

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn MacGibbon, Chairman
Darlene Gunderson, Nancy Miller-Houck,
Julia Moore, Larry Sandles

MEMBERS ABSENT: Teresa Evan, Christel Schmidt

OTHERS PRESENT: Mitchell Austin, Urban Design Planner

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting - January 22, 2009
- C. Last Scheduled Meeting - November 20, 2008

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Meeting of November 20, 2008
 - Mr. Sandles MOVED, Ms. Moore SECONDED approval of the November 20, 2008 minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Certificate of Appropriateness
 - 1. Information Only
 - a. CA-32-08 - 211 Harvey Street - Pool, Pool Deck and Porch
 - 1. Mr. Mitchell Austin, Urban Design Planner, displayed an overhead of the site location, as delineated in the agenda material, providing a brief explanation of the construction involved. He noted CA-32-08 had been approved administratively by staff and was being provided to the Board for informational purposes only.
 - Ms. Gunderson clarified this property was owned by Dr. Fox.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Neighborhood Meeting
 - Ms. MacGibbon drew members' attention to a proposed notice, as denoted in the Board's agenda packets, advertising the Neighborhood Meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. in Gilchrist Park. She pointed out a tentative agenda was also included in the agenda material, asking if members had any comments or suggestions regarding same.
 - Consensus of the Board was approval of the agenda as presented.
 - Ms. MacGibbon confirmed the meeting must be advertised, asking how residents would be made aware of same.

- Mr. Austin recommended disseminating the notice to businesses and various civic organizations.
- Ms. MacGibbon stressed the importance of alerting residents, the responsibility for which fell to the members. She recommended waiting until after January 1, 2009, asking Mr. Austin to have copies ready the first full week of 2009.
- Mr. Austin concurred, stating he would notify Board members by electronic mail.
- Mr. Sandles asked if the notice could be formatted to poster size, explaining he could post same at his own office. He clarified he was seeking something in an 11" x 17" size.
- Mr. Austin responded affirmatively.
- Ms. MacGibbon recommended posting notices at the Blanchard House, the Cooper Street Recreation Center, the Event Center and Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce, for example. She suggested each member be responsible for distributing flyers to specific blocks.
- Mr. Sandles confirmed flyers could not be placed in mailboxes.
- Mr. Austin offered to split the district into seven different areas.
- Discussion ensued with regard to the timing of flyer distribution.
- Consensus of the Board was to post notices the week of January 12, 2009.
- Mr. Sandles mentioned he would be out of town the week of January 19, 2009; thus, he would miss the Board's January 22, 2009 meeting but would distribute flyers in his designated area. He asked if the neighborhood meeting would be held in the gazebo or out on the grounds.
- Mr. Austin replied both areas were reserved.
- Mr. Sandles suggested amending the notice to remind attendees to bring blankets and/or lawn chairs.
- Ms. MacGibbon commented mention should also be made of the plan for a "potluck" meeting, stating perhaps Ms. Dawn McElroy could be contacted to ensure her hot dog cart was available.

OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Punta Gorda Historical Society, Inc. (PGHS)
 - Ms. MacGibbon stated PGHS had brought in the Seminole Gulf railway the previous week, adding they were also working on museum and grant funding. She then recalled the Board had discussed Main Street Punta Gorda (MSPG) at their previous meeting, stating she felt an opportunity had been missed with respect to historic preservation. She noted she had researched Main Street programs in general and MSPG in particular. She explained the Main Street program was formed to save historic buildings in

downtowns in 1977 and fell under the National Trust for Historic Preservation; however, no one on MSPG's board was a preservationist, adding there was currently no dialog between this Board and MSPG. She questioned whether MSPG was working with festival organizers as stated by the National Trust even in some small way such as advertisements on their web site. She pointed out per the 501(c)3 designation, they must conduct historic preservation activities; however, there had been no preservation related activities or dialog regarding same. She commented on a recent MSPG meeting attended by four experts, stating when stakeholders were asked about the City's identity, they had no answers. She explained these four experts met with Team Punta Gorda (TPG) and City staff but did not meet with any preservation groups. She asserted these experts were recommending MSPG achieve certain goals which were already in place, i.e., the Wayfinding System. She read at length from several documents, as delineated in the agenda material, issued by MSPG as well as by the National Trust, stating the organization must work comprehensively in all four areas of the four-pronged approach, with historic preservation as the key principle in practice. She noted she felt she had not done her job in keeping up with MSPG's activities, adding she had assumed they were adhering to the requirement relative to historic preservation.

- Mr. Sandles suggested Ms. MacGibbon contact Ms. Linda Dobson, MSPG Executive Director, and simply advise her of the requirement for representation by a preservationist.
- Ms. MacGibbon responded she had already done so; however, Ms. Dobson indicated there were no available seats on the board but rather volunteers were welcome. She clarified she did not feel representation must necessarily come from this Board's membership. She noted MSPG continued to discuss their search for a brand for the City when, in fact, Punta Gorda had been known as the City of Hibiscus since the 1920s and had incorporated same into the Wayfinding System.
- Mr. Sandles responded the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce was pushing for the branding. He mentioned he had previously chaired MSPG's design committee, which was unanimously opposed to the sale of the City Marketplace property to the Hilton Garden Inn due to the negative effect on the previously proposed development of this site; however, he had been strongly advised he could not address same on the Committee's behalf but rather could only speak as an individual. He contended a hierarchy existed which was very stymied. He mentioned he had also served on MSPG's board of directors.
- Ms. MacGibbon commented she would like to review the MSPG bylaws.

- Ms. Miller-Houck opined preservation was no longer a priority for the City and had not been since Hurricane Charley hit the area in August 2004.
 - Mr. Sandles disagreed, stating many people found Punta Gorda's downtown and historic district charming. He pointed out Main Street at the State level was very much in tune with historic preservation.
 - Ms. MacGibbon commented the above mentioned experts indicated they would be issuing a report denoting their recommendations, asking if it was available.
 - Mr. Austin expressed uncertainty regarding same.
 - Mr. Sandles recommended Ms. MacGibbon send Main Street's board of directors a letter on behalf of this Board advising them of the concerns discussed this date.
 - Ms. MacGibbon concluded she planned on speaking with Ms. Dobson the following day. She mentioned she was also in contact with Ms. Nancy Lisby, PGHS, regarding the Main Street issue.
- B. Punta Gorda Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Status Report
- Mr. Austin commented on the CRA Project Status Report, as delineated in the agenda material, providing a brief update on the parking garage and Laishley Park/Marina improvements.
 - Ms. MacGibbon asked if designs were available for the new Strang building.
 - Mr. Sandles replied a rendering was provided on their site sign.
 - Ms. MacGibbon confirmed the Board would be given the opportunity to review the plans as the site was located in the historic district.
 - Ms. Gunderson questioned the building's location.
 - Ms. MacGibbon replied on the corner of Olympia Avenue and Goldstein Street. She then commented on the open air pavilions in Laishley Park, asking if same would fall under Marina Park's management.
 - Mr. Austin replied affirmatively.
 - Ms. MacGibbon questioned the rental fees for the pavilions.
 - Mr. Austin replied he did not have those figures, suggesting interested parties could contact Ms. Lisa Hannon, Zoning Coordinator, regarding same.
 - Ms. MacGibbon asked if there was any type of movement to re-attract shrimpers or to generate that type of activity.
 - Mr. Austin replied Marina Park had indicated their intention was to initiate a fresh market in one of the two pavilions two days per week.
 - Ms. Miller-Houck commented on the Harborwalk connection under the U.S. 41 Bridge, confirming all permitting issues had been resolved.

- Ms. MacGibbon then announced the Hector House Plaza historic marker was in place. She stated Ms. Lisby had requested funding assistance for some type of dedication ceremony.
- Mr. Austin noted TPG provided volunteers to lay the brick at that location, adding he felt there was a tremendous opportunity for TPG and PGHS to work together on a ceremony.
- Ms. MacGibbon mentioned PGHS had located the large chess pieces, suggesting a tournament could be held in conjunction with a dedication ceremony. She asked if City Council approval would be required.
- Mr. Austin recommended scheduling a meeting with himself, Ms. MacGibbon, Ms. Lisby, Mr. David Hilston, Urban Design Division, and Mr. Mark Gering, City Engineer, regarding same.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Mr. Sandles commented favorably on the Wyvern Hotel's amenities.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 9:21 a.m.

Dawn MacGibbon, Chairman

Mary Kelly, Recording Secretary