

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



January 28, 2014

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Polk called the meeting of the Volusia County Historic Preservation Board to order at 3:04p.m., January 28, 2014 at the Mary S. Harrell Black Heritage Museum, 314 N. Duss St., New Smyrna Beach.

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:

Upon roll call the following members answered present to wit:

Jon Benn
Oscar Brock
Robert Clinton
Nancy Epps
John Wagner
Jim Yates
James Zacharias
Brian Polk

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: Bill Chapin

STAFF PRESENT:

Julie Adams Scofield, Historic Preservation Officer
Mike Fincher, Cultural Coordinator/Recording Secretary

GUEST(S) PRESENT:

Jimmy Harrell, Joanne Pinkston-McDuffy

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

M. Fincher instructed the board on the provisions of the by-laws regarding election of officers and then opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

Member Epps nominated Yates for Chair. Nomination seconded by Member Wagner. No additional nominations were heard. Mr. Yates was elected unanimously.

Chair Polk opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

Member Benn nominated Nancy Epps for Vice Chair. Nomination was seconded by Member Wagner. No additional nominations were heard. Ms. Epps was elected unanimously.

Chair Polk opened the floor for nominations for Secretary.

Member Epps nominated Zach Zacharias for Secretary. Nomination was seconded by Member Wagner. No additional nominations were heard. Mr. Zacharias was elected unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

November 26, 2013 Regular Meeting:

Changes necessary:

1. Adding “United” to the Trinity Methodist Church mentioned in meeting
2. Change Vice Chair Polk to Vice Chair Yates

Member Epps made a **MOTION** “*To approve the minutes of the November 26, 2013 regular meeting as amended.*” Member Yates seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

December 10, 2013 Special Meeting:

Changes necessary:

1. Adding “United” to the Trinity Methodist Church mentioned in meeting

Member Epps made a **MOTION** “*To approve the minutes of the December 10, 2013 special meeting as amended.*” Member Clinton seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

PUBLIC HEARINGS: - None

OLD BUSINESS:

Public Program at Shoestring Theatre

Ms. Scofield advised that the program proposed for February Black History Month may have to be delayed. The retired teacher, Ms. Alzada Fowler, whom she was working on this program, is unavailable at this time due to family medical issues. She will keep the board apprised of the situation.

Local Designation of Cassadaga NR Historic District

Ms. Scofield advised that she had been studying the conditions in Cassadaga. She stated that the citizens wanted to go beyond the National Register District to obtain protection afforded by a local designation. Ms. Scofield explained that Cassadaga absolutely has historical significance, that there is a sense of place with the relation to the buildings and the streets, but the historic buildings have low architectural integrity. She said that there have been many inappropriate additions, changes and rehabs. Property owners within the camp itself are not permitted to hold a mortgage which limits their ability to maintain or improve their houses.

Ms. Scofield stated that another difficulty was the layout of the camp. The buildings that qualify as contributing are often separated from each other by a series of non-contributing properties. Ms. Scofield stressed that the citizens of Cassadaga are dedicated to preserving this special area for many reasons; they want to solidify tourism and protect the area from outside influences.

Ms. Scofield stated that the National Registry was premised on the original camp boundaries and subsequent subdivisions which were developed by the people associated with the camp. Other Certified Local Government Staff suggested that the architectural standards be loosened as there is value in preserving the historical community, since some of the unsympathetic changes are reversible.

Member Benn asked if there was the option to shrink the district to just the hotel and the church. He stated that he was concerned that there isn't enough money to do the necessary repairs.

Ms. Scofield explained that a smaller district doesn't respond to the goals of the community. They want to protect their identity and unique historical character and don't wish to be annexed by Deltona. Also, review is in response to a building permit. The designation doesn't require any changes or improvements to properties, so financial concerns are not immediate.

Mr. Zacharias asked if she knew the size of the area and if new construction was allowed.

Ms. Scofield stated that she wasn't sure what the size would be and that, yes, new construction was allowed which was one of the reasons that a local district and review process is important. She then said that she is trying to prepare a proposed district boundary in March, and then would present that in a community public meeting. The boundary might be revised depending on the response at the meeting.

Revision to Ordinance No. 2007-21, Chapter 62

Ms. Scofield advised that staff wants to change the governing ordinance redefining the legal criteria for historic designation as a building or structure older than fifty years as opposed to specifying a specific "built prior to" date. If the Board is in agreement, staff could prepare an agenda item for Council.

Mr. Fincher advised the Board that to do that they would need to initiate the item. He stated that if they approve the change it will go before Council. If Council agrees, County legal staff will make the requested change to the ordinance and take it back to the County Council for approval and implementation.

Ms. Epps makes **MOTION** to change ordinance to reflect "fifty years" rather than the current "built prior to". Member Wagner seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

Status of Spaceport Florida

Ms. Scofield told the Board that the next meeting will be on February 11, 2014 in New Smyrna Beach.

Member Clinton asked Ms. Scofield if she had any idea of the citizen's opinions.

Ms. Scofield stated that she had spoken with Mr. Clay Henderson and that the general feeling was negative, no one wants the project to be built in that location, but prefer it be on NASA property. She said that most people were against the project due to the environmental damage it would cause.

Ms. Epps said that she was surprised that most people did not know that the property was also of historical significance.

The Board discussed attending the meeting in February.

NEW BUSINESS:

Goals for 2014

MOTION to approve the recommended goals for 2014 with following changes

1. Change site list to 2014 by removing completed projects.
2. Add to number 5 to add comment review on management plans owned by County

Ms. Epps makes **MOTION** to “*Approve the recommended goals for 2014 amended.*” Member Yates seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

MEMBER/STAFF ITEMS:

Possible meeting sites

Mr. Fincher presented list of possible meeting sites for future Board Meetings.

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.

PRESS & CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chair Polk adjourned the meeting at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Mike Fincher, Cultural Coordinator/Recording Secretary

Date _____ Chair _____ Secretary _____