

**Historic Preservation Board
Pinellas County
December 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

The Historic Preservation Board (HPB) met in regular session pursuant to Section 146, Pinellas County Code, at 9:35 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)
Jeffrey Brown, Real Estate Broker
Michael Fridovich, Community Advocate
Ramona Pletcher, Real Estate Appraiser
Brian Smith, Planning

Not Present

Tina Bucuvalas, Folklorist
Gregory Cahanin, Building and Fire Code
Vincent Luisi, Dunedin Historical Museum

Others Present

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Scott called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Scott requested that the members introduce themselves and welcomed new Board member, Michael Fridovich; whereupon, Mr. Fridovich provided brief comments regarding his background.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Brown to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2023, meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dolan and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS

Revisit adoption of meeting schedule for 2024

Mr. Scofield related that while the 2024 HPB meeting dates have not changed, Chair Scott has requested that the meetings begin at 1:00 PM due to a scheduling conflict with his attendance at Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority meetings.

Mr. Smith made a motion to approve the 2024 meeting schedule and the 1:00 PM meeting start time. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and carried unanimously.

Mr. Scofield noted that future HPB meetings will continue to be held in the County Commission Assembly Room.

Certificate of Appropriateness application (COA-23-0004)

Mr. Scofield provided background information related to an application related to a property located at 1021 12th Street, which included a request for demolition of a building, and noted that the Board previously approved the demolition.

Referring to the staff report, Mr. Scofield explained that the application before the Board today is a request to revise drawings for an addition to the historic building located at 1126 Florida Avenue; whereupon, utilizing photographs, drawings, and maps, he detailed the proposed revisions and provided a lengthy review of the seven recommended conditions for approval of the request, including that staff recommends that the previously approved demolition of the non-contributing and non-historic building at 1021 12th Street, remain in effect; and that an eighth recommended condition for approval was added following site plan review, which addresses allowing period appropriate light fixtures on the historic portion of the building.

In response to queries by the members, Mr. Scofield provided information related to the following topics:

- Lighting district boundary
- Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements
- HPB's utilization of Chapter 146-7 of the Pinellas County Code for contributing historic buildings

Upon a call by Chair Scott for the applicant, D. Scott Herrmann with Oliveri Architects, appeared and indicated that he is the designer of the project and provided clarifying information regarding a design revision related to a parapet; whereupon, Mr. Scofield related that staff supports the proposed changes.

Mr. Scofield explained the Board's options with regard to its action on this case, noting that the staff recommendation is to approve with conditions.

Mr. Fridovich made a motion to approve the Certificate of Appropriateness, subject to the eight conditions, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Smith. Upon Chair Scott's clarification, with agreement from Messrs. Fridovich and Smith, regarding the inclusion of Mr. Scofield's authority to review color and texture selections for the project, the motion carried unanimously.

WORK PLAN UPDATES

Review of 2024 work plan

Indicating that the 2024 Work Plan has had no changes since being previously presented to the Board, Mr. Scofield related that he intends to provide a thorough explanation of its contents in January, due to the anticipated addition of new Board members; whereupon, he provided a brief overview of the historical markers brochure, responsibilities and jurisdiction of the Board, exploration of two potential historic districts, collaborative projects with the University of Florida, and the annual historic preservation summit.

Mr. Smith requested that the historical background of Pinellas County, created many years ago by the County's Planning Department, be placed on a future agenda for discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

CHAIR/BOARD/STAFF COMMENTS

Referencing a question raised by Chair Scott at a previous meeting, Attorney McAteer, with input by Mr. Scofield, related that the historic courthouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; that it is a physically separate building which can function independently; and that the City of Clearwater has designated the historic courthouse as a historic property.

Responding to a query by Ms. Dolan, Mr. Scofield provided an update regarding the status of a historical marker for Whispering Souls African American Cemetery.

Mr. Smith referenced a news article which reported on a belief that there is a pirate treasure buried at Wall Springs Park; whereupon, Mr. Scofield noted that Wall Springs is now a County park; and that the Parks and Conservation Resources utilizes a permitting process for archaeological excavations.

In response to a query by Mr. Fridovich, Mr. Scofield indicated that a list of Board members and their contact information is part of the notebook that is provided to the members.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 AM.