

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



**January 24, 2017**

**LOCATION:**

Bethel AME Church, 200 Brinkley Drive, DeLand

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice Chair Polk called the meeting of the Volusia County Historic Preservation Board to order at 3:33 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Upon roll call the following members answered present:

Oscar Brock  
Bill Chapin  
Robert Clinton  
Nancy Epps  
Brian Polk  
Kimberly Reading  
Robert Redd  
L. Tom Roberts

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Julie Adams Scofield, Historic Preservation Officer  
Jessi Jackson Smith, Cultural Coordinator/Recording Secretary  
Dawn Thomas, Activity Project Manger  
Tom Baskett, Public Historian

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** Zach Zacharias

**GUEST(S) PRESENT:**

Pastor Reginald Johnson, Bethel AME Church  
Carol Thames, Bethel AME Church  
Numerous members of the Bethel AME Church  
Congregation  
Mary Lou Peffer, West Volusia Historical Soc.

Mayhill Fowler, Stetson University  
Allyson Ward, Stetson University  
Skyler Phillips, Stetson University  
Jerry Mills, Burke Hogue Mills Architects  
Gregg Pifer, AG Pifer Construction Co.  
Jim and Kathy Yates

**WELCOME:**

Mr. Polk thanked Pastor Johnson and Carol Thames for welcoming the Preservation Board today.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- **MOTION** by Mr. Roberts, 2nd by Ms. Reading *“To approve the minutes of the November 29, 2016 regular meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.”*

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Spaceport Florida Environmental Impact Study Status** — Ms. Scofield reported that the study is still in progress.

**Historic Property Maintenance Workshop**—Ms. Scofield stated that the workshop date has been postponed to avoid the County’s Community Cultural Grant mandatory workshop dates. She will keep everyone posted on the new date.

**State Historic Marker Program** – Ms. Scofield reported that the two state historical markers have been completed and will be delivered next week. They will be installed and unveiled in February for Black History Month at dedication events scheduled at the Malloy Head Start in DeLeon Springs on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. and at the Coleman Head Start on February 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.

**Most Endangered List Update** – Ms. Scofield shared the updated endangered properties list and also noted that it has been updated on the website.

**2017 Meeting Locations/Dates** – Ms. Smith noted that Mr. Braun of The Abbey sends his regrets that they would not be available to host the March meeting. The Abbey is in the process of dismantling its collections and working to sell the property. In lieu of meeting at The Abbey, she is communicating with the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse as an alternate meeting location as well as the rest of the locations for the year.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Reappointments** – Ms. Scofield reminded board members that all board positions expire March 31<sup>st</sup>, and, per letters mailed by County staff, all board members are required to reapply. Reappointments should occur before March 31<sup>st</sup>. If anyone is not interested in serving again, please let her know. She recommended that each board member contact Council members to let them know of their continued interest in serving.

**2017 Goals** – Ms. Scofield shared the 2016 goals to review and revise. Updates to the 2016 Goals included: to prioritize implementation of an annual preservation awards program to coincide with National Historic Preservation Month, beginning in May of 2018; to continue research and archival service partnerships with the West Volusia Historical Society and the Southeast Volusia Historical Society. Ms. Scofield also noted that priorities could include the continued annual update of the endangered properties list and continued pursuit of new state historical markers.

- **MOTION** by Ms. Reading, 2nd by Mr. Roberts “*To adopt the 2017 Goals.* **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Attendance note:** Ms. Epps has arrived.

**Bethel AME Church Restoration Project Presentation** – Mr. Baskett gave an overview of church history and the storytelling plan for the project, sharing some early images and records. Mr. Mills, the project architect, and Mr. Pifer, contractor, shared their experiences working on the project, including interesting features, challenges and solutions. Ms. Scofield complemented the church and the entire team in their efforts. Comments were followed by a recess and tour of the sanctuary.

**Attendance note:** Mr. Chapin has arrived.

### **MEMBER/STAFF ITEMS:**

Mr. Chapin attended the Hope Place ground breaking today. Ms. Epps attended the MOAS HistoryCon event this weekend. Mr. Roberts noted the excellent welcome and turnout today. Mr. Redd noted that Mr. Zacharias recently made a presentation at the Southeast Volusia Historical Society and concurred that HistoryCon at MOAS was fantastic. Mr. Brock shared some follow up information about historical features such as decorative columns and the mural billboard in DeLeon Springs, and inquired whether the board would like him to continue to pursue the matter. Ms. Scofield stated that there is the ability

to designate historical objects in unincorporated areas and would include discussion on the agenda for the next meeting.

Ms. Reading inquired whether the Bethel AME Church was listed on the National Register, to which was replied that it was not. She also has been approached by the Mt. Zion AME Church in Orange City, and she struggles with finding the necessary historical documentation. She wondered about this board looking at other AME churches in the county and preparing a collective application for designation. Mr. Brock wondered about obtaining local college student assistance. Ms. Scofield noted that the National Register process has been much professionalized and would be difficult for undergraduate students to accomplish. The County is a Certified Local Government, and with good local partners could justify writing a grant to underwrite preparation a National Register application. It would be worth exploring as African-American historical resources are underrepresented. The board recognized Dr. Mayhill Fowler from Stetson University, who teaches an undergraduate introductory course in public history. Dr. Fowler stated that the students would be excited to get involved in assisting with the project.

Ms. Peffer of the West Volusia Historical Society presented Ms. Scofield with the organization's Historic Preservationist of the Year Award and noted many of her preservation achievements in the state and the community. Ms. Scofield expressed her thanks and gratitude in being able to make historic preservation her vocation. Mr. Baskett presented a series of interpretive history panels about Bethune Beach. Ms. Scofield suggested that as board members talk to the Council members about their reappointments, they might mention some of these projects that they feel good about and thank them for their support.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Pastor Johnson concluded the meeting with a prayer and a message of thanks to the board for its support throughout the restoration project.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, Mr. Polk thanked the church for their hospitality and adjourned the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

- **MOTION** by Ms. Chapin, 2nd by Ms. Reading *“To adjourn the meeting.* **Motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by Jessi Jackson Smith  
Cultural Coordinator/Recording Secretary  
March 28, 2017

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_