

City of Gulfport Florida
Historic Preservation Committee/Certified Local Government
Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, January 19, 2011

The Regular Meeting of the City of Gulfport Historic Preservation Committee was held on Wednesday, January 19, 2011, in the Gulfport Historical Museum, 5301 28th Avenue South, Gulfport, Florida.

Christopher Ross, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present were: Committee Members Carol Valdes, Cathy Culler, David Steinke and John Milford; Alternate Committee Member Judy Ryerson; Vice Chairperson Mary Stull; and Chairperson Christopher Ross. Committee Member Deborah Frethem was not present.

Also present: Principal Planner Michael Taylor and City Clerk Lesley DeMuth.

1. Consider approval of the Committee Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2010.

Motion by Committee Member Valdes, second by Committee Member Milford to approve the minutes.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL BY ACCLAMATION

2. Discuss Article XXI of the City Code of Ordinances – Historical Preservation.

Chairperson Ross spoke on the Committee's review of the Ordinance to make it more effective. Chairperson Ross discussed the 1992 Historical Building Survey, described the boundaries of the proposed district, spoke on the designation and public hearings procedures, and reviewed the city's design guidelines.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend to city council an amendment to Section 22-21.03 (2) of the Code or Ordinances as follows:

The consent of all property owners of each property proposed for designation hereunder shall be required, prior to any action by the city council or the committee on a nomination for historical site designation, and the written consent of all property owners 51 percent of the property owners within a proposed historical district shall be required prior to any action by the city council or the committee on a nomination for historical district designation.

In response to a question by Dolly Tickell on the mapping of grandfather trees, Chairperson Ross said in her having worked with cities with Tree Cities designation, it is up to each municipality on the mapping. She did not know of anything like that exists for Gulfport, but it is not to say it was not done.

3. Discuss Walking Tour Brochure.

Discussion rescheduled for next month.

4. Any other business.

In response to a question by Chairperson Ross, Principal Planner Taylor assured the Committee the historic designation of the Casino has not been forgotten. He has looked through the new state application and it seems to be patterned after the federal application in terms of the information requested.

Avrio Taylor asked what is gained by historic designation, and Chairperson Ross stated for the Casino it is tourism, business, tax incentives, and the possibility of grant funding for future rehabilitation. She stated there are some cities with extremely strict preservation standards, but what the Committee is doing is to help take an existing part of our zoning code and making it something that is enforceable and works within the city's design guidelines.

Dolly Tickell asked about the possibility of incentive programs, and Chairperson Ross explained that these types of programs are being cut, but there was always hope for the future. She spoke about the lines between sustainability and green starting to merge with historic and that at some point in time, it may be considered green to preserve.

Chairperson Ross discussed having a workshop with the City Council on their recommended change to the ordinance, and it was suggested by City Clerk DeMuth that Chairperson Ross bring the recommendation to the City Manager for his review. Chairperson Ross would set up a meeting with City Manager O'Reilly.

The Committee's next meeting was announced: Wednesday, February 16.

5. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Date Approved: 3-16-11

Lesley DeMuth
Lesley DeMuth, City Clerk

Christopher Ross
Christopher Ross, Chairperson