HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING (HPC)
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2017 9:30 A.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   A) April 13, 2017
3. PUBLIC COMMENT
4. OLD BUSINESS
   A) CLG Workshop Update
   B) PR Plan
   C) CR Surveyor Grant
   D) Commission Vacancies
5. NEW BUSINESS
   A) Summer Meeting Schedule
6. MEMBER’S MATTERS
7. CHAIRMAN’S MATTERS
8. STAFF MATTERS
9. ADJOURNMENT

This is a public meeting. Should any interested party seek to appeal any decision made by Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he will need a record of the proceedings and that, for such purpose he may need to ensure that a record of the proceedings is made which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Anyone who needs a special accommodation for this meeting may contact the City’s Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at 978-4920 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.
1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) February 9, 2017

Mrs. Brady asked that on page 2 in the last paragraph that it be indicated that they were discussing the interior for the old Diesel Plant.

Mr. Ray made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2017 meeting with this correction made. Mr. Childers seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. OLD BUSINESS

A) Historic Plaque Announcement/Unveiling

Mrs. Brady talked about the best approach to unveiling their new historic plaque. She said they are now out of season and it will be some time before the new Brewery is ready for the plaque so maybe they could start doing some soft announcements to get the word out. She presented the Commission with a flyer announcing the historic plaque that could be their starting point. She asked Ms. Atwell if she would work on getting some announcements in the News Weekly and putting this announcement on the City’s facebook page and then in the fall holding the dedication ceremony.

Ms. Atwell asked if they could run this flyer in the newspaper.

Mrs. Tammy Bursick, City Clerk, said that they have some money in her budget in order to do that.

Mrs. Brady noted that she would be attending the City Council meeting next Tuesday night to go over their annual report and would like to have the plaque to show the Council. Ms. Atwell said that she has one (1) of the plaques and there are two (2) of them. Mrs. Brady asked Ms. Atwell to drop the plaque off at the City Clerk’s office.

B) 1990 Historic Survey Database Update
Mrs. Brady noted all the work that Mr. Ray has done with the zone that he was given to verify addresses. Mr. Ray thought that they all agreed to divide the zone that Mrs. Daige was working on and doing those addresses also. Mrs. Brady continued by saying what she got from their last meeting was that this was a much bigger job then they thought it was going to be. She said as they get closer to receiving the grant money they could start focusing on training volunteers to do this inventory. She can already see by going out there and documenting this information that it can be tedious.

Ms. Atwell agreed that it was very time consuming.

Mrs. Brady did not feel that it was realistic for this Commission to be doing this.

Mr. Childers commented that on his first day of working with the addresses in his zone it opened up a lot of questions for him. At that time he suggested postponing doing any more work until the Commission could sit down and talk about it. He said specifically this is a multi-fold project. He said the fact that the data base is already 27 years out of date and they are looking at properties with at 50-year designation is a problem. He said they should be looking at properties that were built around 1964, so looking at properties that are already out of date is just spinning their wheels. The conclusion that he has come up with is rather than going out to these properties and spending all of this time that they go to the electric base for City residents and send letters out to the City residents who are being billed for electric utilities. He said the zone he started to look at contains property built in 1963. He said lets back off of this data base and perhaps start looking at taking the utility customers within the City and sending notices out to them. He said it might cost them additional postage, but it would save a lot of time.

Ms. Atwell felt that Mr. Childers’ idea was great except for the properties that are not hooked up to City electricity like the old Gifford house.

Mr. Childers realized that they were going to miss some of the properties, but what it amounts to is the percentages would be low and they could work on getting a letter sent out to those properties that are not on City electric.

Mrs. Brady commented that the idea is not for the Commission members to go out and survey these buildings. They have a survey list from 1991 (buildings 50 years or older) and their task was to go out and see if the buildings were still there. They were targeting the most likely property owners who would qualify for a historic designation or a plaque. They didn’t just want to send a letter to someone in a new building because the original building had been demolished. She said as a Commission they should not be out there surveying. She said these properties might come before them in the future and they should have someone they have trained going out in the community and surveying these properties. She said they also need to be thinking of the best way to train these volunteers. The second part of the discussion is sending a letter to the property owner, which they could still do. She said that she was okay with sending out the letter as long as it is a general approach. She felt they should first try with some general public relations and see what the reaction is and then their number two (2) scenario would be sending out a letter. She agreed the utility data base is a good approach to get addresses for these letters. She said once they receive the grant money she would work on a plan of approach. She hoped they could drum up some interest in taking the marketing approach. She has concerns with someone receiving a letter and not understanding it and interpreting it the wrong way. She said by taking a different approach they might get better response from the public.
Ms. Atwell agreed that there were enough other measures to spread the word without offending anyone.

Mrs. Brady was happy that everyone was doing this zone exercise and could continue if they wanted to.

Mr. Ray showed on his phone a picture of the old post office that was located on 14th Avenue.

Mrs. Brady said that their plan of action would be to publish the flyer in the newspaper and Ms. Atwell would continue doing stories for News Weekly.

Ms. Atwell explained she hasn’t done any stories lately because she wanted to tie the plaque in with the opening of the new Brewery.

Mrs. Brady said that she could move forward with the stories. She said that the plaque doesn’t have to be on a building in order to do that.

Ms. Atwell commented that America has a surge of interest in recreating. She thought about doing a poster and placing it at Home Depot and Lowes in order to get the homeowner’s attention, which may generate some interest.

Mrs. Brady asked Ms. Atwell to report on this at their next meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A) Historical Marker at Royal Palm Pointe – County Historian Ruth Stanbridge

Mrs. Brady introduced Mrs. Ruth Stanbridge, County Historian, who was going to talk to the Commission about putting a historical marker at Royal Palm Pointe. She said that the Ordinance designating this Commission states that any verbiage put on a marker has to come before them.

Mrs. Ruth Stanbridge, County Historian, explained that the Historical Society is planning to put markers up in several locations throughout the County. They will be putting a marker up near the railroad station in November of this year. She said the text for that marker will go before the Review Board in Tallahassee on April 21st. The marker that she wanted to talk to this Commission about is a marker to commemorate the first and second bridge (Barber Bridge) in Indian River County. She said that the first bridge built extended Indian River Boulevard and Royal Palm Pointe, which is a busy intersection and she would not recommend putting the marker there. She said the marker needs to be put in a place where people would enjoy reading it. She said that they would like to have this marker designation in connection with the 100th year centennial celebration, which is why she is coming before the Commission so early. She just wants to make sure that everything is in place for the celebration. She said when the celebration was held for the first wooden bridge there was a parade held and she hoped that they could have a parade for this dedication ceremony. She noted that the Historical Society was also doing a mini documentary on their bridges. When the new Barber Bridge was built, Mrs. Caroline Ginn was Mayor at the time and worked on the project. She remembers Florida Department of Transportation asking why everyone was so excited about this bridge and she told them that the bridge was over 50 years old and they were ready for a party.
Mrs. Brady commented that the Florida Heritage markers that the Historical Society are proposing ties in with the promotion of historic tourism in this community. She said there could be self guided tours for people to go out and see these historic sites. She thought having the historical marker in place, as well as the documentary videos was great. She thanked Mrs. Stanbridge for coming and telling them about these different historic plaques being designated. She said once Mrs. Stanbridge gets the approval from Tallahassee on the marker then she will need to come back to this Committee and then take it to the City Council for final approval.

Mrs. Stanbridge explained to the Commission if they would like to see some of the mini documentaries that have already been done that they could find them on the City of Vero Beach Airport website. She explained these are the type of documentaries that they want to do for different areas. She said hopefully they will have videos done for the whole City of Vero Beach, as well as Indian River County. She said that these videos are available to anyone that wants to use them.

Ms. Atwell asked Mrs. Stanbridge if it made any sense for them to approach the County Property Appraiser about giving an ad valorem discount to properties designated as historic homes.

Mrs. Stanbridge recalled that she tried doing that some years ago and did not get a good response. However, she said maybe the timing was not right back then so it wouldn’t hurt to approach the Property Appraiser again. She said that she still has a problem getting the word out about what grants are available and instructing people on how to fill out these grants.

Mrs. Brady said that Mr. McGarry told her that this is on his list of things to do.

Ms. Atwell asked Mrs. Stanbridge when she has a chance to please call the new property owners of the Gifford house. She provided Mrs. Stanbridge with their contact information.

B) CLG Grant-Proposal

Mrs. Brady reported that unfortunately they will not be requesting any grant money this year because they do not have enough time to submit the grant application. However, they will work on what they are going to propose for the following year.

C) CLG Training

D) Workshop

Mrs. Brady reported on a CLG training class that she recently attended in Gainesville. She said there was a presentation on the history of preservation and how do commissions work together in reviewing CLG appropriateness. Then another special training class was offered called “Camp”, which got into more of the design guidelines. She said most of the people attending the class were HPC members. She said it was nice to be able to talk to them. The group toured the Thomas Center, which is a historic building in Gainesville and they also saw buildings that they are trying to preserve. She was reminded of the fact that nothing is perfect. She said all these commissions deal with same issues that this Commission does. She expressed that Gainesville has changed dramatically in the area near the College. She said they are having their challenges in preserving the historic district in Gainesville. She said it was a great refresher course. She noted that there will be another class held in Tampa at end of this month. She told the Commission if they don’t have the information on that training class to let the Clerk know and she could
send the information to them. She encouraged the members to attend if they could. She said they
would meet so many different people and be able to ask questions. Mrs. Brady stated that she was
planning to attend a Florida Trust Historic Conference to be held in St. Petersburg, Florida. She has
never been to St. Petersburg and is looking forward to the conference. She is excited about seeing their
art district because it will help with the work that she is doing with the Cultural Arts Village.

Mrs. Brady stated that as far as having a workshop for the Commission she will be reaching out to some
people to come in and do a workshop for them. She could also supply the materials that she received at
the CLG training workshop that she attended and go over the material with the Commission.

6. MEMBER'S MATTERS

None

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Mrs. Brady noted that they were still looking for one (1) full member and two (2) alternate members to
serve on this Commission. She posted a brief announcement on the City’s facebook letting people know
about these openings. She told the Commission that if they knew anyone who meets the criteria to
please ask them to come to the Clerk’s office and submit an application.

Mrs. Brady commented that the Old Vero Archeological site is open for tours for a few more weeks and
then it will be covered again. She said this is a huge opportunity for the public to see this site and what
artifacts have been found.

8. STAFF MATTERS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

/tv