

**VOLUSIA COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD**



July 21, 2009

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Wagner called the meeting of the Volusia County Historic Preservation Board to order at 3:40 P.M. on July 21, 2009 in the conference room in the offices of Snell Legal in Ormond Beach.

ROLL CALL:

Upon roll call the following Members answered present to wit:

John Wagner, Chair
Riley Nutt, Vice Chair
Priscilla Cardwell, Secretary
Jon Benn (arrived after roll call)
Sid Corhern
Bill Fraser
Gary Meadows
Dot Moore
Mark Shuttleworth

MEMBER(S) ABSENT: - None

Chair Wagner declared a quorum was present.

STAFF PRESENT:

Julie Adams Scofield, Historic Preservation Officer
Mike Fincher, Cultural Coordinator/Recording Secretary
Tom Baskett, Public Historian

GUEST(S) PRESENT:

Harold Cardwell, Sr., Jim Yates, Kathleen Seaman, Ed Best, Sandy Weis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: - May 26, 2009 Regular Meeting

Member Cardwell noted that Oak Hill was spelled incorrectly on the last page. Member Moore made a **MOTION** *“To approve the minutes of May 26, 2009 as corrected.”* Member Corhern seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

WELCOME BY HOST – Mr. Greg Snell welcomed the board to the facility which was a historic Ormond Beach firehouse built by the WPA in 1936 and gave a brief history of the building and provided a PowerPoint presentation of the renovation effort. A brochure describing the building's history was distributed to members.

PUBLIC HEARING - None

SPECIAL RECOGNITION PRESENTATION – Member Corhern recognized Jim Yates, Construction Manager with Volusia County, who is retiring after 35 years, for his efforts in support of historic preservation. The board presented Mr. Yates with a framed collage of photographs of preservation projects with which he has been involved. Mr. Yates spoke to thank the board and talked about how much he had enjoyed his career with the County and particularly in working on the historic projects.

OLD BUSINESS:

Report on Dunlawton Sugar Mill Special Category Grant – Ms. Scofield reported that the project was completed and the grant can now be closed out. The roof over and boardwalk construction is complete and all the interpretive panels are installed. She then provided a PowerPoint presentation detailing the construction effort and showing the finished result. Mr. Baskett distributed copies of the interpretive panel text for review.

Report on Certified Local Government Application Status – Ms. Scofield reported that she had been advised by the National Park Service that our application was approved and we should be receiving the official letter of notification very soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

Spring Garden Ranch Preservation Project & Local Designation Request – Ms. Scofield distributed a request by the owner to add the property to the Volusia County Endangered Historic Properties List. Additionally the owner intends to make application to have the site locally designated as a historic district. They are looking to develop a public/private partnership arrangement with a local non-profit organization such as 4H to operate a museum on site as well as equestrian camps for youths. The buildings and track are all in relatively good shape even though several of them did experience roof damage during the hurricanes of 2004. Ms. Sandy Weis was in attendance representing the owners to answer questions from the board.

Member Corhern made a **MOTION** *“To add the Spring Garden Ranch to the Volusia County Endangered Historic Properties List.”* Member Meadows seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously.**

MEMBER/STAFF ITEMS:

Ms. Scofield reported that Staff was working on a list of concerns from the Halifax Historical Society regarding the condition of the County owned museum building. She advised that she had been in touch with the County's facilities department and that several problems had already been fixed and the others will be addressed right away.

Ms. Scofield reported that the Seville VIA is having financial issues which is delaying their ability to complete the work necessary to open the historic Seville Public School building for community use. One thing that they did not anticipate was the fact that they need a new fire safety system to meet code. This was not required when the building was used as a school. Fund raising efforts are proceeding slowly but they need any assistance they can get.

Mr. Shuttleworth announced that he has a substantial amount of heart pine and cypress wood door and window casings available for the taking but it must be picked up within the next two weeks at Florida Victorian Architectural Antiques in DeLand.

Ms. Moore reported that the final report from the Blanchette archeological site survey project was completed and filed and all the artifacts had been turned over to the County for storage and curatorial effort. As a result of the survey, three new sites were documented and two previous sites were updated.

Mr. Meadows reported that he visited the Southeast Volusia Historical Society Museum and offered his commendation for the excellent work they do there and the outstanding contribution it makes to the preservation of the county's heritage.

Mr. Fraser reported that the economy is showing some signs of improving. He has seen a recent increase in construction related projects.

Mr. Corhern announced that the Oak Hill VIA Hall preservation project was finished and ready for public use. He also reported on a monument at the old fire station beachside in New Smyrna commemorating the coastal watchers from WWII. He advised that the City of New Smyrna was considering putting the property up for sale and had made no mention of plans to save the monument. He stated that it might be appropriate to add this to the Volusia Endangered Historic Properties list in order to help protect the monument.

Mr. Benn reported that the Historic Courthouse Plaza Chess Park in DeLand was now completed and open and that the Historic Courthouse now stands alone and looks much better. He also introduced a recently published book by Ronald Williamson, formerly a columnist and editor with the Daytona Beach News-Journal entitled *Volusia County Westside*. It is a collection of Ronald's columns, many of which touch on Volusia County history.

He recommends it and offered to lend his copy to anyone wishing to read it. It is available for purchase at the Muse Bookstore and the Family Bookstore, both in DeLand.

Ms. Cardwell commended everyone who worked on the Dunlawton project. She was particularly pleased with the interpretive signage. She also reported that she and Harold celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on July 3rd and that Harold turned 83 on July 17th.

Mr. Nutt reported that the Lemonade Lecture series at DeBary Hall, which is sponsored in part by the Enterprise Historical Conservancy and DeBary Hall, Inc., was very successful. Over 90 people attended the final event in the series. The twice monthly series will begin again in January 2010 and will continue as an annual event as long as there is continued interest.

Mr. Nutt also reported that the West Volusia Historical Society's first week long summer camp program, "The Mystery of History", was a great success with 23 young people participating.

Chair Wagner spoke about the importance of historic preservation and encouraged members to continue to support these efforts even after leaving the board. He spoke about the vigorous efforts he observed on a recent trip to Virginia and was impressed with the increased focus he is seeing here in Volusia County

PRESS & CITIZENS COMMENTS – Harold Cardwell, Sr. spoke about the need for keeping a visible interest in protecting the animal drawn machinery on the trail in the Botanical Gardens property. He hopes that someday a roof can be added to protect this equipment as well. Harold also expressed interest in insuring that the County owned historic property in the historic district at 440 S. Beach Street which had been used as the Beach Safety Offices continue to be maintained.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chair Wagner adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Fincher, Cultural Coordinator/Recording Secretary

Date _____ Chair _____ Secretary _____