

**CITY OF PUNTA GORDA, FLORIDA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 24, 2022, 9:00 A.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peterman, Chair
Andreae, Colbert, Gamblin, Magnin, Perry, Ponte

OTHERS PRESENT: Sara Welch, Deputy City Clerk; Mitchell Austin, Principal Planner;
Beaumont Hayner, Planner; Kelly Gaylord; Bob Sifrit

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Peterman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

[Member Appointment to the Donation Review Committee](#)

Exhibits:

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Ms. Sara Welch, Deputy City Clerk, announced there were two vacancies on the Donation Review Committee which required members of the Historic Preservation Advisory Board (HPAB) to be nominated for same.

Mr. Gamblin and Ms. Colbert nominated themselves to serve another term on the Committee.

Ms. Peterman verified both were appointed to the Committee as there were no other nominations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Kelly Gaylord, Punta Gorda Historic Mural Society (PGHMS), indicated the PGHMS requested a revision to the HPAB bylaws regarding the Board's review of murals for historic appropriateness. She summarized the history of the PGHMS as well as how the review process was established, noting proposed murals could continue to be presented to the HPAB; however, the requirement for the HPAB to review the murals would be removed from the process.

Mr. Bob Sifrit stated the parking waiver process for off-street parking, as denoted in Chapter 26, Historic Overlay, Section 3.14(g), Punta Gorda Code, was being disregarded. He displayed two photographs of recent developments within the Historic District and noted some of the consequences which resulted from the process not being enforced, requesting the City reestablish the parking waiver program for future developments.

Ms. Peterman verified members had received correspondence relating to Mr. Sifrit's and Ms. Gaylord's comments.

1) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1.a [February 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes](#)

Exhibits:

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[02-24-2022 Minutes](#)

Mr. Gamblin **MOVED** to approve the February 24, 2022, minutes, **SECONDED** by Mr. Perry.

MOTION UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

2) CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS

None.

3) GENERAL BUSINESS

3.a Parking Ordinance for western residential portion of the Historic District

Exhibits:

[Cover Page](#)

[Overnight Parking Ordinance](#)

[Historic District Parking Permit application](#)

[Legal Ad](#)

Mr. Mitchell Austin, Principal Planner, drew members' attention to the Historic District Overnight On-Street Parking Ordinance presentation, recalling the Board recommended approval of the drafted ordinance which addressed issues with overnight on-street parking. He indicated adoption of the ordinance was postponed while legal and operational matters were being addressed to ensure the ordinance would be enforceable, adding the second reading of the ordinance was scheduled for the April 6, 2022, City Council meeting. He next briefly reviewed the presentation, which included a map of the effective area, required signage, hang tag specifications, program announcement and application, concluding with a description of the information that would be included on the City's website regarding the program.

Ms. Peterman indicated there were currently no policies to prohibit parking within the Historic District for an extended period of time, expressing appreciation for the work that was completed for the program.

3.b Historic Preservation Advisory Board Bylaws

Exhibits:

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[Bylaws Presentation](#)

[Historic Preservation Advisory Board Bylaws - Proposed](#)

[Historic Preservation Advisory Board Bylaws - Change Tracking](#)

[Historic Preservation Advisory Board Bylaws - Existing](#)

Ms. Welch announced the bylaws were returning to the Board for further discussion, providing an overview of the updated proposed changes, which included revised language relating to the Board's duties. She indicated staff desired for members to provide a recommendation to City Council on the proposed changes along with the additional amendments.

Ms. Ponte suggested review of historic statuary or monuments be added as a duty of the Board, particularly due to recent controversies toward certain statues located in public places and what they represented.

Ms. Peterman concurred. She then inquired whether members had comments regarding Ms. Theresa Murtha's email which recommended a change to the Board's mural review process.

Ms. Ponte opined community engagement was an important tool to gain additional perspectives.

Ms. Colbert indicated she was unaware of any instances when the Board denied what was presented by the PGHMS.

Ms. Gaylord stated the Board had not provided any comments on the murals' historical appropriateness since she had been presenting them; additionally, the PGHMS had numerous methods for public outreach. She indicated the additional process of presenting the murals to the Board had caused delays due to meeting cancellations, adding historic murals required three reviews, whereas business murals only required one review, concluding the PGHMS was requesting the additional step to be removed.

Ms. Andreae **MOVED** to remove the review of murals from the Board's duties, **SECONDED** by Ms. Magnin.

Mr. Gamblin expressed concern removal of the duty would set a precedent for other organizations to remove review processes.

Discussion ensued regarding the rationale for the removing or retaining the mural review process as one of the Board's duties as well as the various ways the PGHMS engaged the public with their mission, with Ms. Peterman calling for a vote on the motion to remove the duty.

VOTING AYE: Adrienne, Magnin.

VOTING NAY: Colbert, Gamblin, Perry, Peterman, Ponte.

MOTION FAILED.

Ms. Welch confirmed the duty would remain in the presentation to City Council. She then continued reviewing the proposed changes, inquiring whether members had additional recommendations.

Ms. Peterman opined enforcement of the parking ordinance for the Historic District should be addressed in the bylaws.

Mr. Austin provided the background of the parking waiver program established for the Historic Overlay District, including the changes made following Hurricane Charley, verifying staff would enforce the provisions moving forward.

Ms. Welch confirmed recommendations for parking waivers would be added as a duty.

Ms. Ponte inquired whether the revision to Duty H would include review and input of statutory.

Ms. Welch replied affirmatively.

Ms. Peterman verified the bylaws would return to the Board prior to adoption.

3.c [Update on the Mural Refresh Project – Local Black History Mural – PG Historic Mural Society](#)

[Exhibits:](#)

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Ms. Gaylord provided an in depth review of the presentation for the Local Black History Mural (LBHM) Refresh project, which included the purpose of the project as well as images of and content from the original LBHM. She explained the design would continue to present history in separate panels but would convey the history pictorially rather than with figures and names. She indicated the revised and existing content for the LBHM would be displayed across the panels as follows: panel 1 – early years; panel 2 – religion; panels 3 and 4 – education; panel 5 – desegregation; panel 6 – community; panel 7 – military; panel 8 – government; panel 9 – entertainment; panel 10 – sports. She stated an informational plaque was proposed to be installed in front of the mural near the sidewalk and would contain a quick response (QR) code for the public to access additional information regarding the panels, concluding the LBHM Refresh project would be presented at the April 6, 2022, City Council meeting.

Ms. Ponte inquired as to who would maintain the information accessed from the QR code.

Ms. Gaylord responded same would direct individuals to the PGHMS' website which required information to only be updated in one location.

STAFF COMMENTS

Land Development Regulation (LDR) Update

Exhibits:

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Mr. Beaumont Hayner, Planner, drew members' attention to the Land Development Regulations (LDR) Form Based Codes (FBC) 1st Draft – Greater Downtown Area presentation, beginning with an explanation of the three phase project, the purpose of the LDRs and FBC update, the goals for the LDRs contained in Article 3 and existing historic preservation projects (slides 2-5).

Mr. Austin next summarized the data from the Historic Resources Survey (slide 6). He then continued with a detailed review of the presentation, which encompassed information regarding the proposed revisions to the LDRs contained within Article 3 and Article 7 (slides 7-25), concluding with an explanation of the intentions for the proposed Community Benefits Program.

A brief discussion ensued between Ms. Peterman and Mr. Austin regarding the details of the proposed Local Register of Historic Places, with Mr. Austin verifying 164 structures were determined by the Board to be historically significant for addition to the register.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Ponte announced she met with Mr. Kent Kretzler to discuss the proposed updates for the Ponce de Leon Park, noting the plan was to obtain additional input from different local organizations regarding same.

Mr. Gamblin suggested the development of a method to expedite the review process of murals proposed by the PGHMS without completely eliminating the Board's duty.

Ms. Colbert recommended rephrasing the language to ensure the PGHMS presented murals to the Board without requiring a meeting date, expressing concern regarding the Board's input if Ms. Gaylord were no longer with the PGHMS.

Ms. Andreae opined if the City was more agreeable, same would promote relationships with nonprofit organizations.

Mr. Gamblin indicated he was unaware the review process was an issue for the PGHMS.

Ms. Peterman concurred there could be further issues if the review process was eliminated, adding the City should attempt to expedite the process. She then reported on a meeting she had with Mr. Justin Brand, Charlotte County Community Foundation, and Ms. Nancy Johnson, Team Punta Gorda, regarding the AC Freeman House Restoration project, explaining there was an agreement to convene a meeting with the local historic groups to discuss strategies to raise public awareness and support for the project. She indicated the goal was to conduct the meeting in April 2022, verifying Mr. Perry's contact information was provided. She concluded Mr. Brand and Ms. Johnson were enthusiastic about the community venture and had many ideas relating to the restoration and future use of the AC Freeman House.

Mr. Austin stated the AC Freeman House Restoration project was currently postponed as City Council made a determination on the rehabilitation and expansion of City Hall, particularly due to the modifications needed for the storm water permit, concluding a change order would be issued for same once the process was cleared.

Ms. Peterman then commented she was a member of the Charter Review Committee, noting the Committee intended to make a formal recommendation to City Council regarding the need for a funding source or strategy for preservation of historic structures within the City. A brief discussion ensued regarding the current process for relocating and restoring historic structures, with Ms. Peterman emphasizing a policy was needed for same.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary