

**FLORIDA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
SEPTEMBER 18, 2006**

MINUTES

Commission Members Present: Dr. Judith Bense, Chairman; Marion Almy; Joseph Amon; Dr. Titus Brown; Mimi Reid Hardman; Lex McKeithen; Dr. Angelo Perez; Carter Quina; Ellen Uguccioni

Commission Members Absent: Margo Dundon; Ernestine Ray

Department of State Staff Present: Frederick Gaske, Director, Division of Historical Resources; Barbara Mattick, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation; Andrea White, Bureau of Archaeological Research; Pam Stanley, Office of Division Director; Alissa Slade, Crista Hosmer, Sharyn Heiland and Jennifer Patnode, Historic Preservation Grants Program; David Gregory, Historical Museums Grants Program; Susanne Hunt, Catherine Clark and Kiley Mallard, Publications and Awards Programs; Joan Jefferson, Florida Main Street Program; Scott Edwards, Compliance Review Program

Chairman Bense called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Chairman Bense welcomed new Commissioner Dr. Titus Brown who was appointed by Governor Bush to replace Commissioner Dr. Larry Rivers who resigned his position.

Commission Members and Department staff introduced themselves.

Chairman Bense called for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2006 meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Amon to approve the minutes as written. Motion seconded by Commissioner Perez. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Bense asked Division Director Gaske to proceed with the State Update agenda item. Director Gaske discussed the new Department organizational chart which was included in the Commission's briefing book. He then discussed the current Division salary and rate situation. Chairman Bense addressed re-professionalizing Division staff. Director Gaske stated that, until the Division is under rate, re-instatement of professional positions is on a case by case situation. This was followed by extensive Commission discussion regarding the funding needed to bring salaries in line with state and national levels. Director Gaske noted that the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers is collecting data on state salaries through a listserv survey, and he will provide that information to the Commission when it becomes available.

Director Gaske introduced Malinda Horton. Ms. Horton discussed strategies relating to rate and salary increases, specifically the development of a "White Paper." A draft "White Paper" is to be presented to the Commission at the December 1 business meeting. Commission members discussed the need to raise the salary line item in the budget. Director Gaske noted that as a whole the Department of State is under rate, but the Division of Historical Resources is over. Commission members discussed the increased Division workload. Director Gaske stated there were over 14,000 development projects being reviewed annually by the Compliance Review Section and the Bureau of Archaeological Research has 39 open unmarked human remains cases. Questions ensued regarding specific unmarked human remains in the Pensacola area. Ms. Horton summed up the proposed plan for a "White Paper" and the need to educate legislators on this issue.

Chairman Bense asked Director Gaske to proceed with the State Update. Director Gaske discussed the new booklet "Disaster Planning for Florida's Historic Resources", a copy of which was included in the Commission's briefing book. Commissioner Quina asked to whom it was distributed. Director Gaske stated that the booklet was distributed to all Main Street Communities and Certified Local Governments. Additionally, it is available on the 1000 Friends of Florida website. Ms. Horton offered to post it on the Florida Association of Museums website.

Chairman Bense introduced Deputy Secretary of State JuDee Pettijohn who had arrived at the meeting.

Chairman Bense asked Malinda Horton to address the Legislative Update agenda item. Ms. Horton discussed the "100 Innovative Ideas for Florida's Future" initiative being undertaken by incoming House Speaker Marco Rubio. The Florida Association of Museums submitted two ideas relating to a business plan for Florida's cultural organizations and funding for professional positions in the Department of State. Ms. Horton also announced her appointment to the VISIT FLORIDA Board of Directors.

Ms. Horton then discussed the September 2006 History Museums Grants Task Force Report. Ms. Horton stated there were 14 recommendations, including new operating budget levels for funding purposes. All grant recipients received draft Task Force recommendations, and most of the feedback was positive. Other key recommendation involved multi-year funding for operating grants and alternating years so that museums would only have to apply every other year. Several other recommendations addressed grant review panelists. This was followed by extensive Commission discussion relating to Special Category museum exhibit grants applications and appointments of museum professionals to museum grant review panels. Chairman Bense thanked Ms. Horton for her report.

Chairman Bense asked Barbara Mattick to address the Bureau of Historic Preservation agenda item. Ms. Mattick updated the Commission on the last meeting of the National Register Review Board on July 14 in Venice. She also updated the Commission on the status of the Statewide Historic Preservation Comprehensive Plan which is scheduled for printing at the end of the calendar year.

Ms. Mattick introduced Joan Jefferson, Florida Main Street Program Coordinator. Ms. Jefferson gave an overview of the Main Street program. Commission members discussed the inclusion of large-city commercial areas in the Program and the relationship of the Program with Community Redevelopment Agencies.

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Ms. Mattick introduced Susanne Hunt. Ms. Hunt updated the Commission on the award from VISIT FLORIDA for *Florida History & the Arts* magazine. Ms. Mattick introduced Kiley Mallard as part of the publications staff.

Ms. Mattick introduced new Historic Preservation Grants staff members Crista Hosmer and Sharyn Heiland. She also informed the Commission about State Folklorist Dr. Tina Bucuvalas being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research on public folklore in Greece.

Commissioner Uguccioni asked Ms. Mattick about National Register eligibility of relocated properties. Ms. Mattick explained National Register guidelines on this issue.

Chairman Bense asked Andrea White to address the Bureau of Archaeological Research agenda item. Ms. White explained that she was filling in for Bureau Chief Dr. Ryan Wheeler who is out of the office. She updated the Commission on the Mission San Luis Preserve America Award and Fort Construction, the grant received by the Underwater Archaeology team, the Miami Circle, the Conservation Lab, and the discovery of a 50-foot historic canoe in the Apalachicola River. Commission members discussed preserving historic canoes and the proposed National Historic Landmark designation for the Miami Circle.

Commissioner Uguccioni stated that she had been contacted regarding insurance for historic commercial properties. Director Gaske stated that he had also been contacted by this person and was in communication with him.

Commissioner members briefly discussed other items relating to the Historic Preservation Grants Program, specifically the desire to be updated when a grantee is seriously behind in the execution of their grant award.

Chairman Bense asked Catherine Clark to address the Historic Preservation Awards Program agenda item. Commission members discussed prior award recipients and broadening distribution of information on the Program. Ms. Clark noted that the submission due date for nominations has been changed to November 15.

Chairman Bense asked for other Commission business. She complimented staff on the Special Category Grants Handbook which had been prepared for this week's meeting. Commissioner Almy stated that she would like to see a Historic Florida Courthouses Trail be developed. Commissioner Perez presented Director Gaske with a framed drawing of the Cuban Club to hang in the Division office in recognition of agency grant assistance.

Chairman Bense invited public comments.

Mr. Tom Pertierra, avocational archaeologist, spoke regarding the Isolated Finds Policy. Mr. Pertierra submitted a written list of questions regarding the Battle Bend Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project on the Apalachicola River in Liberty County. [Note: Copies of Division of Historical Resources correspondence relating to that project were mailed to Mr. Pertierra on October 17.] Mr. Pertierra asked six Commissioners if they were registered as vendors with the State of Florida as listed by the Department of Management Services. He also asked if any Commissioners other than Dr. Bense had any relatives in the Florida Legislature; there were none. Director Gaske inquired of Pam Stanley if it was still required for the Commission members to register with the Department of Management Services order to obtain travel reimbursements. Ms. Stanley stated yes, they must be registered. [Note: A September 19 email from Mr. Pertierra to Director Gaske supporting reinstatement of the Isolated Finds Policy was read into the Commission record at the conclusion of the September 21 Special Category Grants Review meeting.]

Chairman Bense asked Division Director Gaske to give the future Commission meeting dates.

1. The next National Register Review Board meeting will be held in Jacksonville on November 30, 2006. This will be followed by a full Commission business meeting on December 1 at the Ribault Clubhouse on Ft. George Island outside Jacksonville.

2. The schedule for Florida Heritage Week of March 26-29, 2007 will be as follows:

March 26 & 27 – Grant Review Panels

March 27 - National Register Review Board in the afternoon

March 28 - Joint meeting of the full Commission with the Florida Arts Council, Florida Folklife Council and State Library Council

March 29 - Florida Historical Commission business meeting in the morning

3. The full Commission will meet again on May 19, 2007 in Sarasota in conjunction with the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Conference.

4. The week of September 24, 2007 is tentatively the date for the next Special Category Grants Review meeting.

Chairman Bense called for a motion to adjourn.

Motion was made by Commissioner Almy to adjourn. Motion seconded by Commissioner Perez. Motion passed unanimously.