Florida Historical Commission  
Tallahassee, Florida  
December 7, 2012  

Meeting Minutes  

Commission Members Present in Meeting: Ms. Marion Almy, Presiding Officer; Major Graham Fountain  

Commission Members Present via Telephone: Mr. Rick Gonzalez, Ms. Mimi Hardman, Dr. Adam Hirsch, Dr. William Lees, Ms. Lucille Rights, Ms. Melissa Schechter, Ms. Ellen Uguccioni, Assistant Presiding Officer  

Commission Members Unable to Attend: Ms. Kathy Fleming  

Division of Historical Resources Staff Present: Mr. Robert F. Bendus, State Historic Preservation Officer and Division Director; Ms. Celeste Ivory, Division Operations Administrator; Dr. Barbara Mattick, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Survey and Registration; Ms. Alissa Slade Lotane, Chief of the Bureau of Historic Preservation; Mr. Phillip Wisley, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Architectural Preservation Services; Dr. Mary Glowacki, Chief of the Bureau of Archaeological Research and State Archaeologist; Ms. Angie Tomlinson, Program Administrator; Ms. Susanne Hunt, Outreach Programs Supervisor; Ms. Stacey Cahan, Historic Preservation Grants Specialist; Ms. Kechia Herring, Program Assistant  

Guests Present via Telephone: Ms. Kerri Post, Department of State, Director of Marketing; Ms. Laura Kelley, Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority  

I. Call to Order and Roll Call  

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Almy at 1:06 p.m.  

II. Introduction of Commission, Staff & Guests  

III. Adoption of Agenda  

Chairman Almy called for a motion to adopt the agenda as emailed. Commissioner Fountain so moved. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.  

IV. Approval of Minutes from October 5, 2012 Meeting  

Chairman Almy called for a motion to adopt the minutes as emailed. Commissioner Fountain so moved. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.  

V. Chairman’s Comments
Chairman Almy expressed her interest and anticipation for the annual in-person gathering of the Commission at the March 2013 meeting, and inquired what specific dates of travel it would involve.

Commissioner Gonzalez invited all to attend the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation’s Open House Reception at the Hays-Hood House in Tallahassee on the evening of March 19, 2013.

VI. Viva Florida 500 Update

Ms. Kerri Post updated the Commission on Viva Florida 500 activities. Ms. Post reported on the Nao FLORIDA 500 proposal, by Fundación Nao Victoria and work with port cities statewide; the Viva Florida 500 website, www.vivaflorida.org, will launch in beta next week; regional meetings, offered thanks and recognition for Commissioner Schechter’s partnership and support in the SE region for the Miami meeting, were given by Ms. Post; Viva Florida 500 retablo to be presented by Nicario Jiménez, 2012 Florida Folklife Artist Award Recipient, at the Florida Heritage Awards in March 2013; Viva Florida 500 Florida Lottery tickets, VISIT FLORIDA advertising, and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) signs will be launched in January 2013; Miami’s Big Orange, Mr. Neon, will be renamed La Gran Naranja and Viva Florida 500 anniversary-themed for the international broadcast of the New Year kick-off; a March 2013 production of Viva products including a television broadcast and public service announcements (PSAs) through the Friends of the Museums of Florida History, Inc., the support organization of the Museum of Florida History.

Commissioner Fountain inquired on availability and eligibility of Tourist Development Council (TDC) funds to bring the Nao Victoria ships to Florida’s port cities.

Director Bendus encouraged all in the Commission towards involvement in the Viva Florida 500 commemoration, in their local areas.

Ms. Post encouraged the Commission’s involvement, and will provide the commission with a talking points list, ‘10 Ways To Get Involved With Viva Florida 500’.

VII. Director’s Division Updates

Director Bendus thanked the Commission for their participation, time, and passion to preserve, promote and protect history in the state. Director Bendus discussed the division’s involvement with: the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) meeting to participate with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in the 2013 Florida Forever Property Priority List; Deepwater Horizon project; the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Tribes regarding projects involving the Everglades Restoration, Piney Point and Cape Canaveral; Programmatic Agreement (PA) with University of Florida (UF) in the City of St. Augustine’s Colonial Quarter; and budget issues including Legislative Budget Requests (LBRs) submitted to the Governor’s Office, division priorities as identified by the Secretary of State include The Grove & Small-Matching Historic Preservation Grants. Director Bendus requested advocacy from the Commission, once the budget recommendation reaches the House and Senate, with a department-coordinated message. This year the department provided the grant’s applicant list as part of the LBRs, so individual legislative members will know what projects are within their
districts. Other Division projects include: continuation of the rehabilitation of the Call-Collins House at The Grove; acquisition strategy of properties adjacent to The Grove for better public access; partnerships and projects involving the Miami Circle; Great Floridian nominations and awards during Heritage Week; Historic Golf Course project, partnering with The Professional Golfers’ Association (PGA), the United States Gold Association (USGA) and VISIT FLORIDA; the Secretary has asked for a plan to be created to install historical exhibits and interpretation at airports; assisting with recognition process for federal recognition of the Apalachee Tribe; research design to look for the Jean Ribault flagship “Trinite” off of Cape Canaveral; initiating the USS Narcissus Underwater Archaeological Preserve in Tampa Bay; and the Miami Herald Building’s nomination for historic designation as a protected landmark.

Commissioner Gonzalez inquired if the state will issue a letter of support concerning the Miami Herald Building. Director Bendus stated that the division will send a letter following the Secretary of Interior’s Standards using the 50 year criteria; the City of Miami is a Certified Local Government (CLG) and the division has determined this to be a local issue.

Director Bendus also reported on: a partnership with Florida Public Archaeology Network (FPAN) on a Resource Catalogue; Camino Real efforts continuing for an interpretive map; close to 189,000 recorded resources in the Florida Master Site File (FMSF); and a proposed initiative, the Citizen Archaeology Permit (CAP) program. Discussion ensued.


Commissioner Gonzalez commended Dr. Mattick and the Division for work on the update of the comprehensive plan; and offered support as the incoming President of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation (FTHP) to make the proposed annual regional meetings a success. Dr. Mattick stated the plan is now posted on website, a hardcopy is being produced, and an executive summary version will be distributed to legislators. The formal presentation of the plan will occur at the FTHP’s 2013 Annual Conference in St. Augustine.

VIII. Business Items

A. Annual Election of the Assistant Presiding Officer

Chairman Almy opened the floor for the annual election of the assistant presiding officer. Commissioners Fountain and Gonzalez volunteered. Commissioner Uguccioni moved to nominate Commissioner Gonzalez as Assistant Presiding Officer. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

B. Recommendation of Historic Preservation Awards

The nominating committee put forth the names of Mr. Kenneth Smith, FAIA for the Mary Call Darby Collins Volunteer Award, and Dr. Roger Smith for the Senator Bob Williams Public Employee Award. The subcommittee report served as a motion. Motion was seconded by
Commissioner Hardman. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Review of public request for Naming of a State Facility

The Commission was presented with a letter from Mr. Max D. Crumit, P.E. with the Orland-Orange County Expressway Authority, with regard to renaming the SR 408 Mainline toll plaza at Conway Road for Mr. Joseph A. Berenis. Director Bendus advised the Commission that F.S. 267.062 precludes the naming of a state facility for a living person. Commissioner Fountain made a motion to not make a recommendation pursuant to F.S. 267.062, and to authorize the Department to send a letter on behalf of the Florida Historical Commission (FHC) informing the requestor that regrettably the FHC is unable to make a recommendation due to state statute. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

IX. Committee Reports

A. Bureau of Historic Preservation Update

Ms. Alissa Slade Lotane provided the Bureau of Historic Preservation update. Ms. Lotane advised the Commission on new staff members, including Dr. Tim Parsons as Compliance Review Section Supervisor, Erin Minnigan as Historical Marker Program intern; upcoming staff departures, including Meghan Martinez who serves as the Florida Main Street Program Assistant, Suzanne Huffman who serves as Florida Folklife Program Assistant; and retirements, including the recent retirement of Susan Harp from the Compliance Review Office on November 30 after 35 years of state service, and the upcoming retirement of Joan Jefferson who serves as the Florida Main Street Program Coordinator. Among other items discussed were the Piney Point project involving a Phase III mitigation for prehistoric midden site; Cape San Blas Lighthouse and Keeper’s Quarters; National Preservation Institute (NPI) training sessions; work with UF on the Colonial Quarter in St. Augustine; the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) will soon reach 189,000 resources recorded, and current Geographic Information Systems (GIS) projects; orders of seven historical markers, the recent Historical Marker meeting reviews and approvals, and a welcome center and rest stop marker proposals; the Florida Folklife Program’s receipt of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant, continuation of the annual survey of lower St. Johns River area, recommendations submitted for the 2013 Florida Folk Heritage Awards, and the 2013 Individual Artist Fellowships; reprints of Heritage Trail publications and the Economic Impacts study; approval of Boynton Beach as a CLG, receipt of a CLG application from City of Palatka, and upcoming CLG training workshops; and Tax Act Projects, including the Tampa Courthouse, and Belleview Biltmore.

Commissioner Gonzalez noted the CLG training workshop scheduled for the City of St. Augustine in May 2013 will be in conjunction with the FTHP’s Annual Conference, and UF’s Historic St. Augustine direct support organization (DSO) meeting.

Mr. Phil Wisley provided the Commission with a Grants Program update. Mr. Wisley discussed the special category solicitation underway for FY 2014/15 period, closing on December 15, with review by the Commission on March 21 and 22, 2013 and preparatory webinar for the online review system by mid-February; 39 small-matching applications, submitted as part of the LBR,
for FY 2013/14 grants; the second year for the rollover of FY 2013/14 special-category grants; and an opening of a series of grants for FY 2012/13; the turnover in the Grants Section including the retirement of Sharyn Heiland, and resignations of Jennifer Patnode and Crista Hosmer, the hire of Stacey Cahan, and program support from Kechia Herring and Andrew Waber during the transition.

Commissioner Fountain offered his services, if division staff is unable to attend, at the dedication ceremonies of historical markers or other events. Commissioner Gonzalez seconded the offer. Director Bendus thanked the Commissioner for the offer of support, stated interest in the Commission helping the division and being more active in their areas, and indicated staff will communicate with Commissioners when events are planned in their regions.

Dr. Barbara Mattick updated the Commission on properties reviewed at the National Register Review Board meeting from the previous week.

B. Bureau of Archaeological Research Update

Dr. Mary Glowacki provided the Bureau of Archaeological Research update. Dr. Glowacki advised the Commission on activities at Mission San Luis (MSL), including: a citizen support organization (CSO) position transfer for the Event Coordinator, rental generated events and increased attendance counts, annual events including: Blessing of the Animals, Giving Thanks, and Winter Solstice, the First Christmas event in January, audience targeting via the MSL website, reroofing of the Council House, MSL archaeologist’s progress on maps of church burials; landscaping maintenance by the Department of Corrections (DOC) at multiple department properties including Velda Mound, MSL, The Grove, San Damien, and the Governor Martin House; Collections and Conservation activities including addition of a line item in the budget to build an additional Collections Facility, research on collapsible shelving, creation of a Collections Policy Committee, efforts to make the Conservation Lab more visitor friendly, completion of conservation of the Martin House brass chandelier, and potential training workshop on preservation of wooden dugout canoes; Public Lands Program and ARC meeting involvement, local projects, including mapping of local mounds and using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), GPR work to relocate 150 interments and Church and Convento at Mission San Damien de Escambe, issue to UF’s Natural History Museum of a new blanket permit associated with the recordation of canoes within state parks; participation at the First Floridians: First Americans Symposium in Jefferson County to assist community awareness of the rich resources within their community; Florida State University (FSU) interns assisting with exhibits; CAP Program; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) developments and website updates; the Underwater Archaeology Program’s 1A-31 permitting projects, bi-annual reviews of National Keys Sanctuary, presentation on the next Viva Moment on WCTV discussing shipwrecks, survey for flagship of Jean Ribault with multiple partners and support from Secretary and Governor to commemorate 450th anniversary of French presence in Florida; and discussed events of the Panhandle Archaeological Society at Tallahassee (PAST).

X. Other Business
Commissioner Fountain discussed interest in awards for donations to the division, and for legislators. Commissioner Schechter supported the plan for recognition of philanthropic efforts. Commissioner Fountain will provide a draft to the division, and have ready by the March meeting.

XI. Public Comment: None

XII. Adjourn

Chairman Almy called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Fountain so moved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hardman and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

[Signature]  Presiding Officer

[Signature]  Director, Division of Historical Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer

Approved:  3.21.2013