

**VOLUSIA COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD**



September 23, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Yates called the meeting of the Volusia County Historic Preservation Board to order at 3:04p.m., September 23, at the Casements, 25 Riverside Drive, Ormond Beach.

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:

Upon roll call the following members answered present to wit:

Robert Clinton
John Wagner
Jim Yates
James Zacharias
Brian Polk

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Jon Benn, Oscar Brock, Bill Chapin, Nancy Epps

STAFF PRESENT:

Julie Adams Scofield, Historic Preservation Officer
Tom Baskett, Public Historian

GUEST(S) PRESENT:

Suzanne Heddy, Dean Wiggins, Kathy Yates

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Deferred to November meeting

PUBLIC HEARINGS: - None

OLD BUSINESS:

Public Program at Shoestring Theatre

Ms. Scofield suggested that this program be reconsidered since the local teacher/historian, though amenable has not been available to plan the event. A substitute might be a “back to school” tour that would feature several historic schools each September. The Old Building Network of West Volusia Historical Society is interesting in co-sponsoring this activity. The board indicated informally that they would be interested in sponsoring that event.

Revision to Ordinance No. 2007-21, Chapter 62

Ms. Scofield advised that the County legal department has requested a survey of affected buildings be completed before this revision can be considered. This is a large project and staff does not have sufficient time available to take this on at this time. This will be revisited in 2015.

Consulting Party Shiloh Commercial Launch Project

Ms. Scofield reported that the response letter was submitted to the FAA, with copies to Council members. The next step will likely include an inventory and evaluation of historic resources submitted as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be forwarded to you for review and comment by FAA. This will be a preliminary finding or draft report and we will be given a 30 day comment and discussion period. This may require a special meeting but staff will be able to give notice as soon as we receive the request.

Ms. Scofield also commented that because of solid scholarship and preservation planning, the project should receive a fair review. It is very fortunate that Dot Moore advocated quietly for study of these sites and as a result fieldwork was done by the National Park Service Southeast Archaeological Center with support of volunteers and additional funding from the Friends of Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge. Additionally Dr. Daniel Shafer researched the Elliot Plantation and retrieved maps from the British archives, with financial assistance from the Southeast Volusia Historical Society and the Volusia County Historic Preservation Board, and the National Park Service was able to hire USF to prepare documentation of the sugar mill ruins using lidar and other technologies. Hershel Shepherd was also able to visit the site and prepare a technical memo regarding the sugar mill ruins.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request to add Bethel AME Church to the Most Endangered Properties List

Ms. Scofield requested this property be added to the list because structural and roof repairs that are beyond the financial means of the congregation are needed and the building is in jeopardy. It is located at 226 E. Howry Ave. Deland and is locally designated by the City. It is eligible for the National Register and, attributed to John A. Lankford, “dean of black architects.” Lankford was the first official architect for the AME Church, designing some of the largest churches owned by African Americans. Member Polk commented that the building isn’t remarkable from the outside so you need to see the interior to really appreciate the unique architecture. Member Polk made a **MOTION** “*To add the Bethel AME Church to the Most Endangered Historic Properties List.*” Member Zacharias seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Partnership with West Volusia Historical Society- Window Repair Workshop

Ms. Scofield reported that she was working with the WVHS newly formed special interest group—Old House Network—to co-sponsor community historic preservation programs. She proposed a half-day on site workshop provided by CSS Restoration to provide hands on instruction for restoration of double hung windows. She is looking for a venue, hopefully in our newest historic district, Cassadaga. The immediate result of the workshop is one or more windows repaired at the host site. The cost is anticipated to be less than \$500 and WVHS is able to assist with registration, food, etc. We would like to schedule this for January and can offer publicity at the DeLand historic tour of homes in December.

Member Wagner made a **MOTION** “*To organize and sponsor the historic window workshop in partnership with WVHS.*” Member Zacharias seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Beck Ranch Interpretive Panel Presentation

Public Historian Tom Baskett distributed photographs of the new interpretive offering at the County’s newest park, Beck Ranch, and recounted stories of the Florida ranching story. The board expressed appreciation for preserving this part of Volusia’s past and requested that the panels be made available on our Volusia History webpage.

November Meeting

To be held November 25 at Dickenson Memorial Library in Orange City. On the agenda will be the refinement and adoption of the official “Most Endangered List” for the year.

MEMBER/STAFF ITEMS:

WWI Memorial Inventory

Ms. Scofield inquired if members knew of any WWI monuments in the County as 2014 is the centennial of the start of WWI and there is a national effort to document all the memorials. She is aware of the monument in Osteen, and would like to complete the paperwork to submit it to the inventory as well as any others. She distributed information about the World War I Memorial Inventory Project and their Facebook page.

County Poor House Burials

Ms. Scofield reported that the burials discovered during the expansion of the Florida Hospital DeLand are associated with the County Poor House and Farm that were located on that site prior to the construction of the hospital in the late 1940s. The poor farm was built c. 1901 and operated till 1945. She distributed Ronald Williamson’s columns on the subject. The burials will be respectfully relocated when the archaeologists complete the excavations.

Board Member Comments

Member Wagner reported on status of Hotchkiss House. He said that it is open to the public and already having weddings and teas.

Member Zacharias reported that the new addition to the Museum of Arts and Sciences is coming along quickly.

Member Polk mentioned that work will be done to stabilize the Spring House at Bulow State Park in October and anyone interested in participating can contact him to make arrangements.

PRESS & CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chair Yates adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Fincher, Cultural Coordinator/Recording Secretary

Date _____ Chair _____ Secretary _____