

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES (HPC)  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2018 - 9:30 A.M.  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

**PRESENT:** Vice Chairman, Debra Atwell; Members: Jeffrey Ray (arrived at 9:34 a.m.), George Childers, Steve Erickson; Dane Ullian, Megan Hoots, Alternate #1 and Jessica Francis, Alternate #2 **Also Present:** Assistant City Attorney, Kira Honse; Planner, Gayle Lafferty, and Deputy City Clerk, Sherri Philo

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Today's meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A) November 9, 2017**

Ms. Atwell referred to page two (2) of the November 9, 2017 Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) meeting minutes. She referred to the statement, "*She said that Mrs. Brady's hard work and dedication to the City has accomplished the City becoming a Certified Local Government.*" She said although they all adore Mrs. Anna Brady, who has worked hard and accomplished a lot, including securing the much competed for grant money, she doesn't think that Mrs. Brady accomplished the City becoming a Certified Local Government. She said maybe the statement should say, "*Mrs. Brady's hard work and dedication to the City has accomplished a great deal.*"

**Mr. Erickson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2017 Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) meeting as amended. Ms. Hoots seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**A) Chairman**

**Mr. Childers nominated Ms. Debra Atwell for Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). There were no other nominations. Ms. Debra Atwell was unanimously appointed Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC).**

**B) Vice Chairman**

**Mrs. Hoots nominated Mr. Steve Erickson for Vice Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). There were no other nominations. Mr. Erickson was unanimously appointed Vice Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC).**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mrs. Hala Shalhoub said that she is present today because she is trying to renovate a home that she recently purchased. She said that she was looking to purchase a home in the area because

she wanted to be a part of the movement that was happening in renovating the downtown area. She said that she noticed the area was starting to look good with the exception of this house, in that it was boarded up and rundown, which saddened her. She said just by walking into the house there was something about it and they purchased the house the following day. She then started unfolding the historic value of this house. Her realtor gave her information on the Historic Society, as well as contact information for Ms. Atwell. She said that Ms. Atwell was very instrumental with her enthusiasm and zeal for preserving what she found out later was the first house in Vero Beach. She then went over some of the obstacles that they have been going through in trying to save this historic home.

Ms. Atwell said that she encouraged Mrs. Shalhoub to come before the Commission because she felt that with the Commission trying to determine the best way to accommodate new interest that it would be helpful for them to hear a firsthand story on the process that she is going through.

Mrs. Hoots suggested that they make a small manual for new homeowners of historical homes that contain some simple information they might need to know, such as some speed bumps they might encounter, what to do if they do come across a speed bump, etc. It would not have everything, but a diluted introductory to the process.

Mr. Ullian said what she is doing is a real meaningful civic service and is what they need more of in the City. If they lose the first house in Vero Beach that is step one (1) to becoming a Ft. Lauderdale or a Miami. They have to do what they can to keep things like this sacred to the City. He said that he has had a lot of experience with bureaucracy and his advice would be that every time she hears the word no ask why. He said often she will hear "it has always been done that way," which is not a law or regulation.

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Atwell asked for an update on the status of the grant.

Ms. Gayle Lafferty, Planner, reported that they anticipate having a telephone conference this coming week and it won't be long after that they will start training.

Ms. Atwell said then they will be on schedule.

Ms. Lafferty said it appears that way.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Atwell reported that she received a telephone call from a gentleman who told her the owner of McDonalds on U.S.1 contacted him because the McDonalds Franchise sent him a letter forbidding him to display any kind of memorabilia or personal artifacts. The issue for him is that he has created a photographic retrospective of the City that he is very proud of, but it has to be removed. She said that she spoke with Mrs. Ruth Stanbridge, Indian River County Historian, and Mrs. Stanbridge felt that aside from perhaps a letter the Commission could write on his behalf that he might be able to utilize when making a direct appeal, that they could come up with some type of a merit proclamation or certificate the Commission could award him stating this is

something the community is proud of. Ms. Atwell said this might be a way for the owner to have more leverage with the Franchise.

Mr. Erickson felt they should see it and to make sure that it is worthy of that. He said if it is worthy, he likes the idea of something that they can do that is not to the level of official designation, as well as writing a letter.

Mrs. Francis said that she has seen the collection and they are copies of photographs so she doesn't know where it would stand as far as "historic."

Ms. Kira Honse, Assistant City Attorney, noted that because they are copies they are not historic.

Ms. Atwell said it accomplishes the same thing in that it gives people an appreciation for the past.

Mrs. Francis said that she doesn't know if this is the right battle for the Commission since they are copies and are not original pictures.

Mrs. Hoots suggested that if they do have to be removed then maybe they could find a place in one (1) of the City buildings to be displayed.

Ms. Honse said the Centennial Committee might be able to do something with them.

Mr. Ullian did not think this relates to their primary purpose. He does think it relates to their secondary purpose, which is to encourage awareness, engagement, and appreciation for the City's history. He didn't think that any formal designation made sense in this context. He did think that it might be worth it to go and look at it and possibly sending him a thank you letter for honoring Vero Beach's history on his wall.

Ms. Atwell asked the Commission members to go and see it prior to their next meeting. She said that she will go and take pictures of it in case someone does not have a chance to go.

\*Please note that items 6A) and 6B) were discussed together.

- A) Setting Realistic Attainable Goals for 2018**
- B) February Meeting / A Casual Tableside Discussion - Critique of Our Current Methods and Explore Other Ways to Positively Impact the Community**

Ms. Atwell felt that next month they could sit at the table and have access to wifi so they can look at other city websites to see how they direct interest in historic preservation.

Ms. Atwell said that she had a list of ideas that she felt the Commission could work on. She said that she would get the information to the Commission members for them to think about and then maybe they can identify one (1) or two (2) things they feel would be the most compelling. She noted that designation will remain their biggest goal.

Mrs. Hoots said that her husband works at Walking Tree Brewery and she teaches yoga there. She said the building the Brewery is very old and the reason she is bringing this up is because they love community events and if the building is eligible for historic designation they could build it into a whole program where they could invite the community to use the space as an educational tool.

Ms. Honse noted that it is a City owned building and it is located on Airport property so it is governed by the Airport, which would bring in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issues as well. She said it is possible that it could be designated historical; there just might be some additional hoops they might have to go through.

Mrs. Hoots said they could snowball that into whatever they wanted it to be leading up to being designated. They could have community outreach there, lessons, how to fix your old house, etc.

**C) Annual Report**

**Mr. Ullian made a motion to approve the HPC Annual Report for 2017. Mrs. Hoots seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**7. MEMBER'S MATTERS**

None

**8. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**

None

**9. STAFF MATTERS**

None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

/sp