

Florida Historical Commission
500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida, Room 307 R.A. Gray Building
Friday, August 11, 2017 10:00 a.m. - Conclusion

Meeting Minutes

Commission Members Present In-Person: Ms. Marion Almy, Chair; Mr. Steve Birtman; Dr. Clifford Smith.

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

Commission Members Not Present: Ms. Judy Kane.

DOS Staff Members Present: Dr. Mary Glowacki, Chief, Bureau of Archaeological Research; Ms. Alissa Lotane, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation; Dr. Sarah Liko, Program Administrator; Ms. Susanne Hunt, Outreach Program Coordinator; Dr. Yasha Rodriguez, Grants Supervisor; Mr. Ruben Acosta, Survey and Registration Supervisor.

Members of the Public Present: Mr. Tom Berger; Mr. Dennis Baker; Mr. Pat Hoy; Mr. Roy Clark; Ms. Lou Ann Woerner; Ms. Barbara Goldstein; Mr. Monty Stark; Mr. Jerry Cooper.

Item I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Almy called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 to Item V. She asked for a motion to adopt the August 11, 2017, FHC business meeting agenda as altered. Ms. Fleming so moved, and Mr. Ward seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item IV. Approval of Minutes from May 12, 2017, Meeting

Chairman Almy asked if there were any comments on the draft minutes from the May 12, 2017, business meeting. No comments were heard. Mr. Phelps moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Smith seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item V. Director’s Comments

Chairman Almy recognized Dr. Parsons to give the Director’s comments. Dr. Parsons offered his appreciation to all the commissioners and to staff. He provided a brief update for Fiscal Year 2016-2017, such as reorganizing the Division to provide better transparency, increasing training opportunities for Certified Local Governments (CLGs) through a series of outreach events, increasing collaboration with other Divisions and Departments, establishing the Division’s new

Citizen Support Organization (CSO), conducting a cultural resource summit, hosting a series of webinars, and reestablishing a relationship with the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. He added that this was all accomplished in addition to the Division's statutorily mandated work to further efforts of historic preservation in the state. Dr. Parsons said that this work was possible due to dedicated staff and the support of the FHC and the public. For Fiscal Year 2017-2018, he explained that the Division is planning more outreach and training opportunities for CLGs and more workshops regarding our grant programs in addition to historic tax credit trainings. He announced that the 2018 Legislative session will begin in January, and was currently not aware of any proposed legislation that would affect the Division. He briefly discussed federal proposals regarding the tax credit program and Section 106. Chairman Almy discussed the positives of following the Section 106 process as opposed to streamlining, explaining that it is favorable to keep preservation laws in order to keep communities alive.

Item VI. Business Items

Chairman Almy recognized Mr. Berger to deliver the Department of Management Services (DMS) update. Mr. Berger briefly updated the commissioners regarding construction at the Capitol and the legislation that covers the FHC's involvement in the plan for monuments and memorials. Mr. Berger listed the current approved memorials, and informed the commissioners that construction is at the point on the south side to start receiving input from the FHC. Mr. Berger described the landscape layout of the Senate Garage Capitol Plaza, discussing access and circulation. Mr. Phelps asked what Mr. Berger meant by circulation, which Mr. Berger explained was in reference to pathways and areas where people could congregate. Mr. Berger discussed the design memorial zones, including areas of weight limitation. He asked for the FHC to provide input to DMS.

Mr. Birtman asked if the FHC should be considering the long-term future, taking into account that other memorials and monuments will be considered and approved by the legislature. Mr. Berger answered yes. Mr. Birtman asked if there are mock ups, and Mr. Berger answered that none of the memorials are designed yet but that DMS has provided information regarding materials as advised by the FHC. Mr. Berger said that the process will be laid out through the rules. Ms. Uguccione asked if it is possible to see what has been designed. Mr. Berger answered that Mr. Dennis Baker would be able to provide the commissioners what has currently been designed for the Veterans Memorial. Dr. Smith asked if there is space within the designated monument area for monuments that may exceed the weight limit. Mr. Berger answered that they would plan for that based on the location of other monuments surrounding a larger monument, and that there are weight limitations and specifications that will be provided as the process develops. Mr. Birtman asked about the plantings on the plaza. Mr. Berger answered that those are planned as shrubs, small trees, and grass. Dr. Glowacki asked if additional parking and changes in traffic patterns had been taken into account. Mr. Berger answered that this plan does not address parking. Chairman Almy asked if a committee will be looking at traffic pattern changes. Mr. Berger answered that traffic patterns are not a part of this plan. Mr. Baker added that there are also concerns from veterans regarding parking. Mr. Phelps asked if there is a timeline for construction to conclude in the Senate parking garage. Mr. Berger answered that it is scheduled to be largely completed and able to open by September 2018. Mr. Birtman asked if there is a period of testing, and Mr. Berger answered yes.

Ms. Lotane asked about the monuments that had been removed from the front of the Capitol and placed in storage, specifically if they had been located and if there were plans to replace them. Mr. Berger answered that he was not sure if he was aware of the monuments to which Ms. Lotane was referring. He asked if the Division could provide him the report that she referenced. Dr. Smith requested that DMS locate these monuments and provide a report on their status to the FHC.

Mr. Berger concluded his report by informing that FHC that DMS was requesting their input and recommendations at their next business meeting. Chairman Almy asked if the commissioners would be able to visit the site in person. Mr. Birtman added that it may not be helpful to view the site in person due to the current state of construction. Mr. Berger answered that a visit could be arranged. Mr. Gonzalez asked about shade at the site. Mr. Berger answered that shade will be provided by landscaping and trellises, and has been taken into consideration. Mr. Berger asked if the FHC would make Dr. Parsons their liaison for communications with DMS regarding their recommendations. The FHC approved this suggestion.

Chairman Almy asked for public input, and recognized Ms. Barbara Goldstein. Ms. Goldstein said that once the Holocaust Education Resource Council has more information about the size and design of the Holocaust memorial they will be able to determine how much additional funding they will need to acquire beyond what was appropriated. Ms. Goldstein asked if they would be consulted regarding the design of the memorial. Mr. Birtman answered that he would like their input, but there are a number of commissioners and there will need to be a consensus to ask for the involvement of memorial groups. Chairman Almy agreed that the commission would like to receive input.

Chairman Almy recognized Mr. Jerry Cooper of the White House Boys. Mr. Cooper gave his appreciation to being a part of the process and asked if the commissioners had any questions for him. Mr. Birtman asked him if the group had come up with any ideas for the memorial in Jackson County or at the Capitol. Mr. Cooper answered yes that they have been considering idea, but are still waiting on where the location of the burials will be. He said that their biggest concern at this time is the timeline for reinternment due to the age of the surviving White House Boys. Mr. Berger said that the memorial at the Capitol does require input from the FHC, but a monument cannot be placed until construction is completed. He told Mr. Cooper that he will reach out to him as the process moves along, and would have colleagues reach out to him regarding the reinternment. Mr. Cooper thanked Mr. Berger, and added his request that "Dozier" not be placed on any monuments or memorials. Mr. Berger answered that the legislation does refer to the school as "Dozier," but that they will be reaching out to the White House Boys.

Ms. Uguccioni asked if there is a formal process by which the public can weigh in on monuments and memorials. Mr. Berger answered that legislation must be passed for each monument and memorial. Ms. Uguccioni asked for the statute. Mr. Berger answered F.S. 265.111. Mr. Birtman said that he would appreciate specifics from DMS regarding what kind of input they need from the FHC. Mr. Berger said that he would set a meeting with Dr. Parsons to discuss more specifics.

Chairman Almy recognized Mr. Gonzalez to discuss development pressure in South Florida. Mr. Gonzalez described it as a two-part problem: that because the economy is booming again in Florida there is a pressure for new development or redevelopment, and that the best parts of Florida are historic areas. He said the trend has been to demolish historic buildings and replace them with large modern boxes, and that he is upset that Florida is losing its historic fabric. Mr. Gonzalez gave examples of where he has seen this process unfold, such as Miami Beach, Coconut Grove, the perimeter of St. Augustine, West Palm Beach, and Delray Beach. He feels that protection is mostly on the local level, and would like more protection from the state level. Mr. Gonzalez asked the Division to help out more. Chairman Almy said that she agrees with Mr. Gonzalez, but she is unsure what the FHC can do. She suggested that counties and cities put more money into their historic preservation boards. Mr. Gonzalez suggested that members of the FHC speak to the League of Cities and Association of Counties. He asked if the Division can set something up with these organizations or set up a conference. Ms. Hunt answered that the Division has attended conferences for these organizations the past several years as an exhibitor, but has not presented. Ms. Lotane added that the Bureau of Historic Preservation (BHP) proposed a presentation on tax credits but were advised to present it as a webinar instead. Mr. Gonzalez said that he would be willing to volunteer in whatever way he could. He added that the commissioners needed to get to mayors and city commissioners in order to make any difference in historic preservation. The commissioners were in agreement on this point, but several added that it is a complex issue and bigger problem than the Division or the FHC can fix. Ms. Fleming asked if the FHC can speak out. Chairman Almy answered yes that they all have the ability as citizens of Florida to speak out on preservation. Ms. Fleming added that the difficulty is often that at the point when public comment is solicited, plans have already been finalized. Chairman Almy agreed. Ms. Uguccione discussed her experience working in Miami and Coconut Grove, and how National Register and survey grants are prioritized. Ms. Lotane informed the commissioners that more training webinars are planned. She also discussed the preservation atlas that lists locally recognized properties that are not necessarily recorded in the Florida Master Site File. She added that National Register staff are trying to do more surveys.

Mr. Gonzalez brought up disaster recovery booklets, and suggested a booklet like this regarding new infill development within and at the edges of historic districts for communities to use as a tool. Chairman Almy agreed that this is a good idea, and could be added to a future agenda but funding would need to be found. Ms. Fleming answered that there could be grant funding. Ms. Lotane agreed that booklets are a good idea, but the variation in communities makes it difficult to get very detailed in one document. Mr. Gonzalez answered that the booklet would not contain design guidelines, but be more of a set of examples. He said that the larger problem is that people are not educated, and it would be beneficial to have a book with examples and case studies from around the state in the style of the disaster recovery booklets. Mr. Birtman said that he is afraid we are already a generation too late. Chairman Almy said that the discussion will be reflected in the minutes, and can be discussed under old business at a future meeting. She suggested Dr. Parsons and Ms. Lotane meet to discuss the topic.

Chairman Almy asked the commissioners about possible dates for the next FHC meeting. Discussion ensued regarding potential dates, but because a date could not be settled Chairman Almy asked Dr. Liko to send out a poll with potential dates.

Item VII. Committee Reports

Chairman Almy recognized Dr. Glowacki to give the Bureau of Archaeological Research (BAR) update. Dr. Glowacki provided the commissioners updates on the underwater program whose focus has been a Middle Archaic period submerged cemetery off Venice Beach. She said there has been considerable support from Secretary Detzner and a community organization – the Gulf Coast Community Foundation. She said the site has been bounded and is approximately 17 acres. Dr. Glowacki mentioned several other underwater projects, including vessel wrecks in the Chattahoochee area. She announced that Public Lands Archaeology (PLA) has a new supervisor – Julie Duggins. PLA has added a program training law enforcement to educate them on the laws for protecting archaeological sites and unmarked human burials. Mr. Birtman interjected that he had seen some arrests. Dr. Glowacki said there have been arrests, and that BAR is working with the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission. She informed the commissioners that BAR is planning to create a digital newsletter. Chairman Almy asked that those are also on the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation and Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) websites. Dr. Glowacki said that is part of the plan, and hopes that it will make the public more aware of BAR research. In collections and conservation, Dr. Glowacki discussed how they are hoping to be allocated money from the legislature for a new collections facility. Mr. Birtman asked if the budget request had been approved by Secretary Detzner or Governor Scott yet. Dr. Liko answered no, that the budget request is currently with the Department's legislative affairs. Mr. Birtman added that the Division might also consider making it a multi-year proposal. Dr. Glowacki agreed, and said we are looking at different options. She said that the Division is planning to launch a history in 3D website as a way to make some of the collections more public. She said that the first exhibit is 1715 and 1733 artifact material from the perspective of what people were doing on these ships. Mr. Birtman asked if the site will be easy to share on social media, and Dr. Glowacki answered yes.

Chairman Almy recognized Ms. Lotane to give the BHP update. Ms. Lotane explained that BHP has been focusing on the upcoming Main Street conference. She said that three new Main Street communities (Defuniak Springs, Havana, Frostproof) had been added, bringing the total Main Street communities to 50. She said that BHP would be losing the Main Street assistant, and looking to fill that position. Ms. Lotane informed the commissioners that the Florida Master Site File is over 207,000 resources, and a large amount of information had been delivered by Dr. Rich Estabrook from the University of South Florida. She then discussed how the Compliance and Review section had reviewed over 7,000 projects in Fiscal Year 2016-2017. One staff member, Chris Hunt, has left and they are working to replace him. She briefly touched on several Compliance projects. Ms. Lotane then discussed current work of the Division architects, including reviewing grant projects and tax credit projects. She informed the commissioners that Mr. Michael Zimny would soon be retiring from BHP after over 30 years, and they would be seeking a new CLG coordinator. She said that there had been interest from several cities in becoming CLGs, and mentioned that the City of Lake Worth has made questionable changes to its historic preservation ordinances. Mr. Gonzalez interjected that in Lake Worth the mayor and another city commissioner want to abolish the historic preservation board. Ms. Lotane explained that they have commented on changes that need to be made to the preservation ordinances before they are presented to the board. She further discussed upcoming webinars and trainings, and travel to Baltimore by Mr. Ruben Acosta. Ms. Lotane said BHP is working with that National

Park Conservation Association to establish a Rosenwald National Park to honor Julius Rosenwald. If the park is approved, a visitor center would be located in Chicago and one restored school in each of the southern states where Mr. Rosenwald gave funds. She explained that Florida already has a Rosenwald School survey, and that BHP has been tasked with providing a list of the top 5 or fewer schools to submit for the nomination.

Chairman Almy recognized Mr. Acosta to provide an update of the National Register section. Mr. Acosta explained that two nominations had been accepted by the National Park Service (NPS) and two had been returned for revisions. At the previous day's National Register Review Board meeting, eight nominations were presented and approved. In addition, new officers had been elected, and Dr. Smith would now be serving as the Chair and Ms. Uguccioni as the Vice-Chair.

Chairman Almy recognized Dr. Rodriguez to give the Grants program updates. Dr. Rodriguez discussed staff additions and efforts to travel throughout Florida to offer trainings. She said that the response to these trainings has been excellent. She added that the Grants program is working with Main Street to prepare a specific webinar about new grants available to Main Street communities. Dr. Rodriguez briefly discussed the new grants online portal, and explained that parts of the site are still being developed and tested. She added that the system will also be used by the commissioners to view, score, and comment on applications. Mr. Birtman asked if the new grants system will simplify the process, and Dr. Rodriguez answered yes. Dr. Smith asked when the commissioners would be able to start looking at the applications. Dr. Rodriguez answered that staff were waiting to be able to provide the final applications, and she was hoping to make them available to the commissioners in two weeks. Chairman Almy asked that Dr. Liko send an email confirming the date of the new grants system webinar for commissioners. Mr. Birtman asked if there is any way when grants are funded and finished that a small report with a photo could be provided to the FHC, the public, and the legislature to see the results of the money. Ms. Lotane said that there was a gallery book that had been put together several years ago. Mr. Birtman replied that it would not necessarily need to be a book, but even just distributed photos. Ms. Lotane added that social media is also a way to present this, and Mr. Birtman agreed.

Item VIII. Other Business

Chairman Almy asked if the meetings could start at 9:00 a.m. instead of 10:00 a.m. She also asked that the committee reports be moved toward the beginning of meetings. Mr. Birtman said he agreed, but the FHC should also be considerate of guests. Chairman Almy agreed. Mr. Birtman reiterated that Dr. Parsons will need to meet with DMS soon to find out what exactly is needed from the FHC.

Item IX. Public Comment

None

Item X. Adjourn

Chairman Almy asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Smith so moved.

_____ Presiding Officer

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

Approved: _____

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