

City of Gulfport Florida
Historic Preservation Committee/Certified Local Government
Meeting Minutes - Wednesday, February 15, 2012

The Regular Meeting of the City of Gulfport Historic Preservation Committee was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2012, 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, David Steinke, Deborah Frethem, and Mary-Jo Kehoe; Vice Chairperson Mary Stull and Chairperson Christopher Ross. Principal Planner Michael Taylor and City Clerk Lesley DeMuth were also present. Committee Member John Milford and Alternate Committee Member Judy Ryerson were not present.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION

1. Consider approval of the Committee Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2012.

Motion by Committee Member Valdes, second by Committee Member Kehoe to approve the minutes of January 18, 2012.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION

2. Discuss Walking Tour Brochure.

In response to a question at the last meeting regarding addresses on Davis Boulevard for several of the properties, Committee Member Frethem advised she had spoken to Lynne Brown and the houses were not moved; the addresses were different, but the houses are in the same location. As for the wording of the commercial building property, she did not get a chance to talk about that wording.

Committee Member Kehoe told the Committee she and her husband had started to take the walk, but ended up driving it in the car. They felt it was confusing and found it spread out and difficult going up and down the streets. Committee Member Kehoe suggested breaking-up the tour into districts or two separate walks.

Chairperson Ross suggested when the committee got to the point of pedestrian flow and layout, these issues could be addressed.

The Committee worked on verbiage for the brochure as follows:

- Gulfport Arts Village
- 2902 Beach Boulevard South

Tax records seem to indicate the house was built about 1925. The post office was located here for a time in 1942.

- 2937 Beach Boulevard South

Research indicates the Bay View Hotel was built in 1914. The name was changed to Sunny Bay Manor hotel between 1939 and 1944. In 1947 it was the Cedars Restorium and in 1949 the Cedars Hospital. The property was restored in ?.

- 2938 Beach Boulevard South

Research indicates this was built in 1912/13. At first it had been a grocery store with apartments above and by 1929 it had become Florida Playthings, Inc. which manufactured wooden toys and lawn ornaments.

- 3000 Beach Boulevard South

The Holiday Inn building was built in 1926 as a post office.

- 3038 Beach Boulevard South

W. C. Hudson owned this land from about 1925.

- 3050 Beach Boulevard South

There was a real estate office in this location owned by Lester Wintersgill in 1920-22. The town succeeded in having the later owner Weld donated this location as a library. It became the Gulfport library in 1935.

- 3107 Beach Boulevard South

Was built in 1939 behind 2401 Beach and moved to this site after WWII to serve as the residence of Jack Pollards.

- Gulfport Casino

Determine wording at a later date.

- Williams Pier/Mary Disston Marker

Gather background information include casino shaped beach pavilions

- 5401 Shore Boulevard South

In 1929-31 this was the Webb's Service Station and in 1933 Bamforth Service Station.

- 5409 Dellett Avenue South

Research significance of this site.

- 5414 and 5416 Dellett Avenue South (optional side trip)

These are perfect examples of little fishermen's cottages. The Yawger brothers were here by 1924, probably about as soon as the cottages were built. The Yawger's ran the boats over to Pass-a-Grill.

- Veterans Park

Site of the old Boca Ciega Inn, built 1920's demolished 1970's.

- 5325 31st Avenue South

Home and studio of New York Yankees' official photographer Harry Thorne, who left us all the early pictures of Gulfport.

- 5320 31st Avenue South

The first residents of records are John and Louise Bates in 1933. The Bates were from Wisconsin and had an interest in the Boca Ciega Inn.

- 5314 31st Avenue South

This was always the home of the Wilsons, James and Harriett. In 1939, their daughter Marie Wilson remodeled the "colonial cottage" and it became known as the "Aqua Villa."

- Corner of 53rd Street South and 31st Avenue South

Is the site of the original White homestead and store. The original buildings were demolished by Roebuck to give him a better view from his home.

- 3102 52nd Street South

This is said to be the oldest house in Gulfport, having been built in 1876 by the Leonardis for Torres. This house was moved to this location.

- 5221 Dellett Avenue

Roebuck built this house probably about as soon as he platted out Roebuck Park.

- 5233 Dellett Avenue South (optional side trip)

Alvah Roebuck lived in this house which he built shortly after he platted his land.

- 5320 Dellett Avenue South (option side trip)

Roebuck still owned these lots in 1925 and 1926.

- 2932 53rd Street South

Frank and Ellen Hayes bought this house from Roebuck shortly after its construction in 1925.

- 2920 53rd Street South

This house was built by Roebuck in 1925. Its only occupants in the historic period were the Dancers.

The Committee felt it would be productive to walk the tour as a group. The March 21, meeting was rescheduled to Wednesday, March 14, at 5:00 p.m. at which time the committee will walk the proposed route.

3. Any other business.

Gina Burke, 5659 Shore Boulevard S., spoke on the history of her home which was once the Shaffer's Nursery and Kindergarten.

Principal Planner Michael Taylor provided copies of "Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation in Florida" booklets to the committee.

Committee Member Stull mentioned that Pinellas County Government has requested information from cities on any special events they will be holding during the county's 100th Anniversary this year. The committee felt the Historical Society should respond to the request.

Chairperson Ross reminded the committee of the upcoming municipal election.

Principal Planner Michael Taylor spoke on the pre-application process for the designation of the casino and other projects the Community Development Department is involved with.

Committee Member Frethem announced that the Florida Historical Society Annual Conference will be held in Tampa this year.

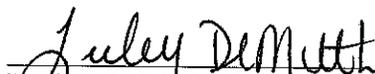
4. Adjournment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Date Approved: 4-18-12



Christopher Ross, Chairperson



Lesley DeMuth, City Clerk