

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
JULY 23, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn MacGibbon, Chairman
Nancy Lisby, Karen Maxey,
Christel Schmidt

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nancy Miller-Houck

OTHERS PRESENT: David Hilston, Urban Design Manager
Joan LeBeau, Chief Planner

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting – August 27, 2009
- C. Last Scheduled Meeting – June 25, 2009

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Meeting of June 25, 2009
 - Ms. Lisby MOVED, Ms. Maxey SECONDED approval of the June 25, 2009 minutes.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Certificate of Appropriateness
 - 1. Information Only
 - a. CA-17-09 – 140 Tamiami Trail – Decorate trim around old pump island
 - Mr. David Hilston, Urban Design Manager, explained planters would be installed around the pump island at Charlotte County Flowers and Balloons.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. HPAB Annual Report
 - Ms. MacGibbon questioned what staff was seeking from the Board, expressing confusion between the Report and the Strategic Plan.
 - Mr. Hilston explained the Strategic Plan detailed what the Board would like to accomplish in the coming year regarding historic preservation. He stated the annual report could be used to accomplish same.
 - Ms. MacGibbon clarified the revolving fund was an example of what could be included.
 - Ms. Lisby questioned where expanding the Historic District could be categorized.
 - Ms. MacGibbon replied it was within the Master Site File updates of 2005 and 2006, questioning if same was up to date.

- Mr. Hilston reported the survey would require additional funding during the following fiscal year.
- Ms. Lisby expressed a desire to enhance the home tour by including historic structures that had been moved from other locations.
- Mr. Hilston announced the 10 year update scheduled for fiscal year 2012 would provide an opportunity to apply for funding to complete the survey.
- Ms. MacGibbon declared there would then be additional contributing structures reaching 50 years of age.
- Mr. Hilston confirmed inclusion of homes built between 1951 and 1960 would expand the boundaries of the Historic District.
- Ms. Schmidt questioned how the Board could look out for potential historic properties in order to prevent their neglect or demolition.
- Mr. Hilston declared tools were in place for listed structures; however, there was no way to legally prevent an owner from tearing down a structure prior to expansion of the district.
- Ms. Lisby questioned if other states or cities had stricter demolition laws.
- Mr. Hilston opined it ultimately came down to political will.
- Ms. MacGibbon recalled discussions during review of the Land Development Regulations (LDRs) on disbanding the Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) in favor of an architectural review committee; however, City Council desired to maintain their existing authority, adding status as a certified local government was denied as well. She mentioned the desire for a revolving fund and a facility to archive documents and materials, acknowledging the need for an Annual Report.
- Ms. Maxey recommended an inventory of the structures within the Historic District.
- Ms. MacGibbon advised the survey had already been accomplished, reporting funding for a professional study would be available through the update.
- Ms. Maxey questioned if owners were aware of their property's potential, historic significance.
- Ms. MacGibbon presumed they were not, reporting the Board had worked toward providing design guidelines to owners and local realtors, adding the guidelines were now available on the City's website.
- Ms. Schmidt suggested the proposed, expanded district be displayed on the website once the survey was completed.
- Ms. Lisby inquired if any of the buildings on the National Register had signs to indicate their historic significance.
- Ms. MacGibbon responded negatively.

- Ms. Lisby suggested considering same once funds were available, questioning if the City's economic development could provide funding.
- Mr. Hilston replied the City relied solely upon the County's economic development program.
- Ms. Maxey suggested donations be solicited.
- Discussion ensued regarding possible funding sources.
- Ms. Maxey questioned the status of a brochure.
- Ms. MacGibbon replied Mr. Ron Thomas had created a walking tour that could be updated once the district expanded.
- Ms. Lisby suggested a workshop to address the Board's goals and objectives.
- Ms. MacGibbon recalled a joint meeting with Charlotte County regarding signage was discussed at the previous meeting.
- Ms. Lisby MOVED, Ms. Schmidt SECONDED to schedule a workshop in September, 2009 to discuss signage with the Charlotte County Historical Commission, Punta Gorda Historical Society, Main Street Punta Gorda, Team Punta Gorda and members of the community.
- MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Punta Gorda Historical Society, Inc.

- Ms. Lisby stated the Price House would be tented for termites the following Monday. She announced "Punta Gorda as it Was" was scheduled the following Saturday at the Punta Gorda Women's Club at 10:00 a.m. to sort through records and document the history of the Punta Gorda Police and Fire Departments. She added DeSoto and Manatee County archives would be referenced to be as thorough as possible. She mentioned Gordon Bower's article the previous day featuring items from the Punta Gorda Hotel. She mentioned Exit Realty was sponsoring a chronological narrative on Punta Gorda to be advertised internationally in an effort to draw foreign visitors.
- Ms. Maxey spoke of the opportunities that may be available in working with members of the community to promote historic interests, providing same to promote local tourism.

B. Punta Gorda CRA Status Report

- Mr. Hilston announced the parking garage received its Certificate of Occupancy (CO) the previous Friday, adding three retail leases were in place with two under discussion.
- Ms. Lisby noted one of the lessees started as a vendor at the Farmers' Market.

C. City of Punta Gorda Park & Recreation Master Plan

<http://www.ci.punta-gorda.fl.us/depts/growthmgmt/Rec&OpenSpaceMastPlan.html>

- Ms. Joan Lebeau announced the City was moving forward with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan with changes reflected by input from the community. She stated the Plan had three sections detailed on the City’s website and updates would be forthcoming.
- Ms. MacGibbon concurred with the Plan’s suggestion for a community or flower/butterfly garden. She added the Board had discussed a Harry Goulding memorial hibiscus garden on numerous occasions, explaining Mr. Richard Polk of the History Park contacted her indicating he had spoken with the City regarding a specific location for same. She expressed hope a foundation could be established to raise the funds to move forward with the memorial garden.
- Ms. Lisby pointed out amaryllis had also been propagated in Punta Gorda, announcing Ms. Joy Haas would be providing bulbs to the History Park that were offshoots from those original plantings.
- Ms. Lebeau requested members provide comments on the Parks and Recreation Plan prior to the next section being updated on the web.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Note: Board Member Comments were heard after Staff Comments

- Ms. Maxey questioned if the Board was allowed to raise money for the Historical Society, proposing a “Hibiscus Ball” as a fundraiser for historical projects.
- Ms. MacGibbon expressed uncertainty, stating she would look into same.

STAFF COMMENTS

- Mr. Hilston responded to the Board’s request to place a mural on the parking garage, distributing photos of potential locations for same.
- Ms. MacGibbon proposed placement of murals as a joint effort between the Board, Mural Society and outside sponsors, suggesting the City sponsor an initial mural. She offered to invite Mural Society members to the next meeting.
- Ms. Schmidt proposed erecting a wall to cover unsightly pipes between the garage and County Courthouse as a location for a mural of the district’s map.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 9:35 a.m.

Dawn MacGibbon, Chairman

Sheri Stewart, Deputy City Clerk