Mary Glowacki, Ph.D., Chief, Bureau of Archaeological Research; Michael Zimny, Historic Sites Specialist; Vincent Birdsong, Florida Master Site File Supervisor.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at: 10:36 a.m.

II. Introduction of Commission, Staff & Guests

DHR staff who were in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Adoption of Agenda

The adoption of the agenda was moved to after the lunch break when the Commission reconvened and a quorum was reached. Following the lunch break, **Commissioner Birtman motioned to adopt the agenda and Commissioner Gonzalez seconded that motion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

IV. Approval of Minutes from August 4, 2016 Meeting

The adoption of the minutes was moved to after the lunch break when the Commission reconvened and a quorum was reached. Following the lunch break, **Commissioner Ward motioned to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting and Commissioner Birtman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

V. Director's Comments

Dr. Parsons provided instructions on how to access the webinar and how to use the various features of the webinar for any who may be listening. Dr. Parsons clarified that this is a public meeting and that it is being recorded. Dr. Parsons welcomed the commissioners and talked briefly about the recent \$1.50 per hour raise for OPS employees. He said that Bureau Chief Lotane is updating the National Park Service comprehensive plan to ensure that archaeology is better represented in this plan. Dr. Parsons provided an update on the budget request for the upcoming Florida Legislative session. Items on the submitted budget included BAR scientific equipment requests and an item for maintaining funding for staff and programs.

Dr. Parsons discussed preparing DHR for the upcoming legislative session. Dr. Parsons reminded the Commission that DHR cannot and will not lobby, but will provide information to those who are interested in doing so. Chairman Almy mentioned the need for Commission members to be knowledgeable and prepared on the permitting issue. Chairman Almy asked that the Division add commissioners to a list to receive updates and more information on the subject and Dr. Parsons indicated that staff would put them in touch with the appropriate contacts and resources.

Dr. Parsons provided an update on the state's Historic Preservation Fund re-authorization. The Historic Preservation Fund has never been fully funded. There are three paths to reauthorization. The first is as a part of an energy bill, the second as a centennial bill, and the third as a stand-alone bill. Dr. Parsons explained the various uses for HPF National Park Service funding in DHR, saying that it has always been re-authorized, and has bi-partisan support.

Program updates:

A company operating under a 1A-31 permit issued by DHR recently found cultural resources off the coast of Cape Canaveral that are believed to be related to the 1565 Ribault fleet. Dr. Parsons explained the process by which the salvage company and the Division have come to the current point, and his participation in a UNESCO meeting in Paris. The company has petitioned for an admiralty arrest and DHR has been in frequent contact with individuals within the French government in Paris.

The CLG certification for the town of Belleview will not be revoked. The National Park Service indicated they would not approve a CLG de-certification for this community. In light of the likelihood of this certification not being approved, DHR decided not to put staff time towards a project that would probably not be authorized, preferring to dedicate staff time to training, education, and improvement.

Chairman Almy talked about the importance of CLGs. Mr. Ward asked for clarification and Dr. Parsons provided a brief update on the process that led to this point for the Belleview Biltmore Hotel. The Division had no statutory means to work towards a preservation outcome. The CLG approved demolition and the developer was able to move forward with that project. The hotel was largely demolished. The baseline for preservation was non-existent in this case and there was no legal authority for the State to step in and prevent the demolition. The CLG had that authority and they permitted the demolition.

Mr. Gonzalez discussed his experience with this matter and said that the town demolished 85% of its own historical resources with this action. In his opinion, the building was solid and could have been reused. Commissioner Gonzalez stated that the board ignored the local historic

ordinance, the CLG did not uphold its responsibility, and the CLG should have been disbanded on the grounds that they did not follow their own ordinance. Commissioner Gonzalez expressed his opinion that their CLG should be de-certified. Commissioner Smith spoke about the land development regulations and how critical those are to preserving and protecting such resources and how sometimes the important work can only be done at the local level. Chairman Almy asked for any other questions, no questions were asked and Dr. Parsons concluded his report.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Bureau of Archaeological Research Update

Dr. Glowacki opened her report with the underwater archaeology program. The Bureau of Archaeological Research is currently involved in research at a submerged prehistoric site off of Venice beach that was identified by fossil hunters. This is a rare Archaic period site with inundated burials that have been preserved since seas rose higher thousands of years ago. The site appears to be as significant as the Windover site in the Titusville area. Radiocarbon samples have been taken and actual burials have been recognized in a peat bog environment. Remote sensing is being applied to identify those contexts for future submerged prehistoric sites related to burials. The site is very sensitive and BAR is working with various tribes, local FWC, and dive shops to prevent anyone from disturbing the site.

The Bureau has a new Senior Archaeologist, Melissa Price, who is now in charge of the archaeological preserves and is working to expand the number of sites. Another new archaeologist, Dr. Paulette McFadden, has been meeting with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff to assess what kind of training programs would be useful to them and what kind of training they would like from BAR. Dr. Ryan Duggins, Julie Duggins, Dr. Jason O'Donoghue, and Dr. Dan Seinfeld will present their current research projects at the upcoming SEAC conference in addition to Dr. Parsons who will be speaking on regulatory archaeology.

Dr. Glowacki discussed the Collections facility and how DHR is working with the Division of Management Services to improve the facility so that more space can be added. BAR is also working to invest in updating the effective but aging collections database. A 3-D artifact website is being created to make artifacts in the collection more widely available. Dr. Glowacki pointed out that the Conservation program has one of the best labs in the Southeast that can address many conservation issues. Collections and Conservation will soon hire a new assistant. Dr. Glowacki recognized Dr. Seinfeld for his work with officials in the State of New York who wanted to use Florida's unmarked remains program as a model for developing their own program.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked if BAR has had a chance to assess hurricane damage on the East coast of Florida, specifically in and around St. Augustine. Dr. Glowacki responded that DHR has a system in place to allow the land managers to make their own assessments and to update DHR. The Florida Public Archaeology Network also has teams of volunteers who assess these sites and they are reporting back to staff as well.

Commissioner Ward asked for some more information on the Archaeological Resources Management training and law enforcement training. Dr. Glowacki explained how the training is aimed at helping law enforcement officers and land managers understand the various facets of archaeology in the state. The training also teaches them how to recognize, protect, and enforce

the laws on this subject. Chairman Almy asked for a copy of Dr. Duggins' research paper for the SEAC conference when it is available. Commissioner Smith expressed his appreciation for Dr. Glowacki's report and his thanks for BAR's work.

B. Bureau of Historic Preservation Update

Bureau Chief Alissa Lotane introduced herself, Ruben Acosta, the new National Register supervisor, and Chip Birdsong, the Florida Master Site File supervisor. Ms. Lotane reminded the Commission that the National Register board needs to have two more meetings by the end of this year. Ms. Lotane discussed events related to Preservation50 and the Division's ongoing work to promote this initiative. Ms. Lotane discussed outreach and promotional events including working with the Florida Public Archaeology Network, the State of Florida Archives, National Public Radio, the Florida Marker Council, the Florida Association of Museums, and the recent event at Wakulla Springs.

State Folklorist Amanda Hardeman is attending the American Folklore Society conference this week in Miami. BHP's webinar presence continues to grow, as they offer various programs including a disaster recovery webinar for local governments, individuals, and non-profits who may need to apply for funding assistance. BHP is sponsoring a historic preservation tax credit program to reach out to developers and realtors. Ms. Lotane also explained that, in the Spring, BHP is planning to host summits and symposiums on cultural resources for a wide audience, from university students to cultural resource firms.

Ms. Lotane discussed the Fruitland Park Casino that was listed on the NR in 2015. The City of Fruitland Park is seeking to demolish the building to replace it with a library, using \$500,000 of State Library grant money. DHR has recommended that the city either find an alternate site or make use of one of several mitigation strategies to preserve as much of the historic building as possible. Commissioner Smith asked if it would be possible to move it to another site and keep its NR designation. Ms. Lotane answered that it is possible but the city has not pursued that option, favoring instead the option to demolish this structure.

Chris Hunt in the Compliance and Review section will soon assume the administration of the 1A-31 permit program. He will work together with BAR staff to administer that program. Dr. Parsons explained that the rationale for this collaboration is to combine the expertise of Compliance and legal knowledge with the archaeological expertise of BAR staff. Ms. Lotane concluded her report by announcing that longtime National Register Historian Bob Jones will retire on October 31, and that Andrew Waber has rejoined the staff of the National Register section.

VII. Business Items

A. Annual Appointment of Selection Committee and Election of the Presiding Officer of the Historic Preservation Awards Nominating Committee (Vote at next meeting)

Chairman Almy clarified the process for selecting this committee and selected Commissioner Ward, Commissioner Smith, and Commissioner Birtman to serve this year. It was recommended that a conference call could be set up for the committee to meet. Chairman Almy

asked DHR staff to send examples of previous nominations along with instructions and a list of previous recipients to Commissioners

B. Vote on a public request for Naming a State Facility

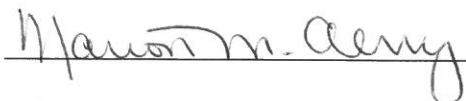
Commissioners reviewed the materials prior to the meeting and were familiar with all of the information pertaining to this request. **Commissioner Ward motioned to approve the naming of a state facility and Commissioner Smith seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

VIII. Other Business

In regards to an earlier discussion on submerged cultural resources, Dr. Parsons mentioned that he occasionally searches Ebay for Florida artifacts to demonstrate that there is an issue of individuals who are selling artifacts taken from sovereign submerged lands. In his opinion, this is why the isolated finds legislation is so important. Commissioner Ward asked how this type of situation would be handled by the State. Dr. Parsons explained that the advertisements claim that all of these materials are "obtained legally." There is very little that state law enforcement can do to pursue single items like this. Dr. Parsons explained that DHR does share this information with FWC partners and that artifacts can be faked, but experts can discern the differences. Dr. Glowacki added that forgeries are also illegal to sell as originals and that FWC can start compiling information on such cases to help put an end to this practice. She mentioned that FWC has worked with BAR to add more game cameras near archaeological sites to arrest individuals who are looting sites in Florida.

IX. Public Comment

The floor was opened to public comment and none was received. The Commission took a lunch break at 12:08 p.m. and later reconvened at 1:04 p.m. for the Special Category Grants portion of the meeting.

 _____ Presiding Officer

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

Approved: _____

