

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING  
APRIL 26, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Donna Peterman, Chairman  
Robert Burns, Sushila Cherian, Julie Price, Brad Gamblin

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jack Pryor

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mitchell Austin, Urban Design Planner

**CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
  - 1. May 24, 2018

**CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

- There were none.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. March 22, 2018
  - Mr. Burns MOVED, Mr. Gamblin SECONDED approval of the March 22, 2018 minutes.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Local Registry List
  - Mr. Mitchell Austin, Urban Design Planner, announced the Local Registry List was still under development and would be presented at a later date.
- B. Mr. Burns' Letter to the Board
  - Mr. Austin explained Mr. Burns' letter had been discussed at the previous meeting and was delineated in the agenda material.
  - Ms. Peterman stated she spoke to Mr. Howard Kunik, City Manager, who advised the Board could provide input on issues affecting the Historic District.
  - Mr. Burns commented development would affect the City in its entirety, advocating for residents to speak as stakeholders.
  - Ms. Peterman agreed, asserting the Board had a responsibility to advance protection of the City's historic assets.
  - Ms. Cherian requested Mr. Burns clarify his vision.
  - Mr. Burns spoke at length on his view of the Board's mission and purview, asserting the City derived historical value from more than architecture alone. He drew attention to the Improved Management Productivity And Control University property as an example of development which would affect the Historic District, noting while it

previously had little influence on the surrounding area, its usage as a military museum and condominiums would increase traffic. He concluded the Board had to advocate for productive change.

- Ms. Cherian inquired as to how the Board could offer their advice to City Council.
- Ms. Peterman explained the Board could present recommendations.
- Mr. Gamblin announced Councilmember Gary Wein believed the City required greater citizen input on tentative City Code revisions regarding building height; therefore, he speculated City Council welcomed increased participation from citizens.
- Ms. Bireda expressed appreciation for Mr. Burns' letter, requesting discussion focus on preservation of Punta Gorda's historic character. She asserted education regarding same would enable thoughtful development. She proposed the Board hold "Town Hall" meetings to establish what should be preserved, suggesting rules of civility be instituted.
- Mr. Burns agreed education was immensely important due to the transitory nature of the local population, which in turn provided residents a limited historical frame of reference.
- Ms. Bireda recommended preservation efforts account for historical values as well.
- Ms. Peterman expressed approval of the Board becoming a force for education.

#### C. Herald Court Centre Signage

- Mr. Austin reviewed the history of the Wayfinding System and Downtown Parking Guide, as delineated in the agenda material, drawing attention to proposed signage. He noted an estimate had not been provided.
- Mr. Gamblin asserted free parking had contributed to the City's success.
- Ms. Bireda remarked the City had ample free parking, though awareness of same could be increased. She then inquired regarding ownership of the parking lot adjacent to F.M. Don's, expressing surprise the first hour of parking was free.
- Mr. Austin responded the Sun Loft Center owned the lot.
- Ms. Bireda suggested including parking as a topic during citizen education.
- Ms. Peterman suggested same could be addressed in one of the City Manager's messages.
- Discussion ensued with regard to the availability of free parking in the City.

#### D. CA-06-18 - 119 Dolly Street - Information Only

- Mr. Austin announced staff approved a Certificate of Appropriateness for the subject non-historic Coastal Contemporary structure to replace an existing garage door and to install decorative fencing in the front yard to match the exterior stair railing. He noted

the work would not adversely impact the historical or architectural character of the district.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### A. Historical Award Program

- Ms. Peterman confirmed there were no updates regarding the Historical Award Program, speaking in favor of securing a date for same in the fall.

### **STAFF COMMENTS**

- Mr. Austin announced City Council had voted to maintain the ban on grass parking at Gilchrist Park during their April 18, 2018 meeting.
- Ms. Price questioned if violators could be ticketed.
- Mr. Austin explained the grass was inaccessible to cars at this time.
- Ms. Price inquired if parking was permitted in the grass next to the playground.
- Mr. Austin explained there was not an ordinance which prevented same in that section of the park. He then announced the conceptual design for Phase II of the Harborwalk/Gilchrist Park would be presented at the May 2, 2018 City Council meeting, noting design plans would be submitted in late fall or early winter of 2018. He estimated construction would begin in the first quarter of 2019. He concluded staff had been directed to change Wayfinding System signage for the Bethel–St. Mark Historic Overlay District, explaining staff would like to perform a comprehensive signage review. He estimated related permitting would entail more than a year.
- Ms. Peterman questioned the status of Historic District Sign Toppers.
- Mr. Austin reviewed the history of the program associated with same. He announced the sign toppers required replacement, drawing attention to considerations for their replacement.
- Ms. Bireda inquired as to the design which would replace the current sign toppers, speaking in favor of the entire Historic Overlay District receiving sign toppers.
- Ms. Peterman replied Mr. Kunik had requested the Board present a recommendation pursuant to a citizen's request.
- Ms. Cherian requested an update on construction of the Gilchrist Park restrooms.
- Mr. Austin responded the project was currently out to bid, and construction should begin in the summer. He noted the other restrooms were being redesigned, and construction was expected to begin in winter
- Ms. Bireda requested grants be researched to help pay for signage costs.
- Mr. Austin responded staff would do so.
- Consensus was to continue discussion of Historic District sign toppers.

### COMMITTEE/BOARD COMMENTS

- Ms. Price announced Gilchrist Park had reopened to a positive reception, declaring a ribbon cutting ceremony would be held May 23, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. She then stated a contact at the Punta Gorda Airport was interested in displaying materials from the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City, offering to investigate this opportunity to advertise the City's history further.
- Ms. Peterman spoke in favor of displaying the anniversary materials at the airport.
- Ms. Bireda invited members to attend Emancipation Day festivities at the Blanchard House Museum on May 19, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., reviewing scheduled activities.
- Ms. Cherian commented favorably on past Emancipation Day celebrations.

### ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 9:58 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna Peterman, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sara Welch, Recording Secretary