

April 21, 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COLLIER COUNTY
HISTORIC/ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRESERVATION BOARD

April 21, 2023

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, the Collier County Historic/Archaeological Preservation Board in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 9:30 A.M. in REGULAR SESSION at the Collier County Growth Management Division – Planning and Regulation, Conference Room #610, 2800 Horseshoe Drive North, Naples, Florida, with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Austin Bell
VICE CHAIR: Barry O'Brien
Zachary Burch
Candace Johnson
Janice O'Connell
Elizabeth "Betsy" Perdichizzi
Henry "Hank" Sentowski

ALSO PRESENT: Andy Youngblood, Operations Analyst
Ray Bellows, Zoning Manager
Tim Finn, Principal Planner
Suzanne Miceli, Operations Analyst, Zoning Division
Ailyn Padron, Planner I, Ops & Regulatory Management

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Any persons in need of the verbatim record of the meeting may request a copy of the audio recording from the Collier County Growth Management Department.

1. Roll Call/Attendance:

Chairman Bell called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.
Roll call was taken and a quorum of seven was established.

Chairman Bell thanked Barry for running the meeting in his absence in January. He had a flight cancellation and apologized for that. It's nice to meet our new members and see our fairly new members again. He appreciates staff for putting the last meeting on YouTube. That was really helpful in refreshing his memory while reading and watching along with the minutes.

2. Additions to the Agenda

Ms. Perdichizzi said she wants to put the Collier County Guide on the agenda to discuss a few things.

Mr. Bellows suggested putting it under Old Business.

Mr. Sentowski moved to approve the agenda, as amended. Second by Ms. Perdichizzi. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

3. Approval of Agenda

Ms. Perdichizzi moved to approve the agenda, as amended. Second by Ms. OConnell. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

4. Approval of Minutes: January 20, 2023

Chairman Bell noted that Ms. Perdichizzi's name had an extra i at the end at the top of page 3, where it says, "Ms. Perdichizzi_o asked what the records management was." That i needs to be stricken.

Ms. OConnell moved to approve the January 20, 2023, minutes with that change. Second by Ms. Perdichizzi. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

5. Old Business

A. Rosemary Cemetery (Plot W) historic designation [Amanda Townsend]

Ms. Townsend noted that there are new HAPB members, so she'd detail the history:

- We're moving forward pretty well with Rosemary Cemetery right now.
- Rosemary Cemetery was designated in 1930 and originally platted to be all the land between U.S. 41 and the railroad tracks, which is now Goodlette-Frank Road, south of Pine Ridge Road., a considerable amount of acreage dedicated to be Naples' cemetery.
- Most people wanted to be buried up north, so there weren't a large number of burials there.
- Eventually the cemetery closed and over time, some of the land was sold off.
- The part we now manage was eventually gifted to the county by Ed Crayton and is managed by the county museums as a historic cemetery.
- There are two other plots where people are buried that never ended up in public hands and they're still privately owned and have not been built over.
- These two units are Plot N and Plot W. Plot W is located in front of the Asian Market in the strip plaza on Pine Ridge Road that used to have Pelican Larry's and Plot N is at the corner of Goodlette-Frank and Pine Ridge roads.
- The best historical record we have on the cemetery is a survey done by City Engineer William Cambier in 1944.

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- Lots of other records were lost, possibly in Hurricane Donna or they weren't kept properly.
- The survey is the most reliable record of who's buried where, and it indicates some named and unnamed graves in Plot W, while Plot N is indicated as eight unknown negro graves.
- The project we've been working on for about three years now has taken so long for a variety of reasons, including working with the heirs of the property, the owners of record, of those two tiny out-parcels to convey that land to the county so we can manage the two plots in the same way that we do the other. We'd put a small decorative fence around it and install headstones with names if we know who the people are, or blank headstones, if we don't know who the people are – and, potentially, a historic marker to recognize it.
- The status now is that we have completed our research to find all the heirs, the property owners of record, and we've been in communication with them.
- We've prepared a quit-claim deed that's currently under review by the County Attorney, which is a really big step. It's taken quite some time to get to that point and it's been in the press a bit lately because we have taken on an accountability partner, Jonathan Rodriguez, who is an Eagle Scout candidate.
- He is particularly interested in Plot N, but is working on both projects, if he has the capacity. He has a Facebook page and a GoFundMe page and has raised about \$14,000 to date.
- If his school calendar permits, she'd love to bring him to one of these meetings, possibly in the summer when school is out.
- He's an ambitious young man, very articulate, and this is probably the most ambitious Eagle Scout project she's ever seen taken on. He just turned 15, so he has until 18 to complete his Eagle Scout badge.
- She's confident we're going to get this taken care of.
- She saw in January minutes that there was a question about whether the NAACP has been involved in the project. Vincent Keeys, the president, has done some of the media interviews with us and we're working hand-in-hand.
- There's some speculation that perhaps one day we could figure out who the eight people are who are buried there. There's much in the quasi-historical record, speculation about who those people are. She doesn't believe it's correct that they were railroad workers because the railroad was completed in 1928 and the cemetery opened in 1930.
- In addition to Cambier's survey, it's clear that one of the grave sites is much smaller than the others, indicating a child. That would be inconsistent with railroad workers, so her best guess is that these were members of our community who passed away and whose graves were marked with something less permanent than a piece of marble or granite, which would be consistent with the resources that someone could get their hands on here in the 1930s.
- The reason we don't know who they are is because it might have had a wooden cross that deteriorated over time.
- It's not important to know exactly who the people were, just to remember them, celebrate their lives and contribution to our community.

Chairman Bell thanked her, saying we appreciate all of your diligence. It's a long project in the works, but it sounds like you've made great strides.

Ms. Townsend said we'll get there. We'll be back to the HAPB, once we own the parcels, to request a formal historic designation and then take that to the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Bellows asked if that would include a plaque or a monument of some kind.

Ms. Townsend said her greatest ambition would be to apply to the state for a state marker, particularly for Plot N. The marker that is at Unit B is a county-made marker. It's modeled after the state markers, but it is not an official state marker. There's an application process to assure you hit those criteria and then there's a state review committee that makes that decision. If we aren't

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successful for some reason in securing the designation or the marker from the state, then we would erect a local one.

Chairman Bell said it's on the HAPB's Activity Log and there's a link for more information and a podcast interview that you and others at the museum did that's very informative. The audio link is not working.

Ms. Townsend thanked him for telling her.

Ms. OConnell asked where the name Rosemary Cemetery came from.

Ms. Townsend said as far as she knows, it's from the plantings there, the rosemary bushes.

B. Collier County Guide Book [Betsy Perdichizzi]

Chairman Bell asked Ms. Perdichizzi to speak.

Ms. Perdichizzi told the HAPB:

- This is an old guide. It doesn't have the Centennial marker on it. She noticed that because we got the new member package with a wonderful history of Collier County and realized that's what's missing in our guide. We don't have a history of Collier County.
- She began reading the history, which may need to be updated; Austin may have something to add.
- She proposes that we review the history and add to it. It has to be a certain number of words to make it feasible so we can include it the next time we order the guide.
- She can review the history and add the five museums we're proud of that aren't mentioned.
- We can add the Pepper-Hearst expedition, as well as a lot that's been discovered and promoted that needs to be looked at and combined in (the guide).

Mr. Bellows said that's a great idea. Do you recall where that information came from?

Ms. Perdichizzi said she doesn't know who wrote this history of Collier County. She didn't have any input. It's very well done and it's in the new member package, but it leaves out Tommie Barfield and it says Barron Gift Collier created Collier County and he wasn't even at the meeting. It leaves out an important person in my view. (Tommie Barfield) helped create Collier County against much opposition.

Mr. Bellows said didn't know we had this. Perhaps many years ago they had more detailed new member information packages.

Ms. Perdichizzi said perhaps Bob Carr helped create that because it has a lot of historical information in it and it might have been from something that he wrote.

Mr. Bellows noted it goes way back.

A discussion ensued and the following points were made:

- Bob Carr traditionally writes the history of the county for his projects.
- This looks like something we had from earlier board members, when we first created this board and it became part of that, but we dropped it over the years. It makes sense to bring it back.
- We can add to this guide.
- In the interim, it can be part of the HAPB webpage, so when you go to Collier County Government, Zoning and Historic Preservation, you can access it.
- There's a lot missing and we need to guide people to our museums.
- They can add links to in-depth histories and other historical societies.

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Mr. Bellows said they'll send everyone a version to make sure they read it over, make edits and changes, and we'll discuss it at the next meeting. At some point, we'll incorporate it into our web page and we'll be ready for when we update the book again.

Mr. Burch noted there was one in today's agenda packet.

Ms. Miceli said she got that from the Centennial website.

A discussion ensued and the following points were made:

- The guide was updated recently when they agreed to add the Centennial logo to it.
- It's updated whenever they run out.
- They order 10,000 copies at a time.
- The purpose of the guide is to outline historic sites throughout the county. Some are designated by the county, others are on the National Register of Historic Places and some aren't recognized by either.
- It provides an idea of the history countywide.
- It would be appropriate to have some introductory context to enhance it.
- It would add a cost, but we could be succinct.
- When we created it, each of us took part and wrote a little history. We were given so many words so we could keep the guide short.
- It does need the overall history of the county so it makes more sense.
- If we include the museums, what's the threshold for adding to the guide?
- We're promoting history, so the five museums are needed. Maybe people would be interested if they saw photos and read about them.
- Many of the museums also are historic sites and they need publicity.
- When we start redesigning the booklet for the next printing, we can edit to make sure we get it to a size that we can still afford.
- We can update our webpage, which needs more information. It has a really good version of our guide, but it could use additional information. Maybe that's too comprehensive for the guide, but the webpage could reference it.

Chairman Bell asked if there were any other questions or discussion. Staff will send us the text and then we can all take a look at it before next meeting and see if we have any changes. Do we need to make a motion or anything about?

Mr. Bellows said it's up to them.

Ms. Perdichizzi made a motion to update the Collier County Guide to include the history of the county and the five museums. Second by Mr. O'Brien. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

6. New Business

A. Collier County Centennial Events

Chairman Bell asked Ms. Townsend to fill them in on what's happening.

Ms. Townsend provided a report about the county's Centennial events:

- Most of the board members should have received an invitation in the mail; there were a few board members she didn't have addresses for on file, so she's hand-delivering those invitations.
- There is an RSVP date, which has passed, but don't worry. We'd love to have everyone.
- The invitation is for the commemoration at 10 a.m. May 8 on the steps of City Hall in Everglades City, the birthplace of Collier County.
- We'll have a short program we'll try to keep to an hour because it'll probably be pretty warm.

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- We'd like everyone to commemorate the founding of our county.
- A great place to find other Centennial-related activities is the Centennial website, www.colliercounty100.com That's where the information in your packet came from and we're working with the web designer to ensure it stays up to date.
- There are temporary exhibits at each of the five museums that touch on the Centennial.
- At the Collier Museum at Government Center, there's 1923, an exhibit that immerses you in what it was like in Southwest Florida, the state, nation and world in the year 1923.
- The Naples Depot Museum is closed for hurricane recovery, so there is no exhibit there.
- At the downtown Marco Museum, we have the Queen of Marco, Tommie Barfield, and the founding of Collier County. It's a deep dive into the Tommie Barfield story. As Betsy just mentioned, she was integral and pivotal in the founding of our county.

Ms. Perdichizzi asked if she could add that May 8th is the opening reception where Tommie Barfield will make an appearance and then at 2 p.m. on June 7, the curator is doing a performance and has asked her to read passages from the book as Tommie Barfield, so it should be fun.

Chairman Bell said the opening reception is actually on May 11.

Ms. Townsend continued her list of events:

- At 4:30 p.m., May 11, there's a reception at the Marco Museum.
- In Everglades City, the Centennial exhibit tells the story of the Southwest Mounted Patrol, a police force Baron Collier established to keep motorists safe on the Tamiami Trail.
- The signature artifact in that exhibit, which we are very proud of, is a 1929 Harley-Davidson JD, the same year, make and model that the Southwest Mounted Patrol rode on the trail at the time. That's now a permanent part of the museum collection, courtesy of the Friends of the Museum of the Everglades. We're very excited about that.

Mr. Bellows asked if it was true that the motorcycle police officers for the county wore uniforms like the Canadian mounted police uniforms.

Ms. Townsend said they believe that's true. We know that Baron Collier wanted to model the Southwest Mounted Patrol on the Canadian Mounties. All the photographs are black and white, but we did choose red as the tunic color. We think that's probably accurate. She noted that the Immokalee Pioneer Museum at Roberts Ranch is now featuring "Cultivating Community: Immokalee's African American Pillars and Pioneers" as its Centennial exhibit, so there's something in every museum to celebrate 100 years of Collier County history.

Chairman Bell asked if there was any further discussion about the Collier County Centennial.

Ms. Townsend said April 29th is the 95th anniversary of the Tamiami Trail, a celebration that's also in Everglades City. Whereas our May 8th event will be kind of a commemoration and more governmentally focused, the Tamiami Trail Celebration is truly a celebration, including a parade around the circle. She's pretty sure the Model A Club will come out and there may be an appearance by a vehicle once owned by Baron Collier, but she doesn't know if that's been confirmed.

Ms. Perdichizzi said that's always a big event.

Ms. Townsend said Terry Collier will be there to speak, to read his grandfather's speech from the opening day. There also will be laundry cart races and a day of festivities, so she hopes you can join us for that.

Chairman Bell thanked her for the invitation, saying he already RSVP'd. He encouraged everyone else to go.

B. Craighead Archeological Lab

Mr. Bellows said the reason we wanted this to be added to the agenda is not just to provide information about it. Much of what this board does is deal with archaeological sites, but we'd all benefit, including staff and himself, if we could arrange a site visit there to look at how things are done, what they look at, what tools they have, and get a little background on the type of archaeological artifacts that are common in this area and what to look for if we're out and about, not that we're collecting them. He just wanted a vote that at some point we'll try to schedule a visit as soon as we can get a group tour of that facility.

Chairman Bell said it's a great idea. Has anybody here been to the Craighead Archeological Lab before?

Ms. Perdichizzi said she visited when Art Lee and then Jack Thompson, who were both very instrumental on this board, were here – and then the Lab Rats.

Chairman Bell said we work with them.

A discussion ensued and the following points were made:

- It would be a wonderful tour and we could also go to the museum.
- To hold a meeting there, it must be an advertised meeting so it's not a Sunshine Law violation.
- We could hold a meeting there instead of at GMD.
- The technology there isn't as good as it is here.

Chairman Bell asked for a motion.

Mr. Burch made a motion to hold a meeting at the Collier County Government Center Museum and the Craighead Archeological Lab. Second by Ms. Johnson. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

C. Visit to Historic Sites

Mr. Bellows told the HAPB:

- He wanted this on the agenda as a separate category. It's related but different.
- It would be very helpful if we get out and look at what works or doesn't work on some of these historic sites and where preservation has worked or it doesn't work, and where we can update our codes and make our codes better in preserving historic structures.
- Some sites in our guide have been destroyed over time. A church had to be demolished because it was unsafe.
- If we can try to get better funding to help preserve some of these sites or work with the property owners, there are various forms of grants that could be obtained.
- By visiting these sites, we'll get a better idea of what's working and what's not working.
- If you know of new sites that could benefit from a historic designation, we can start visiting those. Let us know and we'll work on scheduling that.
- If you see a site that would benefit from a historic designation, we can start that process so staff can reach out to the property owner to see if they're willing to participate.

Chairman Bell asked if there were comments or questions for Ray. Would that also be something we'd have to declare as a meeting?

Mr. Bellows said there are various ways we can deal with it, but we've had field trips to Everglades City in the past and some at the Old Marco Inn, where we've held meetings. We could start looking at surrounding sites that could benefit from historic designation. They're out there. We just don't have a mechanism to address them very easily, but if we get out and about more to look at those sites, we can start providing direction to staff to reach out to property owners.

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Ms. Perdichizzi said she likes the idea of hitting the road to visit these sites. It also would be timely because we want to update the guide, so this would be part of that. If we can get grants, promoting that would be newsworthy and might even get in the newspapers.

Chairman Bell asked for a motion.

Ms. Perdichizzi made a motion to begin visiting historical sites for HAPB meetings in order to update their information, seek funding and then review the Collier County Guide for that purpose. Second by Ms. OConnell. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Chairman Bell said he's embarrassed to say he hasn't been to quite a few of these sites in our guide. There's nothing like visiting a site to help you understand and appreciate what's going on there. It's a good way for us to check in on how things are going. Great idea.

Ms. Johnson said she doesn't know if we've ever sent a press release about the activities of this committee to encourage public engagement, and she doesn't know where people would respond, but that seems like a good way to get traction and public interest around potential sites that we might designate.

Chairman Bell asked if the county typically puts out public press releases for something like that. It might be something to consider moving forward to get some positive attention.

7. Review of Project and Activity Log

[The board already discussed Rosemary Cemetery above.]

8. Public Comments:

None

9. HAPB Comments

Mr. Bellows wanted to remind everybody that we have additional copies of the guide with the new Centennial seal on it. We have boxes we can provide today.

Chairman Bell said he wanted to talk about the Margood Cottages. Amanda has good news.

Ms. Townsend told the board:

- Margood Harbor Park is on Goodland. If the island is a circle, it's at 2 o'clock. There's a little base in there and the park is on the water.
- There's a canoe and kayak launch, a playground and a historic building that's been turned into a community building, (Margood History and Community Center).
- There's a small outparcel, 2½ acres, that can take four fishing cottages, three of which are of particular historic significance. They were moved from Kelly Gantt's Fish Camp at Caxambas to Margood. They've consistently served as fishing cottages their entire useful use life.
- The county acquired the park in 2005 and has since built out what she calls a hibachi court and playground and restored the larger building onsite.
- The park was acquired with grant funds and the restoration of these historically significant cottages was a condition of the grant. We've been working slowly toward that for two decades now and it was hard-going, but we received a grant in 2019 from the state that resulted in all of the archaeological work necessary to restore the cottages.
- We've now been successful with another division of Historic Resources, a special category grant to fund the construction work. It was a bit of a struggle, but we made it happen. The

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grant requires a one-to-one match, so county management was looking carefully at how we funded the match.

- We have now successfully executed that grant award agreement because the architectural bid, plan, specs and everything are already done.
- We can put that out to bid and get a contractor to get that work done. We're very excited. It's been like Rosemary Cemetery, a hard row to hoe, but we're getting there.

Mr. Sentowski said we have overnight guests, so we did a tour of Goodland and were driving around. He had no idea that park was there. He went down a street he'd never been down before.

Ms. Townsend said it really is a little gem.

Mr. Sentowski said it's very nice.

Ms. Johnson said she's glad to hear that.

Chairman Bell said he wanted to point out that Rebecca Mazerowski, the Marco Island Historical Museum manager, is the project director for that, so she went to Goodland on Tuesday evening, met with the Goodland Civic Association and got some important input. She started the process of dialoguing with the community and what they wanted to see, especially in regard to the interpretation at the site because there will be interpretive panels. He's going to be with the Marco Island Historical Society writing the interpretation based on that feedback and talking to a lot of the pioneer families who live there. He's excited about this finally happening because the GCA has been pushing for it for years.

Ms. Townsend asked Ray whether we got a CO approved on those plans or have we not brought them to you yet? She can't remember.

Mr. Bellows said it's a Collier County designated historic site, so a Certificate of Appropriateness would be required. He thought one was submitted, but you don't have a response back from us?

Ms. Townsend said we will have.

Mr. Bellows said shame on us.

Ms. Townsend said she'd have to look at HAPB minutes because she can't remember if we presented it or not. If not, she'll see you next month.

Chairman Bell noted that it's a designated site, but by the county. He was curious about that.

Mr. Bellows said he believes the guide is missing the local designation on it, so we can add that when we update it.

Ms. Perdichizzi thanked Amanda for all her hard work. It's been a process and ...

Ms. Townsend said a labor of love.

10. Adjournment

The next HAPB meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. on May 19, 2023.

Ms. OConnell moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mr. Sentowski. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0, and the meeting was adjourned.

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the chairman at 10:19 a.m.

