

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
AUGUST 23, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Chalifoux, Chairman
Cynthia Beauford-Johnson, Gordon Bower, Nancy Lisby,
Karen Lyons, Teddy Shively, Jan Sidebottom

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Cote

OTHERS PRESENT: Mitchell Austin, Urban Design Planner
Dave McDougal, Sheryl Peters, Julie Presseller

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
- 1. September 22, 2011

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Meeting of July 28, 2011
 - Ms. Lyons MOVED, Ms. Lisby SECONDED approval of the July 28, 2011 Minutes.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. CA-23-11 - 258 West Marion Avenue - Signage
 - Mr. Mitchell Austin, Urban Design Planner, displayed an overhead of the proposed signage, as delineated in the agenda material, stating same consisted of window graphics, a façade sign which would face the associated parking area and a projecting sign. He noted the applicant also proposed to retain the mural approved a year earlier under the provisions of Section 26-11.11 of the City Code, Creative Signs. He advised the proposed signage would not adversely impact the architectural or historic character of this structure or district. He concluded with a recommendation for approval based on the evidence submitted by the applicant.
 - Mr. Bower questioned the connection between Trabue and the restaurant.
 - Mr. Dave McDougal, applicant, explained it was a simple name change from the previous Tapas One.
 - Mr. Bower clarified the name of the restaurant was now Trabue.
 - Mr. Chalifoux asked if the blue, projecting Trabue sign would replace an existing, projecting sign.
 - Mr. Austin replied affirmatively.
 - Mr. Chalifoux called three times for anyone to comment on CA-23-11.

- Ms. Lisby MOVED, Ms. Sidebottom SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
 - Ms. Lisby MOVED, Mr. Bower SECONDED approval of CA-23-11. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- B. CA-24-11 – 408 Tamiami Trail – Signage
- Mr. Austin displayed an overhead of the proposed signage, as delineated in the agenda material, stating same was intended for Interiors by Design, a business to be located within the subject building known as the Ice House. He explained the proposed signs consisted of a projecting sign and window lettering/graphics which would face Tamiami Trail, adding both proposed signs met the requirements of City Code. He concluded with a recommendation for approval as the proposed signage was consistent with the existing approved signage and would not detract from the architectural or historic character of the structure or district.
 - Ms. Lisby inquired if this was the same style being used throughout downtown.
 - Mr. Austin replied affirmatively, noting same would be uniform with that which was existing.
 - Mr. Chalifoux called three times for anyone to comment on CA-24-11.
 - Ms. Lisby MOVED, Mr. Shively SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
 - Ms. Lyons requested clarification of the location of the entrance.
 - Mr. Austin replied there was a common hallway with Manatee’s Pizza.
 - Ms. Lisby opined it would be a difficult business to find.
 - Ms. Austin replied the space would be used mostly for meetings.
 - Ms. Sidebottom MOVED, Ms. Lyons SECONDED approval of CA-24-11. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- C. CA-25-11 – 306 West Marion Avenue – Signage
- Mr. Austin displayed an overhead of the proposed signage, as delineated in the agenda material, stating the proposed signage consisted of a façade sign facing Marion Avenue and a mural facing the associated parking area and U.S. 41. He announced the property owner had requested the signage be reviewed under the provisions of Section 26-11.11, Creative Signs, of the City Code. He acknowledged the proposed signage represented a fairly creative use given the building’s unique location near the corner of two, one-way streets and a site configuration of side yard parking. He pointed out the mural contained a commercial message both in text and graphic content and did not conform to the maximum size requirements for a façade sign under Section 26-11.4(a); however, as reviewed under the provisions of Section 26-11.11, Creative

Signs, the proposed signage met the intent to “encourage signs of unique design and that exhibit a high degree of thoughtfulness, imagination, inventiveness and spirit ...” He stated the applicant had also applied for a permit for window graphics for the front door, displaying a representation of same. He concluded staff recommended approval of CA-25-11 as the proposed signage did not adversely impact the architectural or historic character of the structure or district.

- Ms. Lyons clarified the name of the business was Shorty’s “Place” as opposed to Shorty’s “Bar.” She questioned the size of the proposed mural signage.
- Mr. Austin replied the applicant had not provided the mural’s exact measurements; however, he understood the mural would encompass the majority of the wall facing U.S. 41 South.
- Ms. Beauford-Johnson questioned the identity of one of the people depicted in the mural.
- Mr. Austin replied the applicant had proposed depicting a “Person of the Month” and “Couple of the Month” on the people shown in the far left and far right of the mural.
- Mr. Bower commented the mural was certainly creative; however, he expressed uncertainty with regard to it being in good taste. He questioned the tactfulness of depicting Ponce de Leon, Thomas Edison and a Seminole Indian drinking beer.
- Ms. Lisby requested clarification of the writing on the two barrels depicted in the bottom far right of the mural.
- Ms. Sheryl Peters, applicant, offered to eliminate the writing, explaining they simply incorporated favorite football teams.
- Ms. Lisby asked who had designed the drawing.
- Ms. Julie Presseller replied a local artist, Mr. Jonathan McNully.
- Ms. Lyons spoke in opposition to the skull and crossbones.
- Ms. Peters reiterated her willingness to amend the mural.
- Mr. Chalifoux opined including a Confederate flag was inappropriate, noting he did not wish to be business unfriendly.
- Ms. Presseller advised there was no Confederate flag depicted in the mural but rather it was the Florida flag.
- Ms. Peters explained she wished to incorporate native items.
- Ms. Lisby noted the subject location was very busy with regard to traffic, asking if there was some safety concern.
- Mr. Austin replied he did not believe there would be a negative impact to traffic safety-wise in light of the building’s setback as well as the significant landscaping along the Government Center parking lot.

- Ms. Sidebottom commented the community had worked very hard to make this area the gateway to downtown Punta Gorda. She opined parts of the mural were very beautiful; however, sometimes “less was best.”
- Mr. Austin recommended the Board approve the façade sign and window graphics, stating staff could then work with the applicant on the mural portion.
- Mr. Chalifoux agreed.
- Ms. Lyons opined the skull and crossbones should be removed from the façade sign.
- Mr. Chalifoux called three times for anyone to speak on CA-25-11.
- Ms. Lisby MOVED, Mr. Shively SECONDED to close the public hearing. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Ms. Lisby MOVED, Mr. Shively SECONDED approval of the window signage and to recommend refinement of the mural and façade signage. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. 2012 Strategic Plan
 - Mr. Chalifoux confirmed members had no additional comments beyond that provided at the Board’s previous meeting. He requested this item be removed from future agendas.
- B. Fund Raising Account Balance
 - Mr. Chalifoux announced a balance of \$220 as of August 5, 2011. He asked staff to determine whether a list of contributors and amounts donated could be included in the Board’s agenda material in the future.
- C. City of Punta Gorda Comprehensive Plan – Historic Element
 - Mr. Chalifoux confirmed this item would be eliminated from future agendas unless requested by staff.
- D. Historical Society Update
 - Ms. Lisby announced \$900 had been raised as a result of the recent spaghetti dinner. She stated volunteers were painting, pulling weeds and landscaping at the Train Depot, adding the Historical Society was attempting to make same more commercial friendly. She mentioned there had been a sewage line break on the Women’s Club property. She reminded members the Historical Society received no funding from the City but rather all monies were derived through fund raisers and donations.
- E. ZA-11-11 – An Ordinance of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, Amending Chapter 26, Punta Gorda Code, known as the Land Development Regulations, rewriting in its entirety Article 8, Section 8.1, "Demolition and Relocation of Historic Buildings", Punta

Gorda Code, to encourage the relocation of historic buildings sought to be demolished; providing for conflict and severability; and providing an effective date.

- Mr. Chalifoux expressed disappointment no representative of this Board, other than himself, nor any other history-related group attended the Planning Commission's public hearing. He reported the Commission voted to recommend denial of ZA-11-11 by a 6 to 1 vote. He explained the discussion indicated the Commission was opposed to more involvement by the government; however, Commission members did not offer any alternatives or recommendations for editing the ordinance. He pointed out if members did not attend these types of public hearings to help support an initiative, it was much easier for a board/committee to deny same.
- Mr. Bower stated he had not believed the Commission would have objected, asking if same was philosophically based on private property owners' rights versus the government.
- Mr. Chalifoux replied affirmatively, noting he advised the Commission the ordinance was proposed to save Punta Gorda's history and preserve its character. He stated Commission members expressed a great deal of concern with regard to a structure being deemed historic based on its age of 50 years, adding he assured the Commission such a structure must also have historical significance, all to no avail.
- Ms. Lisby suggested gaining the support of the Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce (PGCC).
- Ms. Sidebottom offered to speak with Mr. John Wright, PGCC Executive Director.
- Discussion ensued regarding whether to amend the ordinance or recommend it proceed through the public hearing process.
- Consensus of the Board was to recommend no changes to the ordinance at this time.
- Mr. Chalifoux concluded the public hearing before City Council was set for September 21, 2011, adding if approved, the second reading and adoption would be on October 5, 2011.

STAFF COMMENTS

- Mr. Austin announced the projected completion date for the Bal Harbor Boulevard construction project was February 2012.
- Mr. Chalifoux recalled Ms. Lyons had expressed concern with regard to the lack of lighting on Shreve Street, stating he believed same had been addressed by City Council recently.
- Mr. Austin clarified City Council had made no decision but rather provided direction to the Public Works Department.

- Mr. Chalifoux then requested clarification on City Council's discussion of the screening of air conditioning equipment.
- Mr. Austin reported the consensus was to direct staff to amend the applicable section of City Code for clarification and ask the Land Development Review Committee (LDRC) to study the addition of the Special Residential Overlay (SRO) zoning district to the regulations.

COMMITTEE/BOARD COMMENTS

- Ms. Sidebottom announced Main Street Punta Gorda (MSPG) was being dissolved effective September 30, 2011, noting she planned to remain a member of MSPG's board.
- Mr. Austin stated he understood MSPG was attempting to close out their accounts, specifically improvement grants.
- Ms. Sidebottom explained MSPG set aside \$10,000 for same, confirming funds remained available, and applications were still being accepted.
- Ms. Lyons reiterated her disfavor with the mural proposed in CA-25-11.
- Mr. Bower agreed, stating the mural was completely out of character.
- Mr. Chalifoux welcomed Mr. Teddy Shively, recently appointed as an Alternate Board member.
- Ms. Lisby expressed appreciation to the Public Works Department for all of their assistance, particularly at the Train Depot.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 9:27 a.m.

John Chalifoux, Chairman

Mary Kelly, Recording Secretary