

**FLORIDA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
SARASOTA, FLORIDA
MAY 19, 2007**

MEETING SUMMARY

Commission Members Present: Dr. Judith Bense, Chairman; Marion Almy; Joseph Amon; Dr. Titus Brown; Mimi Reid Hardman; Carter Quina; Ellen Ugucioni

Commission Members Absent: Margo Dundon; Lex McKeithen; Dr. Angelo Perez; Ernestine Ray

Department of State Staff Present: Frederick Gaske, Director, Division of Historical Resources; Barbara Mattick, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation; Laura Kammerer, Compliance and Review Program; Alissa Slade, Historic Preservation Grants Program; Scott Edwards, Preservation Services Program.

Chairman Bense called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Commission members and Department staff introduced themselves.

Chairman Bense called for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2007 meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Amon to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Hardman. Motion passed unanimously.

Division Director Gaske proceeded with the State update. He began by discussing next fiscal year's Department funding. He noted the low number grant applications that received funding, and the need for applicants who were ranked, but not funded, needing to reapply.

The new Bureau of Archaeological Research collections facility was discussed. The Commission would like to visit the new collections facility at the Tallahassee Northwood Center.

The Commission discussed the \$1,000,000 in lighthouse grants that will be provided by the Legislature in addition to the \$3,500,000 in Special Category funds.

The Commission discussed the member issues that are historic preservation related projects. These projects did not come through the usual process of review and ranking.

Director Gaske announced that legislative authorization had been given for the State-owned historic properties in St. Augustine to be taken over by the University of Florida for management. Roy Graham, from the University of Florida, spoke about the new plan.

FHC Summary

May 19, 2007

Page Two

Director Gaske announced that the Mission San Luis fort is complete. The Commission discussed the visitor center proposed for Mission San Luis.

Chairman Bense asked Paul Jones, President of the Florida Archaeological Council, to discuss the FAC's reaction to the Isolated Finds Policy repeal. Requests to reinstate the Isolated Finds program has been sent to the membership of the FAC. Bob Knight recently made a presentation to the FAC asking for their support for reinstatement. The FAC is discussing, but Mr. Jones anticipates that the FAC Board will vote to maintain the status quo.

Barbara Mattick reported on activities within the Bureau of Historic Preservation. There was a discussion about the proposed National Register nomination for the Venice Town Plan by John Nolan. Scott Edwards provided additional information on the nomination. The National Register staff sent the nomination back to the state for revision, because they would like it to be looked at more as a historic district.

Director Gaske announced that the Folklife Festival at White Springs at the end of May has been cancelled due to the wildfire dangers.

Commissioner Quina asked about access to the Florida Master Site File. Laura Kammerer advised that there is a new web based system that is password protected. This allows for professionals only due to access the sensitive archaeological information.

Director Gaske announced that the new edition of the Florida Black Heritage Trail was published in conjunction with VISIT FLORIDA and presented at the April African-American Heritage Preservation Conference in St. Petersburg.

Alissa Slade gave an update on the Grants Program. She informed the Commission of the new grants manual procedures, grants workshops, and tightening-up of procedures relating to Special Category grants, such as time limitations on returning signed grant award agreements and on funding encumbrances. Extensive discussion ensued.

Roy Graham stated that the University of Florida is available to assist grant applicants in preparing applications. Leslee Keys stated the need for the Regional Offices to assist grant applicants. Roy Graham stated the need for Historic Structures reports. Steve Martin stated pre-grant planning should be allowed as part of the match. Chris Pendleton stated the need for planning documents prepared prior to receiving Special Category grant funding.

10:45 Break; Meeting resumed at 11:00 AM.

Ms. Slade continued with the Grants Program overview explaining that the new grant guidelines will contain examples of eligible and ineligible projects.

Laura Kammerer gave an update on the Compliance Review Section activities. Ms. Kammerer discussed issues of officer housing at the Eglin AFB Camp Pinchot. Consultation is also starting with McDill AFB regarding visiting officer housing. The status of the Pensacola National Landmark district is that all the demolitions have been completed, and the Section is currently awaiting a report on the archaeological data. The Section has not received the required annual reports. Admirals Row has been rehabilitated but not for housing. The Admiral will live in the Admiral's House. The buildings cannot be used as offices because it is not acceptable to the current Admiral. There will be a meeting next week with the Navy staff from Charleston, SC to discuss Navy base housing.

Ms. Kammerer then discussed the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program (CERP) and how this relates to cultural resources, particularly archaeological sites. CERP is working with Florida Indian Tribes on protecting or moving burials. New South Associates has been contracted for archaeological consulting by the Army Corp of Engineers to assist in the project.

Ms. Kammerer highlighted two development projects that could be future Compliance Review projects. The St. Petersburg Weston Hotel is a new development that is very near a downtown historic district and the community is concerned. Vizcaya also has nearby development that will affect the view shed. There was a discussion of the definition of view shed and the overall issue of condominium developments next to historic buildings all over Florida.

Further Commission discussion ensued regarding view sheds and on urban infill and local planning strategies.

Public comment was opened.

Roy Graham gave a report on the University of Florida Architecture School and their incorporation of more historic preservation activities. There is also involvement with the Engineering School and historic structures. They would like to increase public outreach programs.

Al Hadeed stated a concern with the large number of "member projects" proposed in the Department of State budget and its threat to the grant review process.

Leslee Keys stated that the Florida Trust Board voted to issue a statement of concern regarding "member projects." Ms. Keys also updated the Commission on Flagler College historic preservation activities and thanked the Commission for their support in the grants process. The Art Building will receive funding and will be finished in August. The Commission will be invited the opening as well as the Markland Cottage opening.

Commissioner Uguccione raised the issue of post-1950 architecture and asked about the study that will come from a small-matching grant. This grant is expected to receive funding and begin July 1. Barbara Mattick addressed that this is a national problem, but no answer has been reached. It will ultimately need to be determined on a local basis because some Florida towns began in the 1940's or 1950's. Leslee Keys commented that it is sometimes difficult to determine contributing or non-contributing structures in historic districts because of differences in building dates and also design. Roy Graham addressed that guidelines are needed because Modern Architecture is becoming an issue. Commissioner Quina commented that 1950's furniture is in vogue, but the architecture is not. Commission members discussed having a forum on this topic at their November meeting.

Paul Jones commented on the 1950's study and noted that, in the next 10 years, the percent of historic housing in Florida is expected to go from 10% to 30%. Mr. Jones is the president of the Florida Archaeological Council (FAC) and gave an overview of the organization and its membership. The State Archaeologist, as per their bylaws, is a Board Member.

A workshop is being planned for Compliance Review staff to work with the Cultural Resource Management (CRM) firms to improve standards for reports. Current issues are linear resources, 1A-36 requirements, county/state/local requirements that are changing, local consultation, the speed of the Compliance Review process, legal challenges, and storage of collections. They will also discuss other agencies having cultural resource professionals who understand these issues (as with DOT). Commission members complimented the Compliance Review Section on their ability to keep up with their workload, but stated that more mid-level staff positions are needed to review these projects. Mr. Jones stated that a proposed new collections facility for the Division is a positive step and addressed the need for a facility for that purpose to be built. Artifacts from private landowner surveys would benefit from being housed at the state. Also, there is currently no requirement for CRM firms to curate artifacts and this should be addressed. The temporary space at Northwood Center is not a long-term solution. He encouraged construction of the facility to allow additional curation of artifacts that are not currently being curated. He complimented Dr. David Dickel and his staff on their commitment to the collections. He stated that there should be an open dialogue on this issue. He also encouraged construction of a facility that would house the entire Division under one roof. Chairman Bense and Commissioner Almy concurred.

FHC Summary

May 19, 2007

Page Five

Dr. Bill Adams, Director of Heritage Tourism for St. Augustine, spoke about the state properties in St. Augustine that will be taken over by University of Florida in 2008. Discussions are beginning on the 500-year celebration for St. Augustine in 2015.

Alissa Slade was asked to revisit the grants issue and discussed the future online grants system. The Commission is receptive to the idea.

A citizen from Sarasota asked if there had been any initiative to lower taxes on historic buildings in relation to the property tax initiative. She owns a historic property in Sarasota. She was given a contact at the city planning office to discuss this issue.

Commissioner Ugucioni made a motion to hold a forum on post-WWII architecture at the November meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Amon. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Almy made a motion that the Commission support FAC/DHR workshops to discuss Compliance Review issues. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ugucioni. Motion passed unanimously.

Director Gaske stated that the next meeting of the Commission will take place from September 24 through September 27, for the purpose of reviewing Special Category grant applications.

The November meeting will be in Lakeland on November 29 – 30.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.