

REGULAR MEETING

SUMMARY MINUTES



Historic Preservation Board (HPB)
Regular Meeting
Thursday, July 20th, 2023 6:00 pm

Board Members Present

Derek Davis, Chair
Jeff Schwartz
Daniel Stallone

Cynthia Strachan-Saunders
Anthony Abbate
Sheldon McCartney

Kimberly Weismantle
Jonathan Axler

County Staff Present

Rick Ferrer, Historic Preservation Officer, UPD
Michael Meloni, Historic Preservation Intern

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chair Davis at 6:00 p.m.; roll call taken by Mr. Ferrer with quorum established (all members present).

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of allegiance lead by the Chair.

III. Approval of Minutes

Edit

IV. Public Comments

No additional public comments.

V. New Business

A. New Historic Preservation Intern Introduction

The office's new intern is introduced to the Board, Michael Meloni. Mr. Meloni addresses the Board and discusses his family's roots in Broward County and education at the University of Miami. The Board and Chair provide a warm welcome.

B. Broward Cemeteries Survey

The HPO updates the Board on the status on a survey initiated by the HPB to identify Broward's cemeteries. The purpose of the survey is identify all of Broward's cemeteries; record basic information for each; identify which cemeteries are 50+ years of age and have been recorded with the Florida Master Site File and which have not; complete FMSF forms for cemeteries 50+ that haven't been recorded; and, complete a preliminary survey report. Alberto Fernandez, a Broward social studies teacher and historian and potential collaborator is introduced. Mr. Fernandez has studied local African American cemeteries and assisted with their recording. He may be seeking grant support for to help pay materials and transportation for students if they

are brought in. He notes that a letter of support would be helpful for securing a grant.

Motion: Member Abbate makes a motion to provide a letter of support to Mr. Fernandez; seconded by Member Schwartz. All in favor, motion passes.

Mr. Meloni proceeds with a PowerPoint presentation on survey work by staff from May to July. He explains that County historical societies were contacted for cemetery information and that related records of the former Broward County Historical Commission collected through the Library's curator. Information was also collected from History Fort Lauderdale. County GIS assisted with creating a map of cemeteries and associated funeral homes. Staff created a both a digital and hard file depository for 28 known Broward cemeteries. Staff has initiated field visits to known cemeteries. Mr. Meloni discussed Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens (Davi) as the focus of the presentation. At the conclusion of the presentation there were several comments made by the Board including whether or not archaeological sites would be included and if State or National Register evaluation guidelines would be applied for the survey.

VI. Old Business

A. Historical Markers

The HPO reports that funds were finally approved by the County Commission after receiving a staff report and HPB resolution seeking support. The initial allocation is for \$15,000 dollars.

The HPO requested that the Board review draft text for a marker for the Bowles Strachan House for approval. Member Schwartz stated he looked over the text prior to the meeting and thought it was fine.

Motion: Member Abbate makes a motion to approve; seconded by Member Schwartz. All in favor, motion passes.

HPO requested direction from the Board for guidelines to be drafted for its marker program. Member Abbate states he would like guidelines be consistent with State guidelines.

Motion: Member Strachan Saunders makes a motion for staff to draft guidelines for its new marker program and be consistent with State guidelines; seconded by Member Schwartz. All in favor, motion passes.

Member Abbate brought forth the idea of a historic marker and possible designation for a County-owned property within Fort Lauderdale: the Savor Cinema/Vinnette Carroll Theater, (formerly the First Methodist Church of Fort Lauderdale) named after the first African-American woman to direct a Broadway show and who retrofitted the building for use as a stage theater.

Motion: Member Abbate makes a motion to recommend to the Fort Lauderdale Historic Preservation Board designation of the Savor Cinema/Vinnette Carroll Theater with the installation of a historical marker; seconded by Member Schwartz. All in favor, motion passes.

Member McCartney reminds that two markers are in order for the Speedway; a historic metal marker and the 'Parkland-style' model.

B. Pioneer Day 2023

HPO reminds the Board that Pioneer Day will be held on November 4th at Volunteer Park in Plantation, with the Planation Historical Museum and the City as co-hosts. He states that solicitations for Pioneers are being mailed at the end of the month; a flyer and 'save the date' have been created. In order to provide 5 weeks of submittal time for nominations he recommends postponing the HPB meeting date in August.

Motion: Vice Chair Schwartz makes a motion to postpone an August meeting for August 31st; seconded by Member Stallone. All in favor, motion passes.

VII. Comments by the Chair

The Chair notes that educational opportunities should not be lost in promoting historic preservation. We need to find ways of integrating education to the preservation discussion.

VIII. Announcements by Board Members

Member Strachan Saunders notes her visit to the National Museum of African American History and the fact that her book "Promises from the Palmetto Bush" is part of their library collection. She urges all to visit the museum. She notes that she will be at a film screening about Carver Ranches in the 1940s, in Carver Ranches and at the Old Dillard Museum. Member Weismantle mentions a property in Davie on Griffin Road, a hotel reportedly built in 1911, has been recently sold. She is working with a group to hopefully save it. Member Axler notes that he is now working as an educator at HistoryMiami.

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn is offered by the Chair. Member McCartney makes a motion; seconded by Member Schwartz. All in favor, motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

Disclosure: The above captioned minutes are transcribed in a summary format. To obtain a complete audio recording of the meeting, approved summary minutes, or any presentation or handout materials, submit a public records request through Urban Planning Division, 954-357-8695.