

20-2)

CITY OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA REPORT TO MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL



Photo Courtesy of the IRCHS, IRC Archive Center

The City Council annually reviews the activities of City Boards and Commissions. This report provides a review of the actions of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) in 2015 and some of the anticipated activities for 2016. Anna Brady, Chairperson for the Commission will provide the update.

BACKGROUND

The City of Vero Beach is fortunate to have a number of significant historic and cultural resources that serve as a tangible reminder of this City's history, which includes a National Register Historic District. The City's Historic Preservation Commission is dedicated to promoting the preservation, education and awareness of Vero Beach's history and appreciation for its many historical and architecturally significant properties.

After obtaining certification from the National Park Service as a Certified Local Government (CLG) in November 2014, the City of Vero Beach Historic Preservation Commission members spent time and effort in 2015 taking steps to engage the public and increase awareness for the City's local historic designation program. Examples of these efforts included the creation of a new public workshop series titled 'Conversations in Historic Preservation', establishing a historic plaque program for locally designated sites, submitting a state grant to update the historic survey of the McAnsh Park neighborhood and working in partnership with the local Indian River County Historical Society and their Florida Heritage Marker Program.

Program Name	Type of Program	Current Status	Time Frame	Priority
Annual/Past 2015 Projects				
Training & Workshops	Education for staff and commission and public.	CLG Training was provided to the Commission and Staff in Feb. 2015.	On-going	1
Workshop Series: 'Conversations in Historic Preservation'.	Education for staff and commission and public. Outreach	Hosted two public workshops in 2015.	2-3 times Annually	1
Commission Elections	Administration	Election of new Chair and Vice Chair held December 2015	Annually in December.	1
Historic Preservation Month	Education for staff and commission and public. Outreach	Proclamation submitted May 2015	Annually in May	1
Annual CLG Report	Administration	Submitted 11/30/2015	Annually	1
Update: Chapter 76, Article VI. Ad Valorem Tax Incentive Ordinance in the City of Vero Beach Code	Ordinance Revisions	Update completed. Revision extended the ad valorem tax incentive to National Register property owners. Changes were reviewed and approved by the HPC.	Revisions approved in May 2015	N/A
CLG State of Florida Grant Application – Historic Survey Update of the McAnsh Park neighborhood. (\$35,000)	Preservation Tool. New updated Inventory; Partnership Building	Submitted grant in June 2015. Anna Brady, Chair attended grant review process in Tallahassee in Sept. 2015. Although full-funding was recommended, federal/state funding was limited. The project remains unfunded.	As funding allows. Recommend applying for a small-matching grant in 2016 with education component. (if grant remains unfunded after state budget review in Feb. 2016.)	1

Active Projects				
Program Name	Type of Program	Current Status	Time Frame	Priority
Local Landmark Historic Plaque	Education – Economic Development	Final Design to be presented for Commission review & approval at the January 2016 HPC mtg.	January – March 2016. After final approval vendor will fabricate 2 plaques for city-owned landmarks. Plaques will be available for purchase by property owners of locally designated buildings.	1
Florida Heritage (State) Marker – City Hall	Education- Economic Development; Recognition; Partnership Building; Outreach	IRC Historical Society (IRCHS) proposed a Florida Heritage marker to commemorate the history and evolution of City Hall and the City of Vero Beach	December 2015 – April 2016. In process. Ruth Stanbridge and Anna Brady undertook historic research in support of a historic marker application to the State of Florida. City staff will assist with coordinating the dedication ceremony and marker installation.	1
Informational Brochures	Education - Outreach	HPC completed drafts of outreach materials. A full-color rack card and tri-fold informational brochure on Vero's historic preservation program.	As funding allows. (Approx. printing costs \$1200)	1
Mailing to Historic Property Owners & Partial Update of Historic Inventory –	Preservation Tool; Outreach; New Updated Inventory; Administration;	A City-Wide historic inventory was last completed in 1990. This information lacks proper formatting for GIS to sync with Property Appraiser data and acquire property owner information. George Childers (HPC member) is re-formatting the data so that GIS staff can sync data with the County property appraiser	November 2015 – March 2016. Once an accurate listing is complete, the HPC will be able to do targeted outreach to those Vero Beach property owners whose buildings may qualify for a local tax incentive or historic designation. This will only pertain to buildings	1

		records going forward. This project will also make it possible to determine which buildings from the 1990 survey have been demolished, thereby supporting efforts to keep the inventory list updated.	previously surveyed in 1990 which were built prior to 1940. Additionally, it will include those buildings previously surveyed in the 2008 updated Survey of Original Town and Osceola Park. (Built prior to 1960)	
Proposed Projects				
Program Name	Type of Program	Current Status	Time Frame	Priority
Historic Preservation Web site update	Education – Economic Development; Administration	Update the City’s website to revise design and update information.	Anna Brady will work with city staff to update the Historic Preservation web page with links to Tourism and local historical non-profits.	2
Recommend Properties for local Historic Designation/Tax Incentive	Preservation; Outreach; Administration	On hold until staff/resources are available.	On hold. As staff/resources comes available. <i>(The targeted mailing will fulfill a portion of this project once the database updates are completed.)</i>	2
Preservation Awards	Preservation; Education; Outreach	The HPC will work to put a foundation in place for an awards program in 2016-2017 to encourage the appropriate rehabilitation of historic properties.	February 2016 – December 2016 or as staff/funding/volunteer is available to support this effort.	2
National Register Individual/District Nominations	Education; Economic Development; Outreach	Chair Anna Brady will work with a volunteer to identify and write National Register	Ongoing	2

		Nominations for qualified properties in the City of Vero Beach.		
Small-Matching Grant (approx. \$35,000)	Preservation Tool; New updated Inventory; Administration.	If the previous grant remains unfunded, the HPC will request a 50% match from City Council to apply for a small-matching state grant to conduct a historic survey of McAnsh Park.	June 1, 2016 - Deadline	1