

Historic Preservation Board
Pinellas County
September 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The Historic Preservation Board (HPB) met in regular session pursuant to Section 146, Pinellas County Code, at 10:00 AM 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)
Gregory Cahanin, Building and Fire Code
Tina Bucuvalas, Folklorist
David MacNamee, Emergency Management
Brian Smith, Planning

Not Present

Jeffrey Brown, Real Estate Broker
Vincent Luisi, Dunedin Historical Museum
Ramona Pletcher, Real Estate Appraiser

Others Present

Derrill McAteer, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Tom Scofield, Housing and Community Development (HCD) Principal Planner/Staff
Liaison to the Board
Shirley Westfall, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk
Other interested individuals

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Bucuvalas related that her title in the minutes should be Folklorist, not Historian; whereupon, a motion was made by Mr. Smith to approve the July 19, 2023, minutes, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. MacNamee and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Scofield, with input from Attorney McAteer, informed the members that the recently-passed Senate Bill 250 prohibits a county or municipality located within a 100-mile radius of landfall sites of Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole from proposing or adopting more restrictive and burdensome procedures concerning review, approval, or issuance of a site plan, development permit, or development order. Thereupon, the following affected items were pulled from the agenda:

- Initiation of Heritage Village Local Historic District
- Preliminary findings for Anclote Village Local Historic District

Responding to queries by the members, Attorney McAteer provided brief comments regarding the restriction's current expiration date and related that the Bill also affects land development regulations and comprehensive plan amendments; that the most troubling language within the Bill pertains to restricting proposals, which affects the HPB; and that various jurisdictions are lobbying together to change the language in the Bill.

REPORTS

Impact on Historic Resources from Hurricane Idalia

Mr. Scofield informed the members that Pinellas County has been included in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) major disaster declarations related to Hurricane Idalia; whereupon, he reviewed his responsibilities before and after a storm.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation containing photographs and maps, Mr. Scofield reviewed the impacts of Hurricane Idalia on businesses and homes located in Pinellas County, noting that the Florida Public Archaeology Network will assist in determining the impacts on historical structures and archaeological sites in coastal areas; whereupon, he responded to queries by the members.

Discussion ensued regarding debris collection, damages, and drainage issues in Tarpon Springs. In response to a query by Mr. Smith, Mr. Scofield provided information related to the Code and building in a flood zone and suggested meeting with staff from the City of St. Augustine to learn more about anticipating future disaster needs, as they are a few years ahead of Pinellas County in terms of resiliency-focused responses and planning efforts; whereupon, he highlighted several of the City's creative solutions, and Chair Scott concurred with setting up a meeting.

Ms. Bucuvalas indicated that a takeaway from a previous state-level Historic Preservation Conference was not how to save everything, but rather what to save and pointed out that

Pinellas County may need to make a decision on its priorities sometime in the future. Thereupon, Mr. Scofield related that the County's Resiliency and Sustainability Coordinator, who worked towards creating vulnerability assessments, recently resigned; and that the position will hopefully be filled soon.

WORK PLAN UPDATES

Update on Pinellas Register of Historic Resources

Mr. Scofield indicated that the Pinellas County Code requires a County-wide historic resource database, noting that the University of Florida's Historic Preservation Program and Geo Plan Center are assisting with its development; that it will enable staff to track damage during an emergency; and that staff will coordinate with municipalities to ensure that local historic properties and landmarks are reflected in the database, which will be accessible as a tool for the County and its municipal partners.

Referring to the above-referenced PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Scofield highlighted the beginning stages of a Parcel Designation Map, noting that Pinellas County has over 7,600 designated historic resources listed on the National Register and an approximate total of 8,000 when local landmarks are added.

Responding to queries by the members, Mr. Scofield related that the database will be available to the public; that special access will be required for archaeological site information; and that a live demonstration will be presented to the Board once the database is completed. Later in the meeting, Mr. Scofield provided information regarding coordination with municipalities that do not have a designated historic preservation staff member.

Mr. Cahanin arrived at 10:20 AM.

Grant for Historical Interpretive Panels at Philippe Park

Mr. Scofield updated the members on a partnership with the University of South Florida (USF) and an application for a small matching grant through the Division of Historical Resources to expand the Philippe Park landmark district and provide additional information for visitors, noting that it is the second most visited park in the county with 450,000 guests each year; and that it is listed in the National Register of Historic Landmarks.

Referring to an aerial photograph of the park, Mr. Scofield pointed out the locations of the 10 proposed interpretive panels and provided the members with details regarding the

history of the Safety Harbor Mound, the native village of the Tocobaga tribe, and Odet Philippe's St. Helena Plantation.

Responding to queries by the members, Mr. Scofield indicated that USF has utilized ground-penetrating radar; that full funding for the project has been applied for in the amount of approximately \$42,000.00; and that USF will provide in-kind support; whereupon, discussion ensued regarding the site.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CHAIR/BOARD/STAFF COMMENTS

Members and staff discussed the following topics:

- Notre-Dame Cathedral restoration
- Maintenance and upkeep of historical markers
- Historical marker brochure distribution

Mr. Scofield noted that Attorney McAteer will provide training regarding the Sunshine Law and other procedural matters once the vacant seat on the HPB is filled. Responding to queries by the members, he related that the next meeting of the HPB will be held on October 18 at 9:30 AM in the Assembly Room at the Pinellas County Courthouse; whereupon, he provided an update regarding a public hearing item addressed by the Board at its previous meeting.

Chair Scott related that he recently toured the Innisbrook Golf Resort, noting that its Island Course has been in existence since the early 1970s; that its Managing Director, Mike Williams, indicated that there is interest in having the Island Course listed with the Florida Historic Golf Trail; and that Innisbrook will be applying for a historical marker to be placed at the resort's entrance.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 AM.