

**Historic Preservation Board
Pinellas County
April 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

The Historic Preservation Board (HPB) met in regular session pursuant to Section 146, Pinellas County Code, at 1:01 PM on this date in the County Commission Assembly Room at the Pinellas County Courthouse, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

Present

Brian Scott, Chair, Board of County Commissioners (BCC)
Allison Dolan, Vice-Chair, Clearwater Historic Society
James Bachteler, Community Advocate (alternate)
Jeffrey Brown, Real Estate Broker
Tina Bucuvalas, Folklorist
Gregory Cahanin, Building and Fire Code
Vincent Luisi, Dunedin Historical Museum
Joseph Oliveri, Architect
Ramona Pletcher, Real Estate Appraiser
Brian Smith, Planning

Not Present

Michael Fridovich, Community Advocate
Hillary Van Dyke, Green Book of Tampa Bay (alternate)

Others Present

Derrill McAteer, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Tom Scofield, Housing and Community Development Principal Planner/Staff Liaison to the Board
Franchesca DiNapoli, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk
Other interested individuals

All documents provided to the Clerk's Office have been made a part of the record.

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Scott called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and requested that the members introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Oliveri to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2024, meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Dolan and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Amendment to COA-22-0006

Mr. Scofield indicated that the Board previously approved site improvements to 1123 Florida Avenue in the downtown Palm Harbor historic district as part of the above-referenced certificate of appropriateness (COA) application; and that the applicant has requested that the application be withdrawn for the time being, pending changes to the proposed site improvements.

Mr. Cahanin arrived at 1:05 PM.

COA-24-0001

Mr. Scofield indicated that the COA application is for the Ozona Village Hall, located at 341 Bay Street in Ozona. He noted that Mr. Smith, as a Board of Directors member of the Ozona Village Improvement Society, will be representing the applicant.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation and a staff report included in the agenda packet, Mr. Scofield discussed specifications related to the building and provided an overview of the application, including that it requests replacement of deteriorated exterior siding, minor window repairs, pressure washing, and painting of exterior walls, doors, and windows. He detailed the four specific requests and recommended conditions for improvements, noting that he added a fifth special consideration condition.

Mr. Scofield utilized a slide containing photographs of both the exterior and interior of the building and pointed out that some siding is in contact with the ground and is more susceptible to rot, which has caused some moisture intrusion and encourages termites; whereupon, he indicated that he included the fifth special optional consideration to give the applicant the ability to mitigate future rot and deterioration of the lower siding boards through the use of cementitious or polymer fly ash products, provided that it matches the existing siding.

Mr. Scofield noted that since the property is located in a flood zone, the special consideration option could act as an interim measure to mitigate moisture damage. Responding to comments and queries by the members, Mr. Scofield clarified that, if the

special consideration is approved by the Board, he will be responsible for authorizing installation of the product; and that he will only approve products with a smooth surface.

In response to a suggestion by Mr. Oliveri, Messrs. Scofield and Smith provided background information regarding the ditch on the property and briefly discussed possible solutions; whereupon, responding to a query by Mr. Scofield, Mr. Smith indicated that the County maintains the ditch.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Oliveri made a motion to approve the repairs. Following a point of clarification by Mr. Scofield, Mr. Oliveri confirmed that the motion includes all conditions outlined by staff.

Responding to a query by Mr. Brown, Mr. Scofield clarified that the fifth condition is optional and will require his participation and review if it is used by the applicant; whereupon, the motion was seconded by Mr. Luisi and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Downtown Palm Harbor Heritage Education Project

Mr. Scofield indicated that Pinellas County, as a Certified Local Government (CLG), is eligible to apply to the Florida Division of Historical Resources for two grants in a cycle, provided that the projects are in different categories; that the Board previously approved an application for a federal survey project; and that staff is proposing that the Board consider endorsing a second CLG grant application for a heritage education project in downtown Palm Harbor.

Utilizing maps and photographs, Mr. Scofield provided information regarding historic buildings in downtown Palm Harbor and types of interpretive signs and explained that the project could supply interpretive signs for eight standing buildings, as well as commemorate and memorialize four structures that no longer exist.

Mr. Scofield indicated that if the Board endorses this as a second CLG application for a state-funded grant, the project could be joined with a wayfinding initiative already underway in Palm Harbor.

Brief discussion ensued, with the members providing comments and queries concerning the following topics:

- Size, location, and design of the interpretive signs
- Inclusion of history related to the African American community
- Possibility of collaboration with Palm Harbor Main Street

- Integration of signage into the environment
- Differently-colored street signs

Responding to queries from the members, Mr. Scofield provided an estimate of the value of the grant, noting that no County fund match would be required; whereupon, Vice-Chair Dolan made a motion to approve the grant application. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bucuvalas and carried unanimously.

WORK PLAN UPDATES

Lost Cemeteries – Update on Reinterment of Indigenous Remains

Referencing presentations given at last month's meeting, Mr. Scofield indicated that he met with staff from the County's Parks and Resources Conservation Department to discuss the reinterment of Indigenous human remains; that its staff expressed concerns regarding a reverter clause, which explicitly specifies the intended use for Leach Park as an urban park; and that it has been suggested to reinter the remains at Weedon Island Preserve.

Responding to queries by Chair Scott, Mr. Scofield explained that, once a proposal is created, University of South Florida Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Coordinator Dr. Thomas Pluckhahn will communicate with the Tribes and seek their approval for a location within the Weedon Island Preserve; and that he anticipates that the reinterment could be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Historical Markers – Update on Whispering Souls Cemetery Marker Dedication

Mr. Scofield indicated that Whispering Souls Cemetery is undergoing a property survey, for the purpose of erecting a fence; and that a date for the marker unveiling will be determined after the survey work is complete; whereupon, he noted that he has no updates regarding pending markers.

Local Designations – Update on Anclote Village Local Historic District

Mr. Scofield indicated that work is being done to understand the definition of a registered local historic district and briefly discussed the needed buy-in from the property owners regarding the designation, noting the importance of the ability to offer an elevation variance; whereupon, he related that the designation application is being finalized for review by the Board, which will be followed by a recommendation to the BCC.

Pinellas Preservation Summit – Friday, May 17

Mr. Scofield provided updates regarding the Summit, including that it is scheduled for May 17 and will now be held at the Innisbrook Golf Resort; whereupon, he noted that he has accepted an offer from Preserve the 'Burg Director Emanuel Leto for a table at this year's Preservation Expo, which is scheduled for May 10, and requested volunteers from the Board to assist with coverage.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one responded to the Chair's call for public comment.

CHAIR/BOARD/STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Scofield indicated that a proclamation recognizing the month of May as Historic Preservation Month will be presented at the May 7 BCC meeting, noting that Vice-Chair Dolan will join staff to receive the proclamation; that Heritage Village Operations Manager Monica Drake will also be present; and that all Board members are also welcome.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.