

Florida Historical Commission
R.A. Gray Building, Room 307
Tallahassee, Florida
December 9, 2015

Meeting Minutes

Commission Members Present In-Person: Mr. Steve Birtman

Commission Members Present via Teleconference: Mrs. Marion M. Almy, Chairman; Ms. Kathy A. Fleming; Mr. Rick Gonzalez, AIA, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Judy Kane; Mr. John B. Phelps; and Mr. Bob Ward.

Commission Members Unable to Attend: Dr. Adam J. Hirsch; Mrs. Mimi Reid Hardman; Dr. Clifford E. Smith; and Ms. Ellen J. Uguccioni.

Division of Historical Resources Staff Present: Mr. Robert F. Bendus, State Historic Preservation Officer and Division Director; Ms. Celeste Ivory, Operations Administrator; Ms. Alissa Slade Lotane, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation; Ms. Angela Tomlinson, Program Administrator; Ms. Susanne Hunt, Outreach Programs Supervisor; and Dr. Mary Glowacki, State Archaeologist and Chief, Bureau of Archaeological Research.

Guests Present via Teleconference: Mr. Jeff Caster, State Scenic Highways Coordinator, Florida Department of Transportation; and Ms. Anne Peery, Executive Director, Florida Trust for Historic Preservation.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Almy called for a motion to re-order the agenda allowing business items to be addressed first. Commissioner Phelps so moved. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fleming and approved unanimously.

III. Business Items

A. Capitol Complex Memorials Update

Director Bendus advised that the Department of Management of Services hopes to provide a presentation available to the Commission at the March 2016 meeting.

B. Feasibility Report on a One-Time Artifact Amnesty Program Update

Director Bendus advised on the report the division was mandated to provide to the Governor, Senate President, and House Speaker by October 15, 2015. Director Bendus discussed the study process and findings which resulted in the determination that the costs associated with implementing and monitoring the program far outweighed any potential benefit to the state, therefore concluding implementation of the program is infeasible.

C. Annual Election of the Assistant Presiding Officer

Chairman Almy opened the floor for the annual election of the assistant presiding officer. Commissioner Phelps moved to recommend Vice Chair Gonzalez remain as Assisting Presiding Officer. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Kane and approved unanimously.

D. Recommendation of Historic Preservation Awards

The nominating committee put forth the name of Representative Ron Richmond for the 2016 Mary Call Darby Collins Volunteer Award. The subcommittee report served as a motion. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Ward and approved unanimously.

The nominating committee put forth the name of Dr. Janet Snyder Matthews for the 2016 Senator Bob Williams Public Employee Award. The subcommittee report served as a motion. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fleming and approved unanimously.

IV. Introduction of Commission, Staff & Guests

Commissioners and Division of Historical Resources staff introduced themselves.

V. Approval of Minutes from June 11, 2015 Meeting

Chairman Almy called for a motion to approve the minutes as emailed. Vice Chairman Gonzalez so moved. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Kane and approved unanimously.

VI. Approval of Minutes from September 24 & 25, 2015 Meeting

Item postponed until the next Commission meeting.

VII. Chairman's Comments

Chairman Almy thanked all for their work, and shared her appreciation for the positive feedback she has received from many who have expressed to her their renewed sense of encouragement regarding applying for the division's special category grants.

VIII. Director's Comments

Director Bendus thanked the Commission for their service to the state, time, advice and assistance in preserving the state's historical and archaeological resources. Director Bendus discussed national bills the division is watching, including those related to the reauthorization of the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act; the release of the Governor's recommended state budget, and the need to continue efforts to place the division's legislative budget request for an appropriation to design the expansion of the state archaeological collections facility into subsequent bills as the session progresses; and provided an overview of state bills that have been filed which may impact the division, including SB 154: Prohibited Displays of Confederate Flag or Emblem, HB 141: National Statuary Hall, SB 708: Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys, and HB 803: Historic and Archaeological Artifacts.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Bureau of Archaeological Research Update

Dr. Glowacki advised the Commission on the activities of the bureau. Dr. Glowacki discussed the Public Lands Archaeology Program, including numerous management reviews, terrestrial and aquatic survey work, development of a predictive model to identify prehistoric canoes and a stewarding program designed to assist land managers in identifying cultural resources; Underwater Archaeology Program activity, including new staff members and outreach; Collections and Conservation activity, including laboratory and equipment updates, digital scanning and creating replicas of artifacts, reprocessing of early accessioned collections and processing objects from Operation Timucua; staff participation in the First Floridians: First Americans Conference in Monticello, FL; the recent transfer of Mission San Luis from the bureau to the department's Office of External Affairs; and the Chapter 1A-31, *Florida Administrative Code*: Procedures for Conducting Exploration and Salvage of Historic Shipwrecks program, the 1715 Spanish Plate Fleet shipwrecks and the Sunken Military Craft Act.

B. Bureau of Historic Preservation

Ms. Lotane advised the Commission on the activities of the bureau. Ms. Lotane discussed upcoming Preservation50 activity, and Florida's Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan 2017 - 2021 cycle preparation; Florida Master Site File resource counts, and database updates partnering with the Compliance Review Program; Compliance Review Program activity, including increased efficiency of review turnaround, and a multitude of projects the office is involved with; Florida Historic Golf Heritage Trail activity; Florida Folklife Program activity, including participation in the Maritime Folklife Festival, survey work in Miami, the upcoming 2016 Annual American Folklore Society Meeting; release of the Seminole Wars Heritage Trail and reprint of the World War II Heritage Trail; Florida Main Street Program activity; Historical Marker Program activity, including the refurbishment of various markers, and the recent dedication of the Ernő Dohnányi residence marker in collaboration with the Hungarian government, fabrication of new markers, and recent reviews of marker applications; Survey and Registration activity, including recent National Register listings; Certified Local Governments Program activity; Architectural Preservation Services activity, including review of rehabilitation tax credits, the recent posting of an accessibility report prepared by Mr. Ken Cureton, Preservation Architect; and Grants Program activity, including the recommended funding lists, development of an on-line grants system for management of applications, upcoming Rule 1A-39 updates, and the upcoming retirement of Mr. Grant Gelhardt, Historic Preservation Grants Supervisor.

X. Other Business None.


XI. Public Comment


Ms. Peery discussed areas where the Florida Trust is partnering with the Division, including the upcoming Annual Trust Conference and Preservation 50 planning, and provided an overview of the Trust's Board's legislative submissions.

XII. Adjourn

Chairman Almy called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Fleming so moved. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Ward and approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

 Presiding Officer

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

Approved: 3.25.2016