

Adopted
Nov. 20, 2025

University of Florida Historic St. Augustine

Education, Infrastructure, Historic Preservation, and Facilities Committee Meeting

October 23, 2025 · 10:30AM

Online by Zoom

Minutes

Members Present: James Cusick (chair), Jane Adams, Michael Francis, Doug Jones, Susan Parker, Ken Smith

Members Absent: Herschel Shepard

Others Present: Linda Dixon, Laura Marion, Billy Triay

Meeting commenced 10:34 AM

AGENDA ITEM 1: Status of Gaining National Landmark Status for Governor's House. Application is in, no news on status. NPS is currently furloughed, Linda Dixon notes it can take a couple of years for approval. No additional action required at this time.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Adding Educational Sign at Governor's House to Highlight the Former Governor's or Colonial Garden that Occupied Western Section of Property

Board accepted idea of creating new signage and assigned the creation of a sign to EIHP Committee. Committee reviewed Susan Parker's draft text and visual elements that could be included in the sign (attached). With Billy Triay and Susan Parker, reviewed brief report on possible locations for the sign (attached).

The main audience for the sign would be tourists passing by Governor's House. Optimum placement according to Triay and Parker would be on Cathedral Place near the current parking permit dispenser, a natural place for people to stop and where sign would be highly visible. A light pole in that area would aid in illumination. A second option would be towards the center of the western lot area, along the sidewalk that bisects the area (leading to fountain). Linda Dixon showed a street view of Cathedral Place that highlighted the sidewalk area by the permit dispenser, existing plantings that include samples of what was present historically, and an existing sign (NE corner of GH) that show the dimensions and style of the sign that would be created.

Susan Parker noted the purpose of the sign would be to tie the lot/greenspace west of Governor's House into the story of GH, identifying the area as a "food garden" used in colonial times that produced fruits, vegetables, etc. to be served at the governor's table. Sign elements would include details from colonial maps showing the garden area and plantings, an inventory of

plantings, an image of a sour orange. There were over 100 trees in the garden during colonial times. Text would describe the garden and (to humanize the story) identify some VIP guests that ate at the governor's table. Map details could include an arrow (you are here).

Next Steps: Generate text for review. Get high-resolution images. Once approved, request funds and contract with designer and fabricator. Linda noted that the board passed a motion at its September meeting instructing the committee to approve the text and provide guidance to implement the project.

AGENDA ITEM 3: Plans for Exhibit

As suggested to the Board, the EIHP committee will oversee the creation of a gallery exhibit at Governor's House for 2026 built on the theme of *St. Augustine/Governor's House during the American Revolution*, as part of national commemorations in 2026 of the Declaration of Independence. The 2026 History Fair will have a similar American Revolution theme and the gallery will complement it.

Design will be similar to the current gallery exhibit, with wall-mounted displays and vertical banners that incorporate all text and imagery, no original artifacts out. A subcommittee (Parker, Marion, Cusick, Francis) will consider themes and look at sources and images to develop storyboards. Focus will probably be on Governor's House as the headquarters of Governor Patrick Tonyn defense of East Florida during the American Revolution. See Susan Parker's ideas (attached) regarding decisions that took place at Governor's House. Additional themes: the Minorcan community come to St. Augustine; examples of British period architecture (e.g., Watson and Pellicer houses); fate of Loyalists (John and Mary Macklin story); past commemorations of 1776. Have possible material for illustrations in P.K. Yonge Library; can also go outside to U.S. National Archives and British National Archives. Laura Marion is reviewing what is available at the Governor's House Library. May have emblematic artifacts at Florida Museum of Natural History from British Period contexts that could also add context and images of objects.

Doug Jones asked about timeline for exhibit preparation and duration of exhibit. Preparation time: six months, ready to be installed by the 2026 History Fair in May. Duration: May-December 2026 and probably through the opening of the 2027 History Festival.

Subcommittee will report on progress at next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4: Discussion of website postponed to next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 11:10 AM. Minutes by James Cusick.