

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

Naples, Florida, August 20, 2021

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, the Collier County Historic/Archaeologic Preservation Board in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 9:15 A.M. in REGULAR SESSION at the Collier County Growth Management Division – Planning and Regulation, Conference Room #610, 2800 North Horseshoe Drive, Naples, Florida with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Eugene Erjavec  
Elizabeth Perdichizzi  
Barry O'Brien  
Patricia Sherry (Excused)  
George Thompson  
Austin Bell  
James Bennett (Excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Ray Bellows, Planning Manager, Zoning Services  
Andy Youngblood, Operations Analyst  
Sean Kingston, Senior Planner

**1. Roll Call/Attendance:**

**Chairman Erjavec** called the meeting to order at 9:18am, roll call was taken and a quorum was established.

**2. Addenda to Agenda**

**Mr. Erjavec** reported the following items would be added to the Agenda:

6.B Interlocal Agreement with the City of Marco Island

6.C Discussion of Member Re-appointments

**3. Approval of Agenda**

*Mr. Erjavec moved to approve the Agenda subject to the above referenced additions. Second by Ms. Perdichizzi. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.*

**4. Approval of Minutes: May 21, 2021**

*Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2021 meeting as presented. Second by Mr. Bell. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.*

**5. Old Business**

**A. Goodlette/Pine Ridge Road (Plot W) historic designation**

Continued to the next meeting.

**B. Indian Hill Site on Marco Island**

**Chairman Erjavec** provided an update on the site noting he conducted a site visit with representatives of the Audubon of the Western Everglades. Indications are the City of Marco Island recognizes the need to preserve the properties. He also provided input to the representatives of the City on the value of preserving the sites.

**6. New Business**

**A. Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHP) presentation of the Business Plan for the Bank of Everglades (BOE) Building**

**Kathleen Brock President of Everglades Society for Historic Preservation and Patricia Huff** presented the PowerPoint “*Everglades Society for Historic Preservation ESHP Business Plan for the Bank of the Everglades Building*” noting:

- The building was constructed in 1927 and in 2018 the Florida Preservationist identified the building as one of eleven historic structures in Florida which should be saved.
- In March 2021, the building was gifted to The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHP) for use as a public space.
- The building, once renovated, will become the permanent home for the Everglades Area Visitor Center and Trail Town Headquarters serving southern Collier County.
- The building will provide public space for visitors (and residents) to learn about the wonders of the Everglades area, and facilitating a more positive experience for visitors to the area.
- The 2nd floor will house 1,700 s.f. of retail space (4 to 6 suites) for tourism-focused businesses.
- The Everglades area which includes Big Cypress and Everglades National Park, receives between 800,000 and 1.2 million visitors per year and is positioned to capitalize on the growing eco-tourism industry in Collier County because of its proximity to these parks and access to the natural habitat experience ecotourists are looking for outdoor activities.

- The building renovation is a long-term project and is anticipated to be completed by 2026.
- The Society has been raising funds through area tours, luncheons, etc. with the next events slated for October 30th and Nov 6<sup>th</sup>.
- An architect has been retained to develop plans for the renovation which includes removing an addition constructed in 1956 to return the building to its original configuration and converting the vault into a movie theatre.

**Ms. Huff** noted they are looking for an endorsement of the project from the Board.

**Chairman Erjavec moved to recommend the Board provide the Everglades Society for Historical Preservation with a letter of support for the project. Second by Ms. Perdichizzi. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.**

The Board recommended Ms. Huff prepare a letter and forward it to Staff for their review before placing on a meeting agenda for consideration by the Board.

#### **B. Interlocal Agreement with the City of Marco Island**

**Mr. Bell** reported the Marco Island Historical Society sent a letter to the Marco Island City Council outlining the benefits of preservation and avenues available to protect sensitive sites. The City Council discussed the item at their June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting and directed Staff to contact representatives of the Marco Island Historical Society and County Historic/Archaeologic Preservation Board for the purpose of moving forward with an Interlocal Agreement. He subsequently met with the City Manager who requested a draft of the agreement be prepared for review by the Council.

**Mr. Bellows** noted a draft agreement will be developed for review by the Board at a future meeting.

**Chairman Erjavec** noted he also met with Staff at the City of Marco Island, attended City Council meetings, and stressed the importance of preservation to the parties. The City Council and Staff are more committed to the concept at this point in time and representatives of the Audubon of the Western Everglades have also become involved in the matter and provided input on the importance of preservation on the island.

#### **C. Discussion of Member Re-appointments**

**Mr. Bell moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners re-appoint Eugene Erjavec to the Historic/Archaeologic Preservation Board. Second by Ms. Perdichizzi. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.**

**Mr. Erjavec moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners re-appoint George Thompson to the Historic/Archaeologic Preservation Board. Second by Mr. Bell. Carried unanimously 5 – 0.**

#### **7. Review of Project and Activity Log**

The Board reviewed the “*Collier County Historic/Archaeologic Preservation Board Activity Tracking Log (Revised on 6/30/21).*”

#### **8. Public Comment**

None

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**9. HAPB Comments**

**Patricia Huff** provided an update on the Everglades City Depot building noting the structure needs substantial renovation to address issues, especially the roof. The property is in repossession, but an extension was granted. The Historical Society recommended he contact representatives of the City to determine the extent of the permits required. The building is not occupied, and indications are it may be sold and demolished. One issue on for the site is the parking lot is owned by several different parties. She will provide updates as they become available.

**Chairman Erjavec** reported he will be delivering a presentation at the Botanical Garden on March 1<sup>st</sup> on animal habitat and its connection to historic preservation of properties. The talk will be in conjunction with the representatives of the Audubon of the Western Everglades.

*The Board noted the next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2021.*

**There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16A.M.**

**HISTORIC/ARCHAEOLOGIC PRESERVATION BOARD**

  
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**Chairman, Eugene Erjavec**

These meeting notes approved by the Board/Committee on 9/17/2021 as presented  or as amended \_\_\_\_\_.