Florida National Register Review Board
R.A. Gray Building, Heritage Hall Auditorium
Tallahassee, Florida
December 12, 2024
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present In-Person: None.

Board Members Present Via Webinar: Rick Gonzalez (chair), Kathleen Kauffman (vice chair), Dr. J. Michael Francis, and Dr. Judith Bense.

Board Members Absent: Dr. Clifford Smith.

Florida Department of State Officials and Staff Present In-Person: Dr. Angela Tomlinson, Assistant Director, Historical Resources; Ruben A. Acosta, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation; Dr. Kyra Lucas, Supervisor, Survey and Registration; Andrew Waber, Historian; Samantha Schmidt, Historic Preservationist; Ruben "Anthony" Mendez, Historic Preservationist; Jeremy Heiker, State Historical Marker Coordinator.

Florida Department of State Officials and Staff Present Via Webinar: Vincent Birdsong, Supervisor, Florida Master Site File; Khara Fleming, Executive Assistant; Sarah Liko, Operations Manager; Tyler Smith, Certified Local Government Coordinator; and Alexa Wilson, Grants Specialist.

Guests Present In-Person: None.

Guests Present Via Webinar: Ileana Olmos, John G. Riley Center & Museum; Margaret Horgan, Norton House and Garden applicant; Timothy Hulihan, Norton House and Garden nomination author.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call:
Mr. Rick Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. Dr. Kyra Lucas called the roll and confirmed quorum.

II. Introduction of Board, Staff and Guests:
Mr. Gonzalez asked that the Board, staff and guests introduce themselves. Mr. Jeremy Heiker read the names of all staff and guests attending via webinar.

III. Adoption of Agenda:
Mr. Gonzalez called for a motion to adopt the agenda. **Ms. Kathleen Kauffman moved to adopt. Dr. Judith Bense seconded the motion. The Board approved the agenda unanimously.**

IV. Remarks by Chairperson on Purpose of Meeting:

Mr. Gonzalez spoke of the recent passing of Dr. Clifford Smith, honoring his deep dedication to historic preservation, his many years of public service, and his impact as a mentor and

colleague. Board members also praised Dr. Smith, commented on how dearly he will be missed, and expressed condolences for his family.

V. Approval of Minutes from the August 8, 2024, Meeting:
Mr. Gonzalez called for a motion. **Ms. Kauffman moved to approve the minutes from the August 2024 National Register Review Board Meeting. Dr. Bense seconded. The Board approved the meeting minutes unanimously.**

VI. Director's Comments:
Dr. Angela Tomlinson, on behalf of Director Alissa Lotane, expressed gratitude to the Board and staff for their attendance and thanked Dr. Smith for his lifetime of dedicated work, support, and community leadership.

VII. Review of Nomination Proposals:

Dr. Lucas explained that the two presentations to be considered at the meeting were for additional documentation to previously listed nominations.

A. John G. Riley House, Leon County

Dr. Lucas presented staff comments with a visual presentation. The presentation outlined the additional documentation that revised the original 1978 nomination and updated the areas and periods of significance.

Staff recommended that the Board forward the additional documentation for the John G. Riley House to the National Park Service with a recommendation to update the National Register of Historic Places nomination under the following criteria: Criteria A and B: Ethnic Heritage-Black and Education, in association with John Gilmore Riley, and Criterion C: Late Victorian-Folk Victorian architecture, all at the local level with a period of significance of 1892-1954.

Mr. Gonzalez commented that the Riley House was an excellent case study in historic preservation as an example of how to expand useable space on a historic site while retaining the integrity of the primary historic building. He noted that the additional building was constructed in a sympathetic, yet distinctive, design to the historic home and that it was mostly occluded from street view. Ms. Kauffman agreed.

Dr. Bense noted that the historic context section was informative and succeeded in reflecting John G. Riley's historic significance. Dr. Francis agreed and requested staff presentations include more detailed discussion of the historical significance of nominated properties. Dr. Kauffman agreed and suggested staff briefly present National Register listing criteria at future meetings.

Mr. Gonzalez solicited public comment. The public made no comments.

Mr. Gonzalez called for a motion. **Ms. Kauffman moved to forward the additional documentation for the John G. Riley house to the National Park Service with a recommendation to accept the expanded contexts under Criterion A and B: Ethnic**

Heritage-Black and Education and to add Criterion C: Architecture-Folk Victorian, all at the local level, with a period of significance of 1892-1954. Dr. Francis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Ann Norton House and Sculpture Gardens, Palm Beach County

Dr. Lucas presented staff comments with a visual presentation. The presentation outlined the additional documentation that expanded the boundary of the nominated property, described the additional resources, and updated the original 1990 nomination's areas and periods of significance.

Staff recommended that the Board forward the additional documentation for the Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens to the National Park Service with a recommendation to expand the boundary of the nominated property and to update the National Register of Historic Places nomination under the following criteria: Criterion B for Ann Weaver Norton as the person of significance, and Criterion C for architecture, landscape architecture, and art. These criterion designations are at the local level and the revised period of significance spans from 1935 to 1937 and 1948 to 1984.

Mr. Gonzalez noted that the property is a unique and beloved museum. He inquired why the Cottage was being listed as a noncontributing resource. Dr. Lucas explained that it lacks integrity to contribute to the district, due to the lack of roof and extensive alterations. Mr. Gonzalez commented that those alterations are part of an ongoing restoration project. Dr. Lucas explained that based upon the documentation provided by the applicant up to that point, the building did not retain integrity for listing. She further explained that the building could be reevaluated should the applicant submit additional evidence documenting the completion of an appropriate restoration.

Mr. Gonzalez asked why there were two periods of significance, with a gap between 1937 and 1948. Dr. Lucas explained the 1935-1937 period was for the architectural significance of the Norton House, while the 1948-1984 period was for the property's significance in association with Norton's productive life as an artist and the artwork itself. She explained that Ann Norton was not associated with the property prior to 1948.

Dr. Francis inquired why the property's significance was limited to the local level, given that Norton's work was exhibited across the country. Dr. Lucas explained that while Norton's earlier works were exhibited across the country, the monumental sculptures for which she is historically significant were only ever displayed in the Gardens. She explained that the available documentation only supports local level of significance. Mr. Ruben Acosta explained that state or national level listing requires extensive comparative contexts that staff do not have the resources to compile, as there is limited scholarship on women sculptors.

Mr. Gonzalez solicited public comment. Mr. Timothy Hullihan stated that the Cottage renovations were complete and that he would email staff new photographs. Mr. Gonzalez and Ms. Kauffman requested staff edit the additional documentation to list the Cottage as contributing. Ms. Margaret Horgan appreciated the Board's comments about the property's

significance and stated that she would like to pursue a higher level of listing. Dr. Bense suggested that the additional documentation be presented again to the Board after the state level significance context is added. Ms. Horgan stated that she would like to move the additional documentation forward with local level significance at this time and that she would submit additional documentation for state or national level significance at a later date. Dr. Francis and Ms. Kauffman suggested the applicants reach out to state universities for research assistance.

Mr. Gonzalez called for a motion. **Ms. Kauffman moved to forward the additional documentation to the National Park Service with additional listing criteria under Criterion B: Art for association with Anne Weaver Norton and Criterion C in the areas of art, architecture, and landscape architecture, all at the local level with a period of significance of 1935-1937 and 1948-1984. Dr. Francis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

VIII. Other Business:

Mr. Gonzalez requested an update on the Division's efforts to hire a new architect. Dr. Tomlinson explained that a candidate was selected and was going through the approval process.

A. WUFT Radio Station Delisting, Alachua County

Dr. Lucas presented staff comments with a visual presentation. She explained that staff presents delisting requests to keep the Board informed about changes to National Register listed properties, but that no Board action was needed.

B. Lee School Delisting, Lake County

Dr. Lucas presented staff comments with a visual presentation.

The Board discussed the limitations of the National Register program and the lack of legal protections for listed buildings. Dr. Francis inquired about the average number of listed buildings that are demolished each year. Dr. Lucas stated that staff processes five to ten delistings a year and explained that because delistings are dependent on the public reporting demolitions to the Bureau of Historic Preservation, the agency does not have a full accounting on the number of National Register listed buildings that are demolished each year. Mr. Acosta explained that processing new listings takes priority over delisting in terms of allocating staff resources. Dr. Lucas reviewed the delisting process and explained the circumstances that would require a Board vote to delist a property.

C. Program Updates

Dr. Lucas updated the Board on the status of nominations previously sent to the National Park Service and ongoing staff projects.

D. Adoption of Annual Schedule

Dr. Lucas presented the proposed dates for the quarterly National Register Review Board meetings in 2025. Mr. Gonzalez asked if the dates coincided with the Florida Historical Commission's quarterly meetings. Dr. Tomlinson explained that the National Register Review Board meeting dates are set first, and the Florida Historical Commission meetings are scheduled for the following day.

Dr. Francis moved to accept the 2025 annual meeting schedule. Dr. Bense seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Gonzalez inquired about the process for filling a vacant Board seat. Mr. Acosta explained that National Register Review Board consists of the Florida Historical Commission members who are appointed by the Governor. Ms. Kauffman asked if people could still submit applications for the vacant seat. Dr. Tomlinson explained that she would confirm the process and report back at the next Florida Historcal Commission meeting.

Mr. Gonzalez inquired about a historic restoration project at Flagler College. Dr. Tomlinson explained that the project was not funded through the Department of State Special Category grant program, but through a legislative line-item appropriation, and noted that some work had also been funded with other resources. She explained that the Division is working closely with project managers on all grant-funded work.

IX. Public Comment:

Mr. Gonzalez opened the floor to public comment. The public made no comments.

X. Motion to Adjourn:

Dr. Bense motioned to adjourn. Ms. Kauffman seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:14 pm.

Chair, NR Review Board: _____

Date: _____

State Historic Preservation Officer: _____

Date: _____