

University of Florida Historic St. Augustine, Inc. (UFHSA)

A direct support organization to UF as provided, Chapter 267.1736 Laws of Florida

UFHSA Board of Directors Meeting

10:00 A.M., April 13, 2018

Governor's House, 48 King Street, St. Augustine, FL

Board Members Present: Chair Allen Lastinger, Kathy Deagan, Michael Francis, Rick Gonzalez (by phone), Arva Parks, Bill Proctor, William Robinson, Herschel Shepard, Don Slesnick, Tracy Upchurch and Doug Wiles (by phone)

Board Members Absent: Roy Hunt

Staff Present: Ed Poppell, Linda Dixon, Lora Smith, and Billy Triay

Meeting called to order at 10:01 am

Chair Lastinger asked for motion to approve October minutes was made by Bill Robinson, seconded by Michael Francis, the minutes were unanimously approved

Chair Lastinger asks Ed Poppell to speak about the Loring Monument.

Mr. Poppell referenced the March meeting and the speakers who gave information on the monument. He states the issue of the monument is unique. It is a monument, but it is also a burial site. The state of Florida leased the property to the University of Florida. We must stay in the guidelines of the legislation and make the best decision for the community. He requested that the board give him the authority to develop options for the decision. There will be an additional meeting prior to the November meeting to discuss the monument. Herschel Shepard motioned to grant Mr. Poppell the authority to identify options for the monument, seconded by Tracy Upchurch and approved unanimously.

Chair Lastinger invited audience members to speak, no one stepped forward.

Kathy Deagan asks about the time line on when they would get the information about the options for the monument. Mr. Poppell states that it will probably in this summer when they meet. Information about the options will be sent out prior to the board meeting this summer.

City Manager Report: John Reagan

- They will be discussing the Preservation Institute in St. Augustine. He thinks it important for the city to be involved.
- Strategic planning meeting coming up.

CQ Report - Michael Croce:

A brief highlight on the financials. 2017 was a year of growth. Revenue was up, but group sales were down. They hired a new group sales director. Created new brochure cards. Adding a museum experience. Herschel Shepard is helping create a video that will play in the De Mesa house.

Financials - Linda Dixon:

Our budget is reported in 3 columns: PO&M/ State/ PO&M Leased SAHS buildings and DSO revenue. The state properties (PO&M) revenue is reported higher than expected due to insurance recoveries. Believes we will see a FEMA recovery also. Putting that back into our roof projects and hurricane preparedness.

The PO&M/SAHS sheet: The \$60,000 will be moving from the state account to the historic society account to reimburse for hurricane expenditures on the state buildings.

DSO Revenue: CQ revenue has been strong. Some variation is reported overhead administrative fee due to UF fees being waved on the state funds, but not the DSO funds.

We are projecting for the coming year: not a lot of change in the revenues. Believes we will still receive insurance money from hurricanes Matthew and Irma. Would like to look at the roofs needing repair. There are a number of projects they will be working on this coming fiscal year. Motion to approve the budget was made by Don Slesnick, seconded by Bill Robinson and approved unanimously.

UFHSA Bylaws - Ed Poppell:

UFHSA is now 8 years old. The original bylaws said a person couldn't serve after 8 years. He was asked if it could be changed to 12 years. There are several bylaws that need to be approved.

- Old bylaw said we needed a minimum of 3, the new bylaws will say 4.
- Every bylaw change has to be approved by the University of Florida Board of Trustees.
- UFHSA terms: Instead of 8 years, the person can serve a 12 year term.
- Any amendments made by the UFHSA board have to be approved by the University of Florida Board of Trustees. They also have to comply with the UF BOT enhancement standards.

Mr. Poppell asked that the board recommend approval of these bylaws so he can present them at the June BOT meeting. Don Slesnick motioned to approve, seconded by Tracy Upchurch and they were approved unanimously.

Chair Lastinger informs the board on appointing 2 new members. Buff Gordon and David Colburn. Don Slesnick motions to approve the new members, seconded by Michael Francis, the board unanimously approves. Mr. Poppell reminds the board that the approved appointees must also be approved by the UF BOT for final approval. Don Slesnick motions for Chair Lastinger to be the designee representing UFHSA, seconded by Tracy Upchurch, unanimously approved.

Michael Gannon Desk...., Linda .Dixon:

UFHSA has been gifted the desk that belonged to Dr. Michael Gannon. There is a recognition plaque. His wife is very excited and happy that the desk is here. The desk was acquired in St. Augustine and it was his personal desk. The desk was a gift to Michael Gannon. Kathy asks if a formal acknowledgement of the gift has been done. Mr. Poppell state that he assumes the appropriate thanks was given from the foundation. Herschel Shepard motions to acknowledge the gift, seconded by Kathy Deagan, approved unanimously.

PISA - Marty Hylton:

We have gone from having mostly US students, but are now 50/50 US students and International students. This year will be the 47th year of the Nantucket Institute.

- Initial activities: graduate research assistantships, historic structure reports, envision lab, workshops with NPS and other partners, projects with city, potential world heritage nomination.
- Documented the Paredes Dodge House with the help of Herschel.
- PISA Envision Lab: limited material testing. Partnership with Flagler, city of St. Augustine and UF. It can be used by archeologist, the city and future collaborators. April 2017, Integrated Conservation Resources (ICR) visited to tell them what they need to do to put the labtogether.
- Met with St. Augustine Archeology in April of 2017.
- The PISA program will not be limited to just UF students. He is talking with Flagler about their students. There have been 680 students that went through the Nantucket program. Majority of them were UF students.
- Project with city: Florida Climate Institute, Sea Level Rise, St. Augustine. The course partnered with the law school, engineering, journalism and DCP. Spring 2018-3 credits. Research in Field March 5-9, 2018. Spent the weeks leading up to spring break a lot of reading and invited speakers. The course has been a huge success.
- Project with Flagler d the city: *Keeping History Above Water*. Will host a conference in 2019. Opportunity to highlight the work UF has done in St. Augustine. The budget for this conference is \$10,"000 and they arehalf way to their goal.
- Next steps: Complete Paredes Dodge historic structure report, finalize envision lab, explore workshop with National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, Examine historic preservation coursework for 2018-2019, prepare for Keeping History Above Water conference, Iriterview Herschel Shepard and acquire archives.

Kathy Deagan wants to go on record saying she hopes the board will continue to support this as much as we can.

Digital Project-Matt Armstrong:

Laura Marion: Approaching the end of the 1st year that the library received. Has processed over 900 maps and they are more easily access able to the public. Launched social media accounts. Met grant goals for adding photos. In the next few weeks she will begin processing photos and slides. Will be working with Marty Hylton and his students.

Academic Institute - Linda Dixon:

Last summer we initiated some discussion with Dr. Paul Ortiz and Dr. Jim Cusick. Last week there was a meeting on campus to discuss the institute. The next meeting will be in St. Augustine and they plan to invite faculty from Flagler. They would like this to move pretty quickly, as they do not want momentum to lag. Mr. Poppell states that if one thing that came out of the conversation, it is the ability to bring students over here to stay for a week/month. We may be coming back to you about taking off some of our residential properties to use for student housing. If there is a need or desire we could do that. We may want to have a small place to house 6-8 students.

Building Plaques - Buff Gordon:

The plaques have been written. The location of the plaques on the buildings has been identified. Added to them that the building is maintained by UFHSA. Talked about doing some pamphlets and leaving them in the buildings for information. A map would be set up in Governor's House and be interactive. She would like it to be mobile as well. There is an expert from Mt. Vernon that can put this into place. The website is going to have a small version of the map and it will be easy for people to follow. All of the buildings will be described.

Update on Ribera Yard Connector:

The Ribera house was built in the 18th century. The house was shown as a fruit stand, millinery, and grocery. It was the Parks Hotel for 40 years. In 1964 they began rebuilding the house and it served as a living history for many years. The rose garden was created around 1966. The current state of the garden is in disrepair. Taken some inspiration from a couple of places. They have the original gate with a crushed coquina walkway to the sundial. Used all plants that were appropriate for the 1700's with some reflecting 1960's garden. They are historically appropriate. The new gate being place lines up with Fort Alley. Great view of the Fort from the sun dial. This will be completed in phases. The old fountain is still there. Maybe not a functioning fountain, but a decorative feature., They are trying to create an open corridor. Ed: we are now getting our official property line corrected with this. The gate will be closed at night. There will be raised plants and a map circa 1764. They added a masonry wall and there is a vendor entry gate. The group is currently waiting for the plans to be approved by the City's Historic Architectural Review Board and Florida Division of Historical Resources. Kathy Deagan asks about the interpretation and what is the focus? The group states that one focus is the archeology in that area, the map, and explain better what the Ribera house garden may have had that the middle class gardens did not have and the 1960's rose garden. They are trying to interpret two areas of history. Linda Dixon informs the board that the interpretation needs more work. The idea is to interpret the site, kind of a 'what was here'. Herschel Shepard states he would prefer to see a pathway that links the 2 streets and off to the side you create a pleasant space for people to see. If it's going to be an interpretation of the Ribera garden there needs to be a lot of research done, otherwise you can trap yourself. Buff Gordon suggests coming up with a creative name for the garden. Arva Parks informs the board that she is worried about rebuilding something in St. Augustine. Kathy Deagan states that her concern was the notion of replicating an upper middle class when that is not what it was.

St. Augustine Historical Society Report-Magen Wilson:

Great strides in the digitation project. A really great project they just finished was the glass plates 103 images of Lincolnvill in the 1920's. The images offer a window to that place at that time. Fun with the new project for the St. Augustine film series. They show films that were shot in or around St. Augustine. A number of maintenance and reconstruction projects are being done. They will be working on roofs for several buildings. They are expanding their internship program. They have been working with Flagler College and they have been sending over fantastic students. They have helped produce some quality projects. The interns worked on an augmented reality project. It's an app you can download and it will super impose images on other images. Kathy Deagan asks about the spoof movie that Dr. Gannon and friends created. Ms. Wilson informs the board that Dr. Jim Cusick is looking for a copy of that.

Construction Report-Linda Dixon:

The hurricane cleanup was earlier this year. 6 roofs have been replaced or are underway to be replaced. The landscape work at Governor's House is beginning. In addition to roofs, there were a number of other repairs.

Documentary-Ed Poppell:

The film received high ratings. Facebook had 98 shares, the tweets were retweeted as well. There was good coverage in several newspapers in Florida. Also several out of state as well. The narrator, Jimmy Smits was a big hit as well. Overall he feels that PBS was happy with the film. He also felt the film was well done and very professional.

Strategic Planning-Ed Poppell:

When the law was passed to create this group, we did not receive money right away. In 2008 a strategic plan was created. He feels that it is time to update that roadmap. Mr. Poppell asks the board to think about where UFHSA needs to be in the next 10 year? He would like the board to discuss this at the next meeting. Don Slesnick suggests a retreat to discuss this and Mr. Poppell thought that might be a good idea.

Slip & Fall-Ed Poppell:

No update.

Legislative Update-Ed Poppell:

We asked for roof money, it was vetoed. They have learned that the veto might have been done because UF was so successful with its other appropriations. The Provost has offered some money to help with the roofs. Mr. Poppell wrote him a letter asking for 3 roofs and listed the amount. He feels that UFHSA can get funding for that for at least 1 year.

Old or New Business - Allen Lastinger:

Don Slesnick asked about board members being contributors to projects. Noted that Chair Lastinger will be honored by the Graham Center for being an upstanding citizen in Florida. Chair Lastinger was surprised and honored. One of the things Chair Lastinger is being honored for is historic preservation.

Herschel Shepard notes that when they were reviewing the wording on the plaques they discovered that Governor's House (new name) has not changed on the national register. Chair Lastinger asks if there is a process for name changing. Herschel states that he was not sure, but noted it is something that needs to be looked into.

Don Slesnick asks about the banner that used to be up celebrating UF's role here. Suggests that maybe something about the history of the board be shown. Noted there is information on the timeline of the property in the lobby that mentions it.

Michael Francis informed the board that La Florida.org is live.

Chair Lastinger informs the board that Lora will send a poll to the board for meetings dates in June and in November.

Meeting adjourned at 1:47pm

ADOPTED