

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING  
OCTOBER 25, 2018**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Donna Peterman, Chairman  
Adrienne Andreae, Martha Bireda,  
Karen Lyons, Julie Price, James Williams

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Robert Burns, Sushila Cherian

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

**CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
- 1. November 15, 2018

**CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

- Mr. Steve Cummings explained CA-24-18 was requested in order to divide the subject property into two lots, drawing attention to the engineer's report, as delineated in the agenda material, which described damage to the structure.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. September 27, 2018
- Ms. Price MOVED, Ms. Lyons SECONDED approval of the September 27, 2018 minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. CA-24-18 – 335 West Williams Street – Certificate of Appropriateness – Demolition
- Mr. Mitchell Austin, Urban Design Planner, announced CA-24-18 would allow demolition of the building constructed circa 1930. He explained the Craftsman architectural-style structure was listed on the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) but was not located within a designated historic district nor was it under an order from the Building Division. He concluded staff recommended denial of CA-24-18 for 45 days as the request would adversely impact the architectural and historic character of the area.
- Ms. Peterman confirmed the Board had not deemed the structure historic during the FMSF review.
- Ms. Price questioned how long Mr. Cummings had owned the property.
- Mr. Cummings replied 60 days.
- Ms. Price confirmed no one lived at the property at the time of sale, inquiring as to any construction restrictions for the lots.

- Mr. Austin replied the proposed lot division appeared to meet Punta Gorda Code lot size and configuration requirements, noting new construction must meet Punta Gorda Code's architectural style provisions.
- Ms. Lyons inquired as to the lengths of the lots.
- Mr. Cummings replied each was 74.89 feet by 72.44 feet.
- Mr. Austin explained staff recommended denial as the structure met Punta Gorda Code.
- Ms. Peterman questioned how delaying demolition would affect Mr. Cummings.
- Mr. Cummings replied subdivision of the properties would be delayed.
- Ms. Price spoke in favor of approving CA-24-18.
- Ms. Price MOVED, Mr. Williams SECONDED to approve CA-24-18. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. County Centennial 1921 - 2021

- Mr. Austin recalled Charlotte County (the County) had begun planning for their centennial, questioning how the Board desired to participate.
- Ms. Lyons stated she wished to research other municipalities' centennial celebrations.
- Ms. Bireda commented on the County's centennial, proposing ideas regarding the City's involvement. She then inquired as to the City's centennial celebrations.
- Mr. Austin replied a temporary exhibit was installed at Herald Court for the City's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, suggesting same could be modified to focus on the County's creation.
- Ms. Peterman requested members be prepared to discuss how the City could participate in the County's centennial at the November 15, 2018, meeting, suggesting the Board pursue interpretive signage to be installed in conjunction with same.
- Ms. Bireda inquired as to the process for creation of interpretive signage.
- Mr. Austin replied the Board must first determine what they wished to identify.
- Ms. Peterman suggested Ms. Bireda be allowed to work with local historic organizations to develop a concept.
- Ms. Bireda replied she would do so.
- Mr. Williams inquired if there was a written history of Charlotte County, recalling many counties had hired local historians to create such histories.
- Mr. Austin replied he was unaware of any; however, County staff would know.
- Discussion ensued with regard to published local histories and the possible creation of the County's history.
- Ms. Bireda questioned if Mr. Austin would travel with her to DeSoto County to research Charlotte County's history.
- Mr. Austin replied he would enjoy doing so if he was available.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Historic District Sign Toppers
- Mr. Austin reported City Council rejected three proposals for placement of the historic district sign toppers, noting staff expected to offer alternatives in November 2018 or December 2018. He stated the project would require an additional \$10,000 to \$12,000.
  - Ms. Bireda inquired as to the sign toppers' design.
  - Mr. Austin replied he would share same via email following the meeting.
  - Ms. Peterman noted the new signs would be sturdier.
- B. Wayfinding Signs
- Mr. Austin reported City Council and the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) had requested revision of the locations identified by proposed signage at the October 3, 2018, City Council/CRA meeting. He then noted staff had been directed to work with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regarding permitting and then to proceed with an engineering design.

## **STAFF COMMENTS**

- Mr. Austin announced City Council selected Dover, Kohl & Partners for the City-wide Master Plan, noting the firm was preparing a proposal.
- Ms. Peterman noted all the firms which provided presentations for the City-wide Master Plan had identified the City's historic assets as integral to its development.
- Mr. Austin stated City Council entered into an agreement with the Punta Gorda Mural Society to install a mural at the US-41 underpass, noting FDOT was reviewing the application. He then noted the City Attorney issued an opinion that staff must notify owners of properties identified in the Local Register of Historic Places prior to moving forward with its adoption, explaining City Council would decide whether to proceed at this time or in conjunction with the City-wide Master Plan.

## **COMMITTEE/BOARD COMMENTS**

- Ms. Lyons recalled Mr. Austin had offered to provide maps for the review of streets.
- Mr. Austin replied he would do so.
- Ms. Lyons asked if the City should contact Cheney Brothers, Inc., regarding their trailer trucks' use of brick streets.
- Mr. Austin replied the City could not as staff had no direct knowledge of same, suggesting citizens' complaints would be more effective in the absence of an ordinance prohibiting trailer truck traffic on those streets.
- Discussion ensued with regard to what action should be taken to prohibit such traffic.
- Ms. Price inquired as to construction where US-41 North and South diverged.
- Mr. Austin replied same would be a Chase Bank branch location.

- Ms. Price reported her contact at the Punta Gorda Airport was interested in displaying materials from the City. She then stated the mural artist had a preliminary sketch for the installation at Gilchrist Park.
- Ms. Bireda requested signage stating “Welcome to Historic Punta Gorda” be placed at the intersection of US-17 and Cooper Street.
- Ms. Peterman announced the City and Team Punta Gorda would hold a conference on January 7, 2019, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in advance of the City-wide Master Plan.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting Adjourned: 9:46 a.m.

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Donna Peterman, Chairman

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Sara Welch, Recording Secretary