

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC) MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020 9:00 A.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

PRESENT: Steve Erickson, Chairman; Member: Dane Ullian and Alternate Member #1, Diane Miller **Also Present:** City Attorney, John Turner; and Deputy City Clerk, Sherri Philo

Excused Absences: Jessica Francis and Joy Todd

Unexcused Absence: Jeffrey Ray

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called today's meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) January 9, 2020

Mr. Ullian referred to page four (4), paragraph six (6) of the January 9, 2020 Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) minutes. He said there were a couple references regarding the conversation they had immediately following Councilmember Rey Neville's public comments regarding some of the issues relating to Szechuan Palace. He said they were asking Mr. Jason Jeffries, Planning and Development Director, about the designation process and that the current City of Vero Beach process requires that the property owner initiate the process and he felt the minutes were a little sparse relative to their discussion. He said that this was not necessarily a proposed amendment, but an observation. The one (1) thing that he does lament is that he recalls Mr. Neville coming back to the podium during that discussion and making some comments about the process. He wished that was included in the minutes.

Mr. Erickson remembered that when Mr. Neville realized that the restriction was something that the City created, he felt it might be easier to make some kind of change to it.

Mr. Ullian said that he just wanted it on the record that Mr. Neville did make some comments that were enlightening and helpful to their discussion.

Mrs. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2020 HPC meeting. Mr. Ullian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. NEW BUSINESS

None

4. OLD BUSINESS

A) Proposed Website Structure for Historical Preservation

Mr. Erickson went over his suggestions for the Historic Preservation website with the Commission members (attached to the original minutes). He said they need to make sure that the list of designated properties is kept up to date and suggested that they include some pictures of the buildings. He said overall what he tried to do was keep the form, update the structure and make it more that they are a resource for the total subject of historical preservation rather than narrowly focused on local preservation.

Mr. Ullian felt that the structure met what they talked about, which was an organized presentation of the information they want to share, the distinction they want the community to draw between what they are doing and what is available through other resources, both non-profit and government, and also a clean presentation of how to do the local designation process. He said that he sees in a couple areas links to the Historical Preservation Commission. He asked does that mean that it circles back to their landing page.

Mr. Erickson answered no. He said there is actually a subpage about the Historical Preservation Commission as to what they do and who the members are.

Mr. Ullian suggested that also be one (1) of the items in the structure process. He explained that on the landing page they would have a link where people can see the Commission itself.

Mr. Erickson agreed.

Mr. Ullian said the only other suggestion would be on the landing page itself that there be something front and center to signal to a browser what they just found. He suggested that before the history that they could include the Historic Preservation Commission's Mission Statement. He explained that it would first state who they are, then the history of Vero Beach, their preservation efforts, some links to better sources with more detailed history and then along the side they would have different things people can click on to get information. He said that what he wants people to know as soon as they click on historic preservation from the City's webpage is that they have just found the webpage for the entity that assists with designation.

Mr. Erickson and Mrs. Miller felt Mr. Ullian made some good suggestions.

Mr. Erickson said that he would bring this back before the Commission at their next meeting.

B) Update on Szechuan Palace

Mr. Erickson said that he attended the City Council meeting where Szechuan Palace was discussed and it was decided that they would try to work with the State on a direct transfer of the property.

Mr. John Turner, City Attorney, said it was proceeding in that direction and then because of the ownership that the County has in the property, as well as the condition of the building it did not happen. He said the building was in such horrible condition that to try to do anything with it would have cost the City an enormous amount of money.

Mr. Erickson reported that the Rennick family was awarded the bid on the property.

Mrs. Miller reported that Mr. Rennick is going to preserve the building and keep it as a business.

Mr. Erickson asked if it would be appropriate for the Commission to send a letter to the Rennick family congratulating them on the purchase and to let them know the Commission is a resource for historical preservation if they wanted to go that route.

Mr. Turner said they could ask the City Council. He said that Councilmember Rey Neville would probably sponsor it.

Mr. Erickson said that he would contact Councilmember Neville.

C) Update on the Grant Writing Process to Fund the Update of their Historical Survey – Planning and Development Director

Mr. Erickson said that he would follow up with Mr. Jason Jeffries, Planning and Development Director, to get an update on the grant writing process to fund the update on their Historical Survey. He said that his concern is that he thinks there is an April deadline.

Mrs. Miller reported that the grant process begins April 1, 2020 and ends June 1, 2020. She said that she learned that in the Certified Local Government (CLG) Historic Preservation training she recently attended.

Mrs. Miller asked if the City has someone specific who is writing the grant.

Mr. Erickson said that he did not know.

Mrs. Miller said the reason she asked is because Mrs. Megan McDonald, who was the instructor of the class, offered her assistance. Mrs. Miller said that she would follow up with Mr. Jeffries to see if he needs any help with it.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. MEMBER'S MATTERS

Mrs. Miller said at the CLG training they handed out a paddle, which states *this place matters*, and suggested that they take the paddles to places, such as Szechuan Palace and

post it. She said that she plans to post her paddle at several places. She will give the Commission members an update at their next meeting.

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

/sp