

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

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May 26, 2015

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Epps called the meeting of the Volusia County Historic Preservation Board to order at 3:02 p.m., May 26, 2015 at the Cici and Hyatt Brown Museum of Art in Daytona Beach.

ROLL CALL:

Upon roll call the following members answered present to wit:

Oscar Brock
Bill Chapin
Robert Clinton
Nancy Epps
Brian Polk
Kimberly Reading
Tom Roberts
Zach Zacharias

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: John Wagner

STAFF PRESENT:

Nancy Maddox, Cultural and Recreation Manager
Julie Adams Scofield, Historic Preservation Officer
Mike Fincher, Cultural Coordinator/Recording Secretary
Ian Williams, Asst. County Attorney/Staff Council

GUEST(S) PRESENT: Eric and Charlotte Meyers, Rentha Flowers, William Braun, Regina Beauton, Joan Augustine Clay, Juanita Augustine

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Mr. Bill Chapin, 2nd by Mr. Zach Zacharias *“To approve the minutes of the March 24, 2015 regular meeting as presented.”* **Motion passed unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION by Mr. Brian Polk, 2nd by Mr. Bill Chapin *“To approve the minutes of the April 22, 2015 special meeting as presented.”* **Motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARNINGS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- Change to Ordinance 62 redefining criteria for historic to fifty years vs date specific - Ms. Scofield noted that the change is on hold and would be for some time pending the completion of the historical properties survey begun by interns as reported at the last meeting.
- Spaceport Florida Environmental Impact Study Status - Ms. Scofield reported that the project was still on hold. A draft should be ready in approximately 6-9 months.

NEW BUSINESS:

- CRPT Conference – Ms. Scofield reminded the board that this event was coming up, and noted that the keynote address would be on the topic of slave cemeteries at Kingsley Plantation. She also requested that a board member make a welcome at the conference, and Mr. Roberts agreed to do so.
- Pelham Square – Ms. Scofield reported that as a follow-up to the April public hearing about Pelham Square, the County received a notice of appeal. This matter was slated for the June 11 County Council meeting, and would be time certain. She would alert the board as to the time a week in advance of that date, if any members would like to attend or speak on the issue.
- Rio Vista Arches – Ms. Scofield gave an update about the arches that were hit late last year by a vehicle. The arches were recently historically designated, and they are generally managed by the County's Public Works Department. The County pursued an insurance claim for damages through the auto insurance company for the maximum \$100,000 amount. This will be appropriated to the repair and stabilization of the arches; however, an engineer's assessment has shown that the arches are structurally unsafe and urgently in need of more extensive repairs. County staff has prepared an ECHO Emergency Stabilization Grant application for an additional \$350,000 to fund the cost of the project. Before the application could be submitted to ECHO, Director Tim Baylie was directed by upper management to meet with County Council members individually to gauge their opinions, and these interviews are still in progress.
- Next meeting – Ms. Scofield suggested that the meeting date be changed from July 28th to July 21st at the Enterprise Preservation Center in Enterprise.

MEMBER/STAFF ITEMS: None

PRESS & CITIZENS COMMENTS:

- Charlotte Meyers of the Riviera Country Club in Holly Hill commented in favor of saving the Rio Vista Arches, emphasizing the positive impact the arches have on the country club and the community. In response to Ms. Meyers question about the ECHO application process, Ms. Scofield clarified that the ECHO grant application has been prepared but not yet submitted, and county management is considering whether it is indeed the county's responsibility to undertake. Although temporary repairs had been made, an engineer deemed the arches to be unsafe. More substantial repair work would require the insurance claim funds along with the ECHO grant funds to stabilize the structure. After that initial stabilization was completed, perhaps the County would look to another entity such as a community trust to take on future management, additional restoration and aesthetic improvements. She also mentioned that being a historically designated property, any request for demolition would have to come back to this board. Ms. Meyers noted that she was undertaking a letter writing campaign to support saving the property. Chair Epps also encouraged anyone interested to write to the County Council. Mr. Clinton encouraged interested parties from around the county to write to their respective Council members to show the impact and interest countywide.
- Rentha Flowers, President of the Holy Hill Historic Preservation Society, commented in support of the Rio Vista Arches, encouraging the board members to visit the site in person. She noted a colleague is working on a documentary video of the arches if it would be of help in the stabilization effort or the ECHO application. She asked for guidance about forming a trust, to which Ms. Scofield replied that because the site was in imminent danger, there was a greater need for a short-term solution. Forming a trust would take some time and perhaps should not be the focus of immediate efforts. A campaign to bring awareness of the site's importance should begin first, yet could set the foundation for the later formation of a trust. Chair Epps commented that it would be helpful for the community to show its interest in preserving the site and also its willingness to partner in future maintenance and preservation efforts. Mr. Clinton

gave an example of ways that the Oak Hill Community Trust partners with the City of Oak Hill to help maintain, insure and fundraise for a site in that region.

- Eric Meyers of Riviera Country Club in Holly Hill commented about his family enjoying the stories of the Hardesty family history, and also noted common community activities at the arches, including artists painting the site and photographers shooting family portraits, weddings, graduations and other special events. He recalled during the television news reports about the accident that the engineer had stated the arches were very savable. Meyers encouraged everyone to get on board with saving the arches. Chair Epps also encouraged interested visitors to appear before County Council when the matter is scheduled. To Mr. Meyers' question about what would happen with the insurance funds in case of demolition, Ms. Scofield clarified that the funds would likely support demolition but that this had not been part of the discussion as yet. Ms. Scofield also suggested to let the City of Holy Hill know about their concerns about the arches. She also noted that the structure was close enough to the road to be harmed continuously by roadway and truck vibrations until important repairs were made.
- William Braun of the Abbey Historical Center introduced himself to the board and gave an overview of his coming to Daytona Beach and purchasing the Abbey, c. 1876— stating it was the only remnant of the original buildings of Daytona. He has spent seven years researching and working on the property, which houses antiques and art from around the country and is open to visitors by appointment. He invited the board to visit. Chair Epps clarified that is sounded like a lovely place to visit however it was not located in the jurisdiction of the preservation board.
- Ms. Scofield thanked Zach Zacharias for hosting the board at the Cici and Hyatt Brown Museum of Art, and Zach offered to tour members around the collection after the meeting. Mr. Chapin added that the architects and contractors did an excellent job of interpreting the Browns' desire to have the building give messages of history to enhance the collection. The community should be very thankful to the Browns for this facility and the art collection.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chair Epps adjourned the meeting at 3:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jessi Jackson Smith, Cultural Coordinator/Recording Secretary on Tuesday, July 26, 2016.

Date _____ Chair _____ Secretary _____