

HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD MINUTES

January 6, 2022 3:30 PM

PRESENT: Chris Marone, Chair
Bill Loughery, Member
Tia Hockensmith, Member
Holly Young, Member

EXCUSED: Sean Hurley, Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Wesley Wright, Planning Manager; Andrew Dickman, City Attorney; Alex Rey, City Manager; Ginny Keeter-Bodkin, Deputy City Clerk

Chair Marone called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

1. **Changes to the Agenda** – Planning Manager Wesley Wright stated that the contract for the Holloway Hotel project had expired, the buyer withdrew their application, and the presentation will not move forward. Member Young asked to add updates on the historic street signs and the workshop discussed at the November meeting. City Attorney Dickman asked to add a discussion on the Code of Ethics. Member Hockensmith asked to add a permanent agenda item on Gulf Beaches Historical Museum events.

2. **Audience Comments** – Theresa Schefstad of 555 Gulf Way spoke in support of this Board's review authority and posed questions on property use within the City. Mr. Dickman provided his email address for her to forward her questions. Bev Jackson of 2804 Sunset Way expressed appreciation for this Board and moving their issues forward.

Mr. Dickman stated that in the coming months a parliamentarian will be coming to provide education to all board and commission members on rules of procedure and conducting a meeting.

3. ~~**Presentation – Holloway Hotel Project Informational Presentation**~~ – Item withdrawn.

4. **Approval of Minutes** - Historic Preservation Board 12/06/2021 Minutes

Member Loughery did not realize that the homeowner on 10th Avenue near the Australian Pines was not invited to the meeting and asked that be removed.

Chair Marone moved and Member Hockensmith seconded the approval of the December 6, 2021 minutes with the stated change; the motion carried unanimously.

5. **Action Items** – None

6. **Discussion Items - a. Parklet Design for Brass Monkey Restaurant on Gulf Way**

Chief Operating Officer Jennifer McMahon stated that the City Commission approved the guidelines for the Parklet Program in January of 2021. The Brass Monkey has applied for a more permanent (yet removeable) parklet. She presented the proposed design and asked for Board input. Member Loughery suggested better noticing for the community meetings. Board questions followed to Ms. McMahon regarding the Brass Monkey plans, parking spaces, and the program in general. The City will collect 10% of the sales at the four tables in the parklet; a minimum fee will be considered.

Member Young suggested enhancing the Freebee program with those funds. Ms. McMahon will compile comments collected here today, along with community input, for inclusion as a Commission agenda item later in February.

7. Added Discussion Items

b. Decorative Street Signs – Pursuant to Member Young’s request, Ms. McMahon reported that 16 signs remain to be installed with a concrete coring machine, which will be completed in one day’s work. Other updates included the installation of a replacement for the broken wooden Merry Pier sign, the ribbon cutting for the renovated Merry Pier coming in mid-February, and the annual Historical Museum Island Festival on the first Saturday in March.

c. Workshop – Discussion continued from November/December on what authorities this Board might add to their purview as well as a timeframe for a workshop to discuss those components and to formulate questions for the Commission. Mr. Dickman suggested a joint workshop for the Historic Preservation Board and the City Commission.

City Manager Alex Rey appeared and commented that the City Commission has approved resources for any necessary workshop/s. A draft agenda for the workshop/s can be created based upon the list of items/questions that the City Attorney has compiled, which will go before the City Commission on January 25th. That draft agenda can come back to this Board for the February 3rd meeting and a workshop date could be considered at that point. Member Loughery commented that the role of this Board related to commercial/retail/mixed-use properties should be added to that list. Mr. Rey reminded the Board members that before the Commission makes any decisions, the property owners in the 8th Avenue CRD-EA District must be put on notice of what is being considered, so they have the opportunity for input.

d. Code of Ethics – City Attorney Dickman stated that he will be sending out a Memo to all City Board members reminding them that upon appointment, each member took an oath and are considered public officials at that point. Public officials must adhere to the City’s Code of Ethics and State laws, including the Sunshine Law. Local activism may not work well under the Sunshine. A representative of the City who has agreed to do the City’s work but is at the same time involved in a specific advocacy role, may not mesh under the Sunshine Law. Third-person intermediaries cannot carry messages between members of any boards concerning public business outside of a noticed public meeting. Board members must be impartial and acting on behalf of the City. These are positions of public trust and no issues that may come before any board should be discussed outside of public meetings.

e. A permanent agenda item will be added to this Board’s agenda for an update on events at the Gulf Beaches Historical Museum; they will be having a Super Supper via Zoom for members on January 10th.

Chair moved to adjourn, and Member Loughery seconded at 5:14 PM. The next meeting will be on February 3, 2022.

These minutes were approved at the February 3, 2022 Historic Preservation Board meeting.