

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES (HPC)
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018 - 9:30 A.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

PRESENT: Chairman Debra Atwell; Vice Chairman Steve Erickson; Members: Dane Ullian, and Megan Hoots **Also Present:** Gayle Lafferty, Senior Planner and Tammy Bursick, City Clerk

Excused Absences: Mr. George Childers and Mrs. Jessica Francis

Unexcused Absence: Jeffery Ray

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Atwell called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) January 11, 2018

Mr. Ullian made a motion to approve the January 11, 2018 minutes. Mr. Erickson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. OLD BUSINESS

A) CLG Grant – Update on Survey Grant

Mrs. Anna Brady, Historic Preservationist, stated that she is helping the City of Vero Beach carry out the CLG grant. She reported that she was the former Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission and has grown up in Vero Beach. She has put together a Historic survey grant Power Point presentation (attached to the original minutes), which she will be showing the Commission. She said that the Planning Department is close to getting the grant signed. She then gave a Power Point presentation on the project.

Mrs. Brady stated that she was hoping to get started on this project soon and hopes to send some Teams out in April to start doing the inventory. She wanted to give the Commission an overview so they know what is involved. She will ask the State if one (1) Commission member can be a volunteer to do the survey work. It will probably be eight (8) hours a week of volunteer time.

Ms. Atwell thanked Mrs. Brady for a wonderful presentation. She had no idea that Mrs. Brady was going to put so much work into it.

Mrs. Brady said that she would be happy to do a demonstration of the inventory with the ipads at one of the HPC's future meetings.

Mr. Erickson asked if it would be a benefit for the City since they are one (1) of the first places using this practice to be informed as more technology becomes available.

Mrs. Brady answered yes and said as software is updated they will be able to use it.

Mrs. Hoots asked Mrs. Brady if she has tapped in to the volunteers who are involved with the Cultural Arts Village. She said they are a pretty solid group of people that believe in that project. Mrs. Brady said that she would reach out to them. Mrs. Hoots commented that it was not easy to get volunteers. She knows of a young architect association that may be interested in volunteering. Mrs. Brady said that she is working on a project that may involve students to help do the inventory. She would share more about that when she comes back to speak to the Commission at a future meeting. Mrs. Hoots said that the project looks awesome and she hopes Mrs. Brady can find volunteers.

Mrs. Brady mentioned that Coral Gables is involved in doing their own project now and she informed them (Coral Gables) about this software at the last Historic Preservation Conference and invited them to join.

Mrs. Brady continued by saying that they want to meet their deliverables and have the Planning and Development Department trained in doing the inventory so they also can do some of the work.

B) Recognition of Outstanding Tributes to Local History, Utilization of Letters, Awards, Proclamation Inclusions

Ms. Atwell asked the Commission members if they all had the chance to go to McDonalds to observe the historic pictures displayed there. She said that she went and could not believe all the pictures that were hanging there. It was far bigger than she expected. She said that the work was accomplished because of Mrs. Pam Cooper and Ms. Alma Lee Loy. She let Mrs. Cooper know that the art work might be in jeopardy, but the HPC would do everything that they could to make sure that doesn't happen. She was reluctant to reach out to Mrs. Cooper at first because she knows how hard she works on all of her projects. She referred to the email that the Commission received back from Mrs. Cooper (attached to the original minutes). Ms. Atwell thanked Mrs. Cooper for wanting to stay involved. Mrs. Cooper showed an interest in wanting to stay in the loop and did not want to see the pictures discarded. The City Clerk has spoken to the owner of McDonalds who told her that he did not feel anything from headquarters will occur concerning the pictures until 2019. Ms. Atwell said that this gives the Commission some time to work on this. She suggested doing a Proclamation and sending it to him (McDonald's owner).

Ms. Kira Honse, Assistant City Attorney, reminded the Commission that whatever they do has to be approved by the City Council.

Mrs. Hoots commented that she has been thinking about where the pictures could go if they are not allowed to remain at McDonalds. Ms. Atwell commented that it is a big display. Mrs. Hoots would like to see them displayed in a historically significant location where the community could look at them and she doesn't think McDonalds is that place. Ms. Atwell commented that not everyone is motivated to go to the Museum. She said if you want to reach people you have to have the display where they go. She said that these pictures are very nicely done and could be hung anywhere. She said that she would work on the draft Proclamation for their next meeting. She encouraged Mrs. Hoots to go to McDonalds to observe the pictures.

C) Review 2018 Commission Goals

Ms. Atwell stated that their number one (1) goal would be to encourage designation of the expanding inventory of designation properties. They also need to make their website inviting and easy to comprehend. The City Clerk informed her that the website is being redone and the new website should be completed in May. Ms. Atwell said in the interim they can look at options to enhance their section of the website. She encouraged the Commission that in their free time to pull up other websites in Florida for different ideas. She said there are awards given out for the best websites in America. She said they should write down which websites they are impressed with.

Mrs. Hoots suggested putting things on their website, such as people sending pictures of their recently remodeled kitchen. Ms. Atwell reminded Mrs. Hoots that they are not tasked with reviewing the interior of historic properties.

Mr. Erickson said it would be nice to see the progress of some of the renovations being done.

Ms. Atwell said the three (3) places to concentrate on are the old Diesel Plant, Mr. Chris Runge's house and Mr. Scott McCracken's house. She said that they need to come up with the best way to showcase these properties and the owners involved with these projects. It was suggested to maybe create a hashtag called "*Preserve Vero.*"

Mr. Erickson agreed and said the survey project that Mrs. Brady presented could be another piece of that.

Mrs. Hoots agreed that there are so many things that they can do with the survey. She said they could live stream volunteers doing the survey and have it on the City's website.

Ms. Atwell stated that their goal would be to stay interested in those three (3) properties because she thinks that the community would be interested. She asked Mr. Ullian to work on highlighting these properties through his media capabilities.

Mrs. Hoots will come up with five (5) different hashtags that they could use and bring them back to the Commission for their consideration.

Ms. Atwell said the other thing they can do is inquire about the ad valorem tax incentive savings for historic properties. She explained that someone could take a historic structure and increase

the size of the building as long as they are sensitive to the original structure and not get taxed on it for 10 years.

Mrs. Hoots wondered how they get the message out. She said maybe through real estate agents. Ms. Atwell said that could be one way.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A) National Trust for Historic Preservation African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund

Ms. Atwell reported that she attended a function yesterday for the Centennial project. She said it was nice to see so many people in one setting. She said that Mr. Ullian sits on the Committee, but if he cannot make their meetings she would be happy to attend.

Ms. Atwell announced that her latest project was to send out a letter to the National Trust for Historic Preservation African Cultural Heritage Action Fund. She said that the Trust has started a new grant and while doing that she saw this particular grant on the site. She said it was very well done and this is the first year it has been made available. It is to celebrate African cultural legacy in America. She said they could go on the site to read all about it. This is a way to interpret cultural landscape. She reported that the first black major league ballplayer, Mr. Jackie Robinson, was put on a separate field to play because of his color and that deserves mention and acknowledgement. She said the Trust is trying to identify sites like this and make them serve the public where people are aware of this history and compensates for it. She submitted a Letter of Intent (on file in the City Clerk's office), which the Trust organization looks at and they get back to them and if they like the Letter of Intent then they can start working on the grant process. They will know in April if they are being granted the opportunity to apply for the grant. She said the City owns a piece of the corner property and the County owns Historic Dodgertown. The property that the City owns was recently put up for sale and it was tabled when the public found out that there may be high density houses built there.

Ms. Honse reminded the Commission that they would need Council approval to pursue this.

Ms. Atwell reported that she spoke to the City Manager about this and did not want to undermine anyone in order for it to happen. They would need to get as much information as possible on this so a better decision could be made. She will meet with the Recreation Commission regarding this matter. She was counting on the Commission to come up with some good ideas and suggestions. She said looking at the property as it sits now it is hard to believe that it was ever a golf course.

Mrs. Hoots commented that the City is sitting on an asset that they want to make money on.

Ms. Atwell said of course they will demonstrate to Council that this is a cultural resource. They are advocating for that space in a way most compelling to them. They will need to prove that this has merit and that the community needs it. If the Trust shows willingness to get involved in the project with the funds then she thinks they should pursue it. She has not even studied what it

would cost to do a project like this. She asked the Commission members to go to that site and look at it. She will let them know if she hears anything from the Trust. She suggested that they visit the Conference Center at Dodgertown and walk through the Jackie Robinson room. She felt that the O'Malleys would love to get involved with this so the "sky's the limit."

Mr. Erickson thanked Ms. Atwell for putting this in motion. He said that there have been various visioning workshops held where the City Council has received suggestions from the public on what to do with this piece of property. Some of the suggestions were to make it a Park, a place for homeless veterans, etc. He said that the City is aware of interest outside of just selling it for homes and he thought that Council would be willing to listen to different ideas.

Ms. Atwell reiterated that this was an opportunity for them to get involved. She told the Commission to take some time and look at this site on the website if they have not done so already.

6. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mrs. Hoots reported that she spoke to Mrs. Brook Malone who is one of the owners of Walking Tree Brewery about designating the building historic. She said that Mrs. Malone expressed that at this time they were not interested in making this building a historic designation. She said if there was a designation then it would be difficult for them to make changes to the building and to expand it if they wanted to do so some day.

Ms. Honse commented that this building is a City building so it might not meet the requirements of a historic building. She reminded the Commission that they would need to take this before the City Council to see if they were interested in pursuing it or not.

Mrs. Hoots suggested not pursuing it when the owners are not in favor of it.

Ms. Honse agreed that there are some property owners who do not want the designation on their property because it prohibits them from doing certain things to their property.

Mrs. Hoots expressed that she was not knowledgeable enough about this to put Mrs. Malone at ease.

Mr. Erickson said they don't even know if this property would be eligible because it has been changed so many times.

Ms. Honse said that the Commission could ask Mrs. Brady to go and look at it, but at this point they don't even know if the City Council wants the Commission to pursue it.

Ms. Atwell said if the property owners have any reservations then the Commission should probably not pursue it.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

Ms. Atwell reported that she is working on a presentation that individual Commission members could present to groups letting the public know why they should designate their property as historic if it meets the requirements. She is also working on some posters, which she will bring to the Commission to critique.

8. STAFF MATTERS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

/tb