

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2018**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Donna Peterman, Chairman
Robert Burns, Sushila Cherian,
Jason Green, Julie Price, Jack Pryor

OTHERS PRESENT: Mitchell Austin, Urban Design Planner

CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting
 - February 22, 2018

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

- There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. December 28, 2017
 - Mr. Pryor MOVED, Ms. Cherian SECONDED approval of the December 28, 2017 minutes. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. CA-26-17 – 111 West Marion Avenue – Signage
 - Mr. Mitchell Austin, Urban Design Planner, displayed an overhead of the proposed signage, as delineated in the agenda material, stating the subject property was constructed in a Commercial Vernacular style circa 1952. He mentioned the building was located in the Downtown Commercial Historic District and had contained various retail businesses for a number of years. He explained the proposed signage consisted of a 23 square foot façade sign visible from West Marion Avenue, confirming all City Code requirements would be met. He stated staff recommended approval of the Certificate of Appropriateness (CA) based upon the evidence presented by the applicant.
 - Ms. Peterman confirmed the proposed signage differed from the form of their previous signage.
 - Mr. Burns MOVED, Mr. Pryor SECONDED approval of CA-26-17. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
- B. CA-01-18 – Blue Turtle, 139 West Marion Avenue – Signage
 - Mr. Austin displayed an overhead of the proposed signage, as delineated in the agenda material, stating the subject property was constructed in a Commercial Vernacular style

circa 1909. He reviewed the history of the building's use and renovations, noting its location in the Downtown Commercial Historic District. He explained the proposed signage consisted of façade signs and window graphics on both the West Marion Avenue façade and the façade facing the City plaza which would be visible from Herald Court, confirming all City Code requirements would be met. He declared staff recommended approval of the CA based upon the evidence presented by the applicant.

- Ms. Cherian clarified the Blue Turtle was formerly the Turtle Club, confirming the existing signage facing Taylor remained.
- Mr. Green confirmed the lettering would be raised.
- Ms. Cherian pointed out there were no graphics.
- Mr. Austin agreed, explaining the dots in the picture were goose neck lighting.
- Mr. Pryor MOVED, Ms. Cherian SECONDED approval of CA-01-18. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. CA-25-17 325 Harvey Street (Information Only)

- Mr. Austin announced the applicant proposed demolition of a detached garage structure, noting the home was constructed circa 1972 and both the garage structure and the single family house it was associated with were non-historic. He concluded staff approved the application under the staff review and approval process as it was determined a CA was not required.

D. CA-02-18 - 359 Gill Street (Information Only)

- Mr. Austin announced the applicant proposed replacement of an existing six foot tall privacy fence with a fence of similar height and materials to the rear of the single family home structure. He noted the home was constructed circa 1895 in a Frame Vernacular style and was among the oldest structures in Punta Gorda outside of the National Register Historic District. He concluded staff approved the application as there was no adverse impact on the structure's historic or architectural character.

Note: Ms. Price arrived at the meeting at 9:14 a.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Florida Master Site File Review (FMSFR)

- Mr. Austin provided a PowerPoint presentation, as delineated in the agenda material, reviewing the various architectural styles of 48 properties in the Southwest Survey Area, all of which had been constructed between 1925 and 1963. He advised staff's initial opinion of significance determined 33 structures might have some historic merit in the context of a historic district, noting the unusually high number was due to the development of the area's first subdivision between 1955 and 1956.
- Mr. Green commented on the close similarity among the homes.

- Mr. Pryor confirmed the developer's plans for the homes only varied in the number of bedrooms included, clarifying the homes originally would have been connected to the City's sewer system.
- Ms. Cherian verified asphalt shingles would have been used when the homes were constructed.
- Mr. Pryor asked if the subdivision started as one tract of land which the developer built and subdivided into individual lots.
- Mr. Austin replied he believed the streets were already platted while the blocks were not, speaking at length on the records of plats in the City's historic area.
- Ms. Peterman clarified the recommendation was to include the subdivision rather than the individual properties. She asked if any burden would be placed on the homeowners, such as requiring CAs.
- Mr. Austin responded that decision would be made upon conclusion of the entire FMSFR, stating the opinion of significance was the first step. He explained designation as a historic district could help homeowners as many historic homes did not conform to current City Code. He then concluded his review.
- Ms. Peterman questioned the next neighborhood to be reviewed.
- Mr. Austin replied Punta Gorda Isles.
- B. Historical Award Program
 - Ms. Peterman confirmed relocation of the stone and placement of the marker was still postponed.
- C. Historical Organization Update
 - No discussion.
 - 1. Punta Gorda History Center
 - No discussion.
- D. Historic Fund Raising Account Balance
 - Ms. Peterman noted the Historic Fund Raising Account Balance was delineated in the agenda material.

STAFF COMMENTS

- Mr. Austin announced the bylaws for the Donation Review Committee would be presented to City Council on February 7, 2018. He confirmed City Council adopted the amended Historic Preservation Advisory Board bylaws and would be asked to fill the two existing Board vacancies. He then stated City Council had directed staff to draft an ordinance which would rename the Trabue Woods Historic District.

COMMITTEE/BOARD COMMENTS

- Ms. Price stated the Friends of the Punta Gorda Playground would be meeting this date, asking if a consultant was being sought for the playground's restrooms.
- Mr. Austin replied the restroom facility would be at 100% design plans by the middle of February 2018, projecting the playground's completion would be the end of March 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting Adjourned: 9:44 a.m.

Donna Peterman, Chairman

Mary Kelly, Recording Secretary