

Florida Historical Commission
Governor Martin House, 1001 De Soto Park Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Friday, March 23, 2018 9:00 a.m. - Conclusion

Meeting Minutes

Commission Members Present In-Person: Ms. Marion Almy, Chair; Dr. Judy Bense; Dr. Michael Francis; Ms. Kathy Spurgeon; Dr. Clifford Smith; Mr. Steve Birtman; Mr. John Phelps.

Commission Members Participating via Teleconference: None.

Commission Members Not Present: Mr. Rick Gonzalez; Ms. Ellen Ugucioni.

DOS Staff Members Present: Dr. Timothy Parsons, Division Director; Dr. Angela Tomlinson, Assistant Director; Ms. Alissa Lotane, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation; Dr. Mary Glowacki, Chief, Bureau of Archaeological Research; Dr. Sarah Liko, Program Administrator; Ms. Susanne Hunt, Outreach Program Coordinator; Mr. Michael Hart, Historical Marker Program Coordinator; Dr. Kathryn Miyar, Collections and Conservation Supervisor.

Members of the Public Present: Mr. Don Slesnick; Mr. Lonnie Mann; Mr. Richard Almy.

Item I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Almy called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and asked Dr. Liko to call the roll. Quorum was confirmed.

Item II. Introduction of Commission, Staff & Guests

Chairman Almy asked the commissioners, staff, and guests to introduce themselves.

Item III. Adoption of Agenda

Chairman Almy asked for a motion to adopt the March 23, 2018, FHC business meeting agenda. Mr. Phelps so moved, and Dr. Francis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Item IV. Approval of Minutes from December 1, 2017, Meeting

Chairman Almy asked for a motion to adopt the December 1, 2017, meeting minutes. Dr. Smith so moved. Mr. Phelps seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item V. Approval of Minutes from Special Category Grant Review

Chairman Almy asked for a motion to adopt the Special Category Grant Review minutes. Mr. Phelps so moved. Mr. Birtman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Item VI. Chairman's Comments

Chairman Almy thanked Division of Historical Resources (DHR) staff for their work with the commission. She expressed that she was very happy to have new commissioners, and discussed the importance of the FHC.

Item VII. Director's Comments

Dr. Parsons welcomed the commissioners to the Governor Martin House, and also expressed that he was pleased to have new commissioners. He briefly discussed DHR's mission and his hopes that the role of the FHC will grow. Dr. Parsons provided updates on the Florida legislative session and the budget appropriation and then updated the commission on historic preservation trends on the national level, including funding of the Historic Preservation Fund and the Historic Tax Credit. During the discussion of Florida legislative bills, Mr. Birtman asked if the Department of Management Services (DMS) could explain to the FHC how private funds can be directed toward memorials and monuments at the Capitol Complex. Dr. Parsons said that he would discuss this question with DMS.

Item VIII. Business Items

Chairman Almy recognized Mr. Birtman and Mr. Phelps to provide their comments on the Capitol Complex Recommendations report to DMS. Mr. Birtman recommended that the FHC move forward approving the report with the caveat that their question regarding the mechanism for receiving private funds be answered by DMS. Mr. Phelps discussed the background on the role of the FHC in providing recommendations, and provided his opinion that there be a protected perimeter around the grounds of the Historic Capitol. He asked if the other commissioners would be in support of an amendment to the report to maintain the Historic Capitol grounds as they were in 1902 – preventing the placement of any new memorials or monuments and removing any that had been placed after 1902. Dr. Parsons explained that at this time moving monuments was not being considered by DMS, but he believed they would appreciate receiving that recommendation from the FHC.

Chairman Almy recognized Dr. Bense, who asked if other monuments will be moved to the Memorial Park and said that she believed the recommendations report would be the appropriate place for the FHC to comment on moving memorials and monuments. Mr. Phelps agreed, but added that the purpose of this report was to make recommendations regarding specific monuments that have already been approved by the Florida Legislature. Mr. Phelps said that he also believed the FHC should be able to give recommendations on specific monuments and memorials that should be considered by the Legislature. Chairman Almy asked if these recommendations should be added to the report or be made in addition to the report. Mr. Phelps answered that he believed the report should include these recommendations.

Chairman Almy asked if there was a motion. Mr. Phelps moved that language be added to the report that no monuments or memorials be placed on the Historic Capitol grounds other than those original to 1902. Dr. Bense seconded the motion, and Chairman Almy asked for discussion. Dr. Francis asked if the FHC should recommend that DMS plan for the continuity of monuments and overall design. Dr. Parsons said that DMS is preparing guidelines on design and placement. Discussion ensued regarding planning for the future, available space for categories of monuments and memorials, and guidance from DMS.

Dr. Bense said that she supports an amendment to the report providing the recommendation that no new monuments be placed on the ground of the Historic Capitol, but would also add three additional amendments: 1) that stipulates existing monuments within the Historic Capitol

grounds that are not original to the 1902 building and grounds be moved to the Memorial Park, 2) that the FHC make recommendations to the legislature on specific monuments, and 3) that DMS locate and replace any monuments that were removed.

Mr. Birtman asked if these amendments would be problematic in terms of getting the report to DMS in a timely matter. Dr. Parsons asked if the report would be approved contingent that these recommendations be added. The commissioners agreed that the report would be approved contingent.

The final motion by Mr. Phelps was that the FHC further recommend no new monuments or memorials be placed on the Historic Capitol grounds other than those related to the 1902 restoration. Amendments by Dr. Bense to the motion include that 1) existing monuments and memorials not original to the 1902 Historic Capitol be placed in the Memorial Garden; 2) the FHC will make recommendations for future monuments to the Florida Legislature; 3) DMS staff will attempt to relocate missing monuments and the FHC will make recommendations on their placement if available; and 4) the FHC will review the design guidelines prepared by DMS and have the opportunity to comment. The amendments proposed by Dr. Bense were seconded by Mr. Birtman. The motion passed unanimously.

The commissioners asked to reschedule their next meeting, and requested Dr. Liko provide possible dates in an email poll.

Item IX. Committee Reports

Chairman Almy recognized Dr. Glowacki to give the Bureau of Archaeological Research updates. Dr. Glowacki discussed staff changes and current work. She then brought an issue regarding small historic cemeteries on private property to the commission. She explained that these cemeteries are not protected under law other than a requirement that there be a public notice before they are eliminated by the property owner. Dr. Glowacki explained that she wanted the commission to be aware of this because it is an issue that staff have been dealing with. Chairman Almy asked that staff come up with a specific recommendation for the FHC to consider at an upcoming meeting.

Chairman Almy recognized Ms. Lotane to give the Bureau of Historic Preservation updates. Ms. Lotane discussed staff changes and current projects.

Chairman Almy recognized Dr. Tomlinson to give the Grants Program updates. Dr. Tomlinson discussed funding of the Small Matching and Special Category grants. Chairman Almy provided her opinion regarding the reshuffling of the Special Category recommended funding list. Dr. Bense asked if the Secretary of State could provide guidance about what types of projects should be given priority by the commission. Dr. Tomlinson thanked them for their comments. Dr. Bense asked if Dr. Tomlinson could share with the FHC the results of audits on the Special Category grants, including how many groups failed to spend the full amount of money because they were not equipped to handle the grant. Dr. Tomlinson explained that there is a great deal of help in grant management taken on by staff, and this is not necessarily reflected in the audits. Dr. Parsons added that some organizations have struggled with projects that are worthy of funding, but then run into problems with accountability and reporting. He explained that DHR

staff help to get these grantees into compliance, and the question is how do we determine who these organizations are based on their applications. Mr. Birtman agreed with Dr. Bense that he would like to see results of audits and added that he would also like to see examples of successful projects. Dr. Tomlinson explained that it had been suggested that staff reduce time spent helping applicants improve their applications. The result would be providing applications to the FHC for review that are less polished because staff would have spent less time fixing them, and in this way scoring may better reflect what was submitted by the applicant. Dr. Parsons added that the result would be the FHC being presented with a better reflection of what applicants submit, which will empower the commissioners to score in a wider range, thus creating a better picture of what projects are ready and which are not ready. Dr. Tomlinson briefly discussed the grants rule revision and the grants cycle dates. She also provided the proposed dates for the Special Category review meeting.

Item IX. Other Business


None.

Item X. Public Comment

None.

Item XI. Adjourn

Mr. Phelps motioned to adjourn.

 _____ Presiding Officer

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State Historic Preservation Officer and
Director, Division of Historical Resources

Approved: _____