

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
MARCH 22, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Donna Peterman, Chairman
Martha Bireda, Robert Burns, Sushila Cherian,
Brad Gamblin, Julie Price, Jack Pryor

OTHERS PRESENT: Mitchell Austin, Urban Design Planner

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
 - Ms. Peterman welcomed Ms. Cherian and Ms. Bireda to the Board.
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
 - 1. April 26, 2018

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. February 22, 2018
 - Mr. Pryor voiced his objection to not hiring a consultant to review the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) review data.
 - Mr. Mitchell Austin, Urban Design Planner, explained he had recommended waiting to address the need for a consultant until the complete local register list was compiled. He clarified staff was in favor of hiring a consultant; however, same was a financial decision which would require Board input and City Council approval.
 - Ms. Cherian clarified Mr. Pryor felt the qualifications of a consultant outweighed the cost of same.
 - Ms. Bireda confirmed properties east of U.S. 41 were included on the FMSF review list.
 - Ms. Peterman confirmed the local register list would be brought before the Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) at a later date.
 - Mr. Burns MOVED, Ms. Cherian SECONDED approval of the February 22, 2018 minutes.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Nomination of Member for Donation Review Committee
 - Ms. Peterman explained the Board needed to nominate two members for the Donation Review Committee (DRC).
 - Mr. Gamblin volunteered for the position, noting his experience managing nonmonetary gifts.

- Mr. Pryor nominated Mr. Gamblin.
 - Mr. Burns volunteered, noting his experience collecting and reviewing donations.
 - Ms. Peterman announced she would serve as Chair of the DRC. She then called for any other nominations, declaring Mr. Gamblin and Mr. Burns were appointed by acclamation.
 - Mr. Austin explained Ms. Peterman and the appointees from the HPAB must be confirmed by City Council, noting a test case was ready for the first DRC meeting.
- B. CA-05-18; 111 Chasteen St. – Information Only
- Mr. Austin announced staff approved the Certificate of Appropriateness which allowed the applicant to install a six-foot privacy fence to the rear of a minimal traditional architectural style residence which was ineligible for consideration for the local register. He noted the replacement would have no adverse impact on the architectural or historic character of the district.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Florida Master Site File Review
- Mr. Austin announced the draft local historic register was still under development, adding several amendments to City Code Chapter 26, Land Development Regulations, associated with the local register adoption would be necessary, offering to answer questions.
 - Ms. Peterman confirmed the Code amendment would be reviewed by the Planning Commission and then City Council.
- B. Historical Award Program
- Mr. Austin explained the project was on hold until Public Works could move the Ice House foundation remnant to Linear Park.

STAFF COMMENTS

- Mr. Austin announced City Council voted to change the Trabue Woods Historic District to the Bethel St. Mark Historic District during their March 21, 2018, meeting. He explained the ordinance would be adopted at the April 4, 2018, City Council meeting.

COMMITTEE/BOARD COMMENTS

- Ms. Price announced the Gilchrist Park playground would open in May, and a ribbon cutting event would be held on May 23, 2018.
- Ms. Bireda inquired as to the process for identifying properties in the historic district with historic value.
- Mr. Austin explained staff was updating the FMSF, adding the visual survey conducted between 2012 and 2014 was based solely on architecture and community planning attributes. He stated additional historical information would need to come from a

source outside of the City. He confirmed the list could be shared with the History Center and Blanchard House.

- Ms. Bireda noted Blanchard House board members were interested in placing interpretive markers to convey the City's history.
- Mr. Pryor confirmed City Code allowed fences to be placed on the property line if a survey delineated same. He then announced a lecture would be held by the Punta Gorda Historical Society at the Women's Club on Sullivan Street regarding the Panama Canal on Monday, March, 26, 2018.
- Ms. Bireda confirmed many of Punta Gorda's alleys had been vacated or had become overgrown by landscaping.
- Ms. Peterman inquired as to unified signage for the historic district.
- Mr. Austin replied most "Trabue Woods" signs were located on Florida Department of Transportation Right of Ways; therefore, sign changes required their approval.
- Mr. Burns read a statement which advocated for citizen involvement in planning for Punta Gorda's future and preservation of its historical character, as delineated in the agenda material.
- Ms. Cherian voiced her agreement with Mr. Burns' statement, questioning the obligations or limitations of the Board.
- Mr. Austin reviewed the powers and responsibilities of the Board, such as making recommendations to City Council to protect the City's assets.
- Ms. Price inquired how the Board could become more involved.
- Ms. Peterman expressed uncertainty regarding the HPAB being part of the formal approval process; however, once City Council's direction was clear, the members had avenues to voice their opinions.
- Mr. Austin noted developments which were permitted by City Code were not approved by any advisory board but rather were reviewed by staff.
- Mr. Burns opined more public comment was needed regarding development, especially for projects within or near the Historic Districts.
- Ms. Peterman suggested increasing the visibility of the Historic Districts could increase the Board's influence.
- A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the importance of the Board being more involved in the decision making process in order to ensure the true character of the historic district was protected.
- Ms. Cherian confirmed Sunshine Law prevented discussion between Board members outside of a public meeting on any matter which may be voted on at a later date.
- Ms. Bireda reiterated increasing the visibility of the historic district would demonstrate

the Board's importance and integrity.

- Ms. Price recalled the Board used to issue awards to owners who had made improvements to their historic property.
- Ms. Peterman opined when the FMSF list was in place, it could be publicized and awards could again be issued based on that information. She concluded the goal was to increase the visibility and awareness of the district, adding the Board needed to build their credibility as they moved in that direction.
- Ms. Price mentioned the possibility of fundraising events.
- Mr. Gamblin spoke regarding the trolley tour, noting the tour originated at Fishermen's Village.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 10:19 a.m.

Donna Peterman, Chairman

Sara Welch, Recording Secretary