

UFHSA: Historical Preservation, History, Archaeological and Facilities Committee

Meeting Report: August 29, 2012, 10:00 AM

The meeting was held as a conference call and in-person meeting at 226 Stadium.

Members Attending

Roy Hunt (comm. chair)
Michael Gannon
Barbara Wingo
Herschel Shepard

Members Not Attending

Tracy Upchurch
Larry Rivers
Rick Gonzalez
Kathy Deagan

Others Attending

Jan Matthews
Ed Poppell
Roger Smith
Billy Triay (by phone)

Linda Dixon
Les Thomas
Jeremy Marquis
Pat Croce (by phone)

Kay Williams
Cindy Stavely

I. Welcome

Roy Hunt welcomed the members.

II. Review and approval of Colonial Quarter Physical Plan – Jeremy Marquis and Les Thomas

Jeremy Marquis and Les Thomas, the project landscape architect and architect respectively, led the presentation of a physical plan for the redevelopment of the Colonial Quarter. Jeremy noted that Kathy Deagan, although unable to attend today's meeting, had reviewed the materials and provided input previously. Roger Smith noted that Robert Steinbach had also sent him information on previous archaeological explorations on the property.

The presenters explained that all buildings except the watchtower would be constructed as slab on raised grade. Gravel pathways were to be provided for ADA access with minimal stormwater impact. The landscape plan had reduced plantings and will conduct test pits and archaeological monitoring as required. Most of the new landscape elements have been planned for areas already excavated or will be provided in above-ground pots. Some interpretive signs will have footers that require archaeological test pits, while others (specifically on the National Park Service property) will have weighted stands as anchors with no digging required. There was additional discussion regarding visitor flow, use of native plant material, flags at the entries, and directional signage within the Colonial Quarter grounds.

The Taberna proposes to connect the De Hita House and Gonzales House with a new doorway opening. These buildings are modern concrete block construction on original foundations. The change does not affect the roof line and will not be visible from the street. The modifications also propose to change an existing window on the east elevation of Gonzales House into a doorway. The trellis is proposed to be expanded and fitted with a clear acrylic cover that will be largely unnoticeable but will provide rain protection. A cooler area will be enclosed with fencing in dimensions of 11" Spanish feet. There was further discussion about balancing landscapes for interpretation and landscapes for screening.

At the Peso de Burgo House, a wooden deck with fencing is proposed along the St. George Street frontage as part of the conversion to a British pub. Ed Poppell asked about restaurant operations. The restaurants are proposed to be run by the Pat Croce Company and are not proposed to be outsourced.

A new Minorcan interpretive building is proposed to be constructed using deconstructed materials from the Carpenter's Shop, an existing 1995 structure. The "Flags Over St. Augustine" walkway is adjacent.

The 16th Century "outpost" will interpret archaeology and evidence of a prior well and fort, as well as contain a reconstructed caravel. Emergency vehicle access is provided from A1A w coquina concrete surface on a built-up foundation.

Michael Gannon stated that, overall, he liked the proposal. He commented on naming for the 16th century military outpost. He stated that St. Augustine began as a town not just a military outpost. It had its own coat of arms and city council. It was also a mission headquarters since 1578. He suggested the name should encompass municipality, mission and military outpost.

Jan Matthews noted that a separate series of meetings of subject matter experts are occurring to review the detailed interpretive texts and scripts. Herschel Shepard noted the importance of the Law of the Indies to establishing the town's lay-out.

Pat Croce noted that the interpretive panels must keep to 45 words or less. There was additional discussion about the content of the panels. Jeremy Marquis noted that there would be additional plaques along St. George Street to identify the buildings. Herschel felt it was important to convey which buildings are reconstructions on original foundations, conjectural, or colonial.

Roy Hunt asked for the committee's approval of the proposed physical lay-out with the understanding that additional review of interpretive materials is forthcoming, and that the Department of State will also review architecture and archaeological permitting. He asked if there was a consensus of approval from the committee members. Upon polling, Herschel Shepard, Mike Gannon, and Barbara Wingo all concurred on approval.

There was additional discussion of next steps including permitting from UF's Environmental Health and Safety Office (building code administrators), state compliance review and archaeological research permit.

III. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38. The next meeting will be scheduled as agenda items become ready for consideration.



Respectfully submitted,

Linda B. Dixon, AICP