

Florida Historical Commission
Web Meeting, Zoom, Meeting ID: 897 0663 8603
Friday, February 3, 2023 9:30 a.m. - Conclusion

Meeting Minutes

Commission Members Present In-Person: Dr. Judy Bense, Chair; Ms. Kathleen Kauffman.

Commission Members Present Via Webinar: Mr. Tony Cortese; Mr. Bill Clague; Dr. Michael Francis; Mr. Rick Gonzalez; Mr. John Phelps; Dr. Clifford Smith.

Commission Members Not Present: Mr. Steve Birtman; Mr. John Browning, Jr.

DOS Staff Members Present: Ms. Alissa Lotane, Director; Dr. Angela Tomlinson, Assistant Director; Mr. Ruben Acosta, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation; Dr. Kathryn Miyar, Chief, Bureau of Archaeological Research; Mr. John Grandage, Outreach Coordinator; Mr. Jeremy Heiker, Historical Marker Program; Dr. Sarah Liko, Operations Manager.

Members of the Public Present: Ms. Linda Kranert; Ms. Elaine Fashee; Ms. Judy Gornicki; Ms. Melissa Wyllie.

Item I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Dr. Bense called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. and asked Dr. Liko to call the roll. Quorum was confirmed.

Item II. Introduction of Commission, Staff & Guests

Dr. Bense asked the commissioners, staff, and guests to introduce themselves.

Item III. Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Bense asked for a motion to adopt the February 3, 2023, FHC business meeting agenda. Ms. Kauffman so moved. Dr. Francis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Item IV. Approval of Minutes from August 5, 2022, Meeting

Dr. Bense asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the August 5, 2022, FHC business meeting. Dr. Smith so moved. Mr. Clague seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item V. Approval of Minutes from FY2024 Special Category Grant Meeting

Dr. Bense asked for a motion to adopt the minutes from the FY2024 Special Category Grant meeting. Mr. Clague so moved. Ms. Kauffman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item VI. Chairman's Comments

Dr. Bense gave her appreciation to the commissioners for dedicating their time and efforts.

Item VII. Director's Comments

Dr. Bense recognized Ms. Lotane to give the Director's Comments. Ms. Lotane thanked the commissioners for their time. She provided updates on the Governor's budget and legislation that had been submitted for the upcoming legislative session.

Item VIII. Business Items

Dr. Bense recognized Ms. Kranert to present a naming request for the Florida State Hospital Chapel Building. She provided information about Reverend Sofge, and the work he did on behalf of the construction of the chapel and his service to the patients at the hospital. Mr. Phelps moved that the

Florida State Hospital Chapel Building be renamed as the Robert Sofge Sr. Chapel at Florida State Hospital. Dr. Francis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Bense opened the floor for nominations for the Assistant Presiding Officer. Mr. Phelps moved to nominate Mr. Gonzalez, and Mr. Clague seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Bense asked Dr. Liko to provide the commissioners with upcoming dates for the FHC business meetings.

Item IX. Committee Reports

Dr. Bense recognized Dr. Miyar to give the Bureau of Archaeological Research report. Dr. Miyar provided updates for each program area, including research on Dog Island, looting cases, and conservation projects. She also informed the commissioners of Archaeology Month plans for March 2023.

Dr. Bense recognized Mr. Acosta to give the Bureau of Historic Preservation report. Mr. Acosta provided updates on staffing, the Main Street program, Preservation Month in May 2023, and disaster planning trainings and publications.

Dr. Bense recognized Dr. Tomlinson to give the Grants Program report. Dr. Tomlinson provided an overview of the Special Category and Small Matching grant funding in the Governor’s budget. The commissioners discussed forming a subcommittee to discuss the grant rule. Dr. Bense asked Ms. Kauffman to chair the subcommittee. Commissioners Gonzalez, Francis, Phelps, and Smith volunteered to participate on the subcommittee. Dr. Tomlinson reminded the commissioners of the FY2025 Special Category grant review meeting dates, September 27-28, 2023.

Item X. Other Business

Dr. Bense discussed the work by commissioners and coalition members to speak with legislators regarding grant funding. Commissioners also suggested supporting the historic tax credit bill and requesting an architect position for the Division.

Item XI. Public Comment

None.

Item XII. Adjourn

Dr. Bense asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Kauffman so moved, and Mr. Clague seconded. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

_____ Presiding Officer

_____ State Historic Preservation Officer and
Director, Division of Historical Resources

Approved: _____