

Cultural Resources Review Board Minutes

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Committee/Board/Agency: Cultural Resources Review Board

Date/Time of Meeting: Monday, October 9th, 2023 at 1:30 P.M.

Location/Address: St. Johns County Permit Building, Conference Room 1
4040 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine, FL

Members Present: Robert Olson, Janet Jordan, Christine Newman, Nick Jonihakis, Susan Schjelderup, Blair Knighting, Dr. Leslee Keys

Members Absent:

Commission Liaison: Commissioner Joseph (left at 3:16pm)

Staff Present: Ryan Mauch, Hali Barkley, Kyrsten Gage, Kealey West (Office of County Attorney)

Public Attendees: Ed Slavin (phone, edslavin.com, left at 2pm), Sallie O'Hara (Hastings Main Street), Greg Leonard

- Mr. Jonihakis brought the meeting to order at 1:30pm.
- Mr. Jonihakis opened Public Comment for items not on the current agenda.
- Public Comment: Mr. Ed Slavin welcomed Dr. Leslee Keys to the board and expressed his pleasure of the board's recent successes, including the Canright House, Fort Mose, and Hastings Main Street initiatives. He mentioned his support of the selection of the new Hastings Community Center design and thanked the board for protecting St. Johns County Cultural Resources. Mr. Slavin stated how glad he was for the Nation-Wide Search for the new administrator and that he would be hanging up the phone at 2pm to re-join the County Administrator meeting.
- Public Comment: Ms. Sallie O'Hara provided an update on the Florida Main Street application for Hastings and stated that Hastings Main Street group will be in Tallahassee on October 25th to support the review of the application. The group is now evaluating the Hastings Overlay District to include certain historic criteria design standards for the Main Street area. Ms. O'Hara stated that the application will be the basis for continued education on black history and church history in Hastings. She invited everyone to the Hastings Festival of Art on November 25th and discussed what will be featured at the event.
- Mr. Olson applauded Ms. O'Hara for the work the Hastings Main Street group has completed. He asked what the plan is for the commercial space on Main Street. Ms. O'Hara answered that it is an ongoing process and the Hastings Main Street group was working with Karen Taylor, planner, to define standards for the area. She mentioned retail and mixed use including the pending uses of "Juniper Market" and "Chocolatta". Dr. Keys encouraged Ms. O'Hara to submit all plans to the Division of Historic Resources to confirm compliance with their standards.
- Ms. Schjelderup corrected that Columbus Day was incorrectly stated as August 9th, and should be updated to October 9th in the previous meeting minutes. Motion by Mr. Olson and seconded by Ms. Schjelderup to approve the minutes as amended for the August 14th 2023 CRRB meeting. Board approved unanimously.
- Motion by Ms. Knighting and seconded by Ms. Newman to approve the current agenda. Board approved unanimously.

- **Item 1:** Kealey West with Office of County Attorney gave a presentation on the Sunshine Law and the Public Records Act. She stated that Roberts Rules and Ethics will be presented at a future meeting. She provided an overview of the Sunshine Law, including who and what is covered by it and how it translates into public meetings, communication between board members, and the consequences of violations to the law. She then discussed the Public Records Act, explaining the definition of a public record, the rules surrounding the maintenance of public records, and the consequences of violations to the act.
- **Item 2:** Mr. Jonihakis asked for confirmation that Mr. Olson was eligible to serve another term. Ms. Barkley explained that he had served one full 4-year term, and is eligible for one more.
- Dr. Keys made a motion to recommend reappointment of Mr. Robert Olson to the CRRB, seconded by Ms. Schjelderup, approved unanimously. Dr. Keys listed Mr. Olson's first full term and experience in architecture as reasons for his reappointment.
- **Item 3:** Mr. Greg Leonard gave a presentation on the history of Hastings. He spoke about how important Hastings was to the area and the impact it had on the citrus, potato, and cabbage industries in Florida. He spoke to the relation between Henry Flagler and Thomas Hastings and the timeline correlations between the development of St. Augustine and Hastings. Mr. Leonard spoke about the culture of Hastings and how it was impacted by the farming industry. He mentioned that he did some research on Vermont Heights and related it to Davis Shores.
- Dr. Keys stated she would send information to Mr. Leonard on PICO (Plant Investment Company).
- **Item 4:** Mr. Leonard discussed that he has filed his application with the state for a historic marker at the corner of Leonard Road and Hastings Boulevard. Ms. West with OCA added that the marker request is a state process, however, if it is to be within the right-of-way a permit through the county will need to be obtained. Ms. Barkley clarified that the plan right now is to place the marker on private property. Dr. Keys recommended him to add citations for the text that will go on the marker to include with his application to the state. Mr. Jonihakis offered a letter of support to Mr. Leonard if needed during state application process.

Board Reports:

- Ms. Schjelderup shared *The Language of Architecture* by Andrea Simitch and Val Warke has helped increase her understanding of architecture and helped her become a better board member.
- Dr. Keys mentioned the state 40th anniversary special categories grants hearing that happened two weeks prior where three St. Johns County projects ranked well – the lighthouse, Ingraham House, and the Water Management District project. She mentioned that the Florida Humanities Council had their 50th anniversary gathering in St. Augustine. She reminded the board that the lighthouse and the yacht club are reaching their 150th anniversary and the commissioning of the lions at the bridge of lions, and the St. Augustine Art Society are reaching their 100th anniversary next year.
- Mr. Jonihakis reported that he attended the September 12th meeting for the Hastings Community Center and discussed the design that was chosen and that it resembled the former Community Center well.

Staff Reports:

- Ms. Barkley reiterated that the former Community Center design was chosen for the new Hastings Community Center. She reported that the demolition following the management plan for Westminster Woods will be beginning soon and that the additional funding for the reconstruction of the fort at Fort Mose State Park has been approved by the Board of County Commissioners. She also reported that the Board of County Commissioners accepted the Canright House donation and its relocation to Windswept Acres Park. Ms. Barkley mentioned that the relocation is projected to happen in February of 2024 but promised to come back to the board with more updates.
- Mr. Jonihakis called the meeting to a close at 3:33 PM
- **Meeting Chair:** Nick Jonihakis **Staff Recorder:** Hali Barkley