

**FLORIDA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA  
NOVEMBER 6, 2008**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Commission Members Present:** Dr. Judith Bense, Chairman; Marion Almy; Dr. Titus Brown; Rick Gonzalez; Nancy Maddox; Jose Miranda; Dr. Angelo Perez; Lucille Rights; James Snyder; Ellen Ugucioni

**Commission Members Absent:** Mimi Hardman

**Department of State Staff Present:** Frederick Gaske, Director, Division of Historical Resources; Barbara Mattick, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation

Chairman Bense called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Chairman Bense welcomed newly-appointed Commissioners Nancy Maddox and Rick Gonzalez. Ms. Maddox had attended the September meeting. This was the first meeting for Mr. Gonzalez.

Commissioners and Division staff introduced themselves. Director Gaske noted that Commissioner Hardman had been in an automobile accident last week and is unable to attend this meeting due to her recovering from injuries suffered in that accident.

**Chairman Bense called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2008 meeting. Commissioner Perez moved to accept the minutes. Commissioner Rights seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Barbara Mattick proceeded with the National Register Review Board Update agenda item. The Board met this morning to review seven proposals for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Six proposals were approved for listing and one was tabled pending additional information.

Ms. Mattick proceeded with the Bureau of Historic Preservation Update agenda item. Discussion ensued regarding the Royal Poinciana Playhouse landmarking in Palm Beach and proposed development activities at the site. Ms. Mattick noted several other highlights: the recommendation by the National Historic Landmark Committee for designation of the Miami Circle by the Secretary of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark, the proposed Miami Marine Stadium landmarking and proposed development at the site, and the recently received designation of the Freedom Tower as Florida's 40<sup>th</sup> National Historic Landmark. Discussion ensued regarding the history of the Freedom Tower.

Commissioner Almy asked about the use of National Register multiple property submission covers. Ms. Mattick replied that multiple property covers for historic roads and post World War II architecture are being prepared. Commissioner Almy commented that the covers are very useful tools for CRM firms.

Chairman Bense asked about the proposed renovation plans for the FSU facility at the Seminole Reservation mentioned in the FHC briefing book. Discussion ensued among the FHC members and guest Roy Hunt, University of Florida professor emeritus, regarding reviews of development projects at state universities under Chapter 267, Florida Statutes. (Note: Director Gaske followed up by confirming with Division staff that the “no feasible and prudent alternative” section of the statute had been taken into account during the project review). Discussion about developing Memorandums of Agreement for state universities ensued.

Director Gaske proceeded with the Bureau of Archaeological Research Update agenda item. Updates on the Miami Circle, the Mission San Luis Visitor Center, the Underwater Archaeological Program surveys of Spanish Landing sites, and Public Lands Archaeology Program survey projects on state-owned lands were provided.

Commissioner Perez noted that he would like the Commission to visit Mission San Luis at some point in the future.

Commissioner Almy complimented Louis Tesar, of the Bureau of Archaeological Research, on his handling of the State Lands Archaeological Research Permit Program.

Commissioner Almy noted that she had collected information from other states regarding artifact curation policies. Much discussion ensued regarding artifact curation issues, particularly artifacts recovered from private property by CRM firms. Director Gaske stated that an item will be added to the next Commission meeting agenda to discuss how Florida as well as other states are handling this issue.

Director Gaske addressed upcoming Commission meeting dates. Florida Heritage Week will take place on March 23-26, 2009. The Historic Preservation Grant Review Panels will meet on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The National Register Review Board will meet the morning of March 25<sup>th</sup> and the Florida Historical Commission business meeting will be held on the 26<sup>th</sup>. (Note: National Register Review Board meeting was subsequently moved to the afternoon of March 25<sup>th</sup>).

Kim Fairall, with the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, announced there will be a Heritage Week reception the evening of March 23, 2009 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Capitol.

Leslee Keys, with Flagler College, addressed the Commission regarding proposed restoration activities at Flagler College in St. Augustine, particularly damage to the Flagler Hall Towers.

Commissioner Gonzalez noted that the May Commission meeting will be held in Palm Beach in conjunction with the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Annual Conference.

Director Gaske proceeded with the Historic Preservation Grants Update agenda item. Updates on the Small Matching Grants and Special Category Grants Programs were provided. Commissioner Perez asked if copies of small matching grant applications would be available on disc or paper. Director Gaske and Ms. Mattick agreed it would most likely be paper. (Note: It actually turned out to be neither. Grant Review Panel members will access the applications online, unless paper copies are requested). Commissioner Gonzalez stated there is a need for preservationists to advocate for state historic preservation grant funding due to its positive economic impact.

Director Gaske proceeded with the Secretary of State Historic Preservation Awards Update agenda item. The Nominating Committee of Commissioners Almy, Maddox and Ugucconi recommended Dr. Kathleen Deagan, of the University of Florida, for the Senator Bob Williams Award and MaVynne Betsch, the "American Beach Lady", for the Mary Call Darby Collins Award.

**Commissioner Perez moved to accept the recommendations. Commissioner Rights seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Commissioners Almy and Ugucconi noted the need for the Division to develop a uniform nomination form for the Secretary of State Historic Preservation Awards. Much discussion ensued among FHC members and guest Roy Hunt, who helped create the Awards Program, regarding award categories and the need for a third award category.

**Commissioner Perez made a motion to create a third award for private (paid, as opposed to volunteer) employees. Commissioner Miranda seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion ensued regarding the naming of the new award. Commissioners were asked to make recommendations regarding an appropriate name for the award.

Discussion ensued regarding the National Historic Landmark designation for the Grove in Tallahassee, as well as the Grove Advisory Council.

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Tim McClendon, of the University of Florida, proceeded with the Historic Preservation Economic Impact Study agenda item. He discussed the need to update the original 2002 study, and noted that the new study will be conducted in collaboration with Rutgers University as the first was. The project will be phased and will be conducted over the next two years. Discussion ensued regarding property value analysis and values of historic properties in relation to non-historic properties. Commissioners also discussed alternate funding for historic preservation projects such as funding from Convention & Visitor Bureaus. Discussion ensued regarding zoning issues, property appraisals and value assessments of historic properties.

Chairman Bense called for public comment.

Steve Martin, of John Cullinane Associates, addressed the need for Grant Review Panels to be aware of the priorities in the Division letter soliciting grant applications. The Division will highlight priorities in the information sent to the panelists.

Roy Graham, of the University of Florida, gave the Commission an update on University activities relating to the state-owned historic buildings in St. Augustine, including the development of a traditional building crafts program. He also updated the Commission on the activities relating to the Public Workshop on Evaluating Cultural Resources of the Recent Past in Florida being held during the next two days in conjunction with this meeting.

Chairman Bense thanked Roy Graham and Roy Hunt for hosting the Commission meeting at the University of Florida.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.