Meeting Minutes

Commission Members Present: Mrs. Marion M. Almy, Chairman; Mr. Rick Gonzalez, AIA, Vice Chair; Mrs. Mimi Reid Hardman; Mrs. Judy Kane; Mr. John B. Phelps; Dr. Clifford E. Smith, Jr., RPA; and Ms. Ellen J. Uguccioni.

Commission Members Unable to Attend: Mr. Steve Birtman; Ms. Kathy A. Fleming; Dr. Adam J. Hirsch; and Mr. Bob Ward.

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

Guests Present: Mr. Tom Berger, DMS Director of Real Estate Development and Management.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Almy at 1:01 p.m.

II. Introduction of Commission, Staff & Guests

III. Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Almy called for a motion to adopt the agenda as emailed. Vice Chairman Gonzalez so moved. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hardman and approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes from March 11, 2015

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

V. Chairman’s Comments
Chairman Almy expressed the value of attending Commission meetings in-person, and encouraged all Commission members to attend in-person when they can.

VI. Director’s Comments

Director Bendus expressed his appreciation to the Commission for their time and service. Director Bendus advised the Commission on the status of preservation issues at the national level, including the status of the reauthorization of the U.S. Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), Tax Reform efforts and Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives, and a preservation related proviso to the FY16 National Defense Authorization Act in matters of national security. Director Bendus also provided a brief overview of the 2-day Southeast Regional Conference recently held at Mission San Luis in Tallahassee for the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

Commissioner Uguccioni made a motion for the Commission to prepare a resolution regarding the FY16 National Defense Authorization Act as it relates to the proviso regarding National Register listings and National Historic Landmark designations. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Gonzalez and approved unanimously.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Bureau of Archaeological Research Update

Chairman Almy thanked Dr. Glowacki for her recent paper and presentation on the Bureau of Archaeological Research at the Florida Anthropological Society’s Annual Meeting.

Dr. Glowacki advised the Commission on the activities of the bureau. Dr. Glowacki discussed the Public Lands Archaeology Program, including participation in the Acquisition and Restoration Council, survey work, Archaeological Resource Management trainings, and the prehistoric canoe database; Underwater Archaeology Program activity, including survey work, outreach, 1A-31 permitting, and the Underwater Preserves system; Collections and Conservation activity, including the hire of Dr. Daniel Seinfeld as Archaeology Collections and Conservation Supervisor, a State Collections facility update, artifact loans and exhibits, receipt and return of various collections, updates to the Collections database, and the introduction of 3D artifact scanning; staff’s involvement in unmarked graves and NAGPRA cases; the near completion of the overarching archaeology report for the Mission San Luis site; the activities of the Living History Program, and numerous events and facility rentals at Mission San Luis; and the Facebook page for the Bureau of Archaeological Research.

B. Bureau of Historic Preservation Update
Ms. Lotane advised the Commission on the activities of the bureau. Ms. Lotane discussed the upcoming occasion of the Florida Master Site File reaching the count of 200,000 recorded resources; activity of the Compliance Review Office; the upcoming Historic Florida Golf Trail publication; the various activities of the Florida Folklife Program, including participation in the Florida Folk Festival, apprenticeships, travel, and the Folklife survey; upcoming reprints of the World War II Florida Heritage Trail guides and the upcoming release of the Seminole Wars Heritage Trail Guide; Florida Main Street Program activity, meetings and conferences, travel to designated communities, webinars, a new application deadline, and increases to accreditation counts; the need for repairs to state historical markers, and newly fabricated and installed historical markers; new listings to the National Register and the recent dedication of a National Historic Landmark; increased participation in the Certified Local Governments program; and projects reviewed by the Architectural Services Program.

VIII. Business Items

A. Legislative Update

Director Bendus advised the Commission on the current special session of the Florida Legislature in relation to the budget requests of the Department, including the appropriation of funding to purchase two new state vehicles; the anticipated addition of one new archaeology position; funding not yet allocated for the design and construction of a new expanded archaeological collections facility; an increase to the recurring appropriation for small-matching grants to a new total of $1,906,974, which will fully fund the 57 projects on the list; and the variance of appropriations for the special category grants list between the House and Senate.

B. Archaeological Amnesty Feasibility Study

Director Bendus discussed new proviso language requiring the Department, in consultation with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, to study the feasibility of implementing a one-time amnesty program of limited duration for persons who possess specimens, objects, or materials of historical or archaeological value found on land owned or controlled by the state or land owned by a water authority. The due date for the study is October 15, 2015. The Division will be looking for advice from the preservation and archaeological community for a strategy to develop the report, and feedback will be gathered on the feasibility of the program for recommendations.

Director Bendus requested Commission involvement in the State’s efforts to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act in 2016.
Vice Chair Gonzalez advised that the 2016 Florida Trust for Historic Preservation’s Annual Conference will be held in Tallahassee next year, and suggested this may be an opportunity to assist with promotion of the anniversary.

C. Historic Preservation Grants Update

Ms. Lotane advised the Commission that Grants staff are working concurrently in three grant sessions. The staff has reviewed grants cycle dates and grant applications received; scheduled orientation webinar and meeting dates for selection panels; are planning for the upcoming transition into a newly developed online grant system; and are developing Administrative Rule revisions to Chapter 1A-39, Florida Administrative Code.

D. Division Regulatory Plan Update

Ms. Tomlinson provided an overview of upcoming Division rulemaking activity, including general updates for Chapters 1A-32, 1A-36, 1A-38, 1A-40, 1A-44, 1A-46, 1A-48, 1P, and the future adoption of an Administrative Rule for The Grove.

E. Review of a public request for Naming a State Facility

The Commission was presented with a letter from Bill Bridges, Architect with the Department of Children and Families, with regard to naming the Dental Office at Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee for Dr. John Harris, former Dental Director for the Florida Department of Children and Families. Director Bendus discussed the recommendation and authority provided to the Commission in Section 267.062, Florida Statutes, regarding the naming of state buildings and other facilities. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the request for naming the Dental Office at Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee for Dr. John Harris. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Kane and approved unanimously.

F. Capitol Complex Update

Director Bendus updated the Commission on the project. Architectural conceptualizations and designs will be sent to the subcommittee in the coming weeks.

IX. Other Business

Commissioner Hardman discussed preservation issues in Lake Wales.

The next meeting of the Commission for review of Special Category Grants will take place on September 24 and 25, 2015 in Tallahassee. The Online Grants System orientation webinar for the Commission will be held on August 27, 2015.
X. Public Comment

XI. Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

___________________________________ Presiding Officer

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

Approved: ________________________