

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Cultural Resources Review Board

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Permit Center Conference Room 1
4040 Lewis Speedway

Monday, February 9th, 2026, 1:30:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Susan Schjelderup, District 4, Chair
Dr. Leslee Keys, District 2, Vice-Chair
Blair Knighting, District 4
Paul LeBlanc, District 3
Nick Jonihakis, District 1
Christine Newman, District 5

STAFF PRESENT:

Megan Wright, Environmental Specialist
Ryan Mauch, Environmental Supervisor

- Meeting called to order at 1:30 pm
- Roll call for CRRB members
- Motion to approve CRRB meeting minutes for 12/8/2025 by LeBlanc, second by Knighting, carries 6/0
- Reading of the Civility Clause statement
- Motion for approval of the 2/9/2026 agenda with an edit to replace “Agency” to “Board” by Vice Chair, Dr. Keys, second by LeBlanc, carries 6/0
- Public Comments
 - Sallie O’Hara: Smithsonian exhibit to open on April 1, 2026, in Hastings at 12 noon, at the Nutrition Shop, 312 N Main St. The library and community center in Hastings may take up until June 2026 to receive a Certificate of Occupancy. FCTC should be completed with first-floor renovations by December to receive a COA in January. Other projects on Main St include historic streetlights, wayfinding signage, and a pocket park on Cochran Avenue. The annual Hastings Cabbage, Potato, and Bacon Festival will be on April 25th and 26th, 2026.

BOARD ITEMS

1. **Workshop on DOS Grants: 26.h.sm.300.0015 & 26.h.sm.200.014**

CRRB Members and County staff processed two Small Matching grant applications submitted to the Department of State’s Division of Historic Resources by staff in 2024. Staff will be resubmitting two the grants, 26.h.sm.200.014 - Historic Properties Survey of A1A and 26.h.sm.300.0015 - Conservation of the Town of Hastings Official Records Archive by June 1st, 2026.

- Board Reports

Vice Chair, Dr. Keys, presented the following updates:

Dr. Keys is volunteering to serve as a liaison for the rehabilitation of the Old Jail Detention Center, located at 4025 Lewis Speedway. After the 2/9/2026 CRRB meeting, County funds have been secured, plans and specs have been developed, and the bids for the project are out. The front facade of the building will be returned to more of its original 1953 appearance, which will serve to acknowledge the Civil Rights significance. Interpretive panels or similar educational materials have not been funded at this time.

The FORUM 2026 Preservation Currents, hosted by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, will be held in Minneapolis, July 22-26, 2026. The biennial national conference will also double as Minnesota’s state preservation conference.

Bill (SB308, HB525) regarding the Florida Black History Museum affirming St. Johns as Black History Museum site, creating Board, sent to State Senate floor.

A reminder to staff that the St. Johns County Preservation Month Proclamation will need to be requested before next CRRB meeting.

Dr. Keys has completed a book titled, "Evergreen Cemetery: Embodiment of the Romantic Movement", 200-page, 200-image monograph about a West Augustine cemetery located at West King Street and Rodriguez Street. The cemetery dates to 1885, includes two nationally famous graves: soldier Heth Canfield and author Randolph Caldecott, among thousands of gravesites.

Beginning in October 2025, Cindy and Steve Glidden are pursuing St Johns County (SJC) Land Acquisition and Management Plan (LAMP) Board action. The Gliddens own the Armstrong-Arnold House, located at 10690 CR 13 N, Picolata, FL 32092. Through Dr. Keys, the owners requested an update and asked about potential for County Landmark.

As of January 31, no additional action has taken place for the demolition of Magic Beach Motel, located at 50 Vilano Road, beyond filling in of the swimming pool.

- Staff Reports

Staff is hosting a County-led bus tour with SJC Parks and Recreation Department to visit with community leaders to showcase St Johns County vast black history. Wright has also been working on historic bike ride tours with SJC Parks and Recreation through Hastings, Elkton and Spuds.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.