

**VOLUSIA COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD**



**March 25, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Wagner called the meeting of the Volusia County Historic Preservation Board to order at 3:31 P.M. on March 25, 2008 at the SNPJ Lodge in Samsula.

**ROLL CALL:**

Upon roll call the following Members answered present to wit:

John Wagner, Chair  
Priscilla Cardwell, Secretary  
Jon Benn  
Sid Corhern  
Bill Fraser  
Gary Meadows  
Dot Moore  
Warren VanHoose

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** - Riley Nutt

Chair Wagner declared a quorum was present.

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Julie Adams Scofield, Historic Preservation Officer  
Mike Fincher, Cultural Coordinator  
Tom Baskett, Public Historian

**GUEST(S) PRESENT:**

Harold Cardwell, Sr., Sarah Miller, George Benedict

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** - January 29, 2008 Regular Meeting

Member Cardwell made a **MOTION** “*To approve the minutes of January 29, 2008 as presented.*” Member Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** - None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Seville School Re-Use – Chair Wagner advised that the Volusia County School Board had recently announced the closing of several schools at the end of this school year. Seville School, which was not scheduled to be closed for three more years, is one the schools to be closed. Ms. Scofield advised that she had had informal talks with several members of the Village Improvement Association (VIA) and, while they are very interested in the school being maintained for community use, they really do not have the money or resources to purchase and operate it as a community center. They are looking for a partnership with some other public or private entity with a similar interest. Initial indications are that the School Board would be willing to sell the property for under \$100,000. Several members of the VIA have spoken to Council Member Andy Kelly to ask him to support getting the County involved. The School board has agreed to give the VIA first right of refusal but failing their ability to acquire it, it would most likely then be offered to the County for re-use in some fashion such as a Sheriff's Sub-Station, Public Health Facility, Recreation Center, Library Annex or some combination of public uses. Several non-profits have shown an interest in using it as well such as River of Lakes Heritage Corridor as a Visitor's Center and others.

There was much discussion regarding ways to support the protection and re-use of Seville and Samsula schools, both of which are scheduled for closure this year. Chair Wagner also requested that the HPB show as much support as possible to the Town of Pierson's efforts to preserve their school, even though it is not scheduled to close for three more years. It was recognized that Pierson is not in the HPB's jurisdiction, but that an official show of support might still be helpful. Chair Wagner will attend a future Pierson town council meeting to offer this support.

Ms. Scofield advised that Seville School had more protection than Samsula in that Seville was both on the MEP list and was also locally designated as an Historic Property by the HPB. Samsula is not currently designated nor on the MEP list.

Member Corhern made a **MOTION** *"To add Samsula Elementary School to the Volusia County Most Endangered Historic Properties list."* Member Cardwell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Corhern made a **MOTION** *"To request that the County Council assist with the acquisition of Seville Public School in order to preserve the building and keep the building in community use for the citizens of northwest Volusia County."* Member Moore seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Member Fraser made a **MOTION** *"To pursue designation of Samsula Elementary School as a locally recognized historic property and place on the agenda for a public hearing at the May 27th HPB meeting."* Member Corhern seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Sarah Miller, Director of the Northeast Region, Florida Public Archeology Network made a presentation to the Board about the mission of the organization, recent projects, upcoming activities and future plans.

**MEMBER/STAFF ITEMS:**

Ms. Scofield advised that she and Dot Moore would be travelling to Tallahassee next week to defend their planning grant application to the Florida Division of Historical Resources for the Blanchette property (to be named the Nordman Homestead.)

Ms. Scofield presented plans for an MPO grant application for the Calle Grande Arch preservation effort and design plans to also construct a traffic roundabout around the arch.

Ms. Scofield announced that Tom Baskett is closing out the last phase of the interpretive effort for the DeBary Hall ECHO project and is getting very close to finishing the interpretive work for the New Smyrna Sugar Mill project.

Tom Baskett provided a project update and distributed information about the use of outside interpretive panels made of phenolic material which are fused resins with imbedded images. The panels are much longer lasting than wood and less subject to theft and vandalism than metal signage.

M Fincher provided a brief report about the status of upcoming State budget activity.

Member Cardwell announced several upcoming activities scheduled for the Port Orange Historical Trust.

Member Meadows commented that he was pleased to have been appointed to the HPB and looked forward to serving with everyone.

Member Moore advised the board about an announcement by NASA that they plan to build a new commercial launch facility. Two potential sites identified are in S.E. Volusia County. The two sites are not being given primary consideration but no final decision has been made. There is much public resistance to these sites. The County Council has also indicated that they oppose these sites due to potential negative environmental and economic impact.

Member Moore also attended a meeting recently about a survey planned to study the use of various intercoastal spoil islands. This could pose possible endangerment to unidentified archeologically significant sites.

Member Benn announced that funding was now in place to add a small addition to the Conrad Center at the DeLand House. Construction is expected to start around June and be completed by November in time for the annual Tour of Homes.

Member Fraser distributed a copy of Florida Monthly Magazine which had a good article about the history of Florida's citrus industry.

Member VanHoose reported that he was attending the River of Lakes Heritage Corridor meetings and would keep the board informed of their progress.

Chair Wagner reported that Sandra Walters had contacted him and inquired about adding the Thornby property in Deltona to the MEP. He advised her that in order to be added to the list, the property must include an historic structure.

Chair Wagner reported that several changes are being proposed to the ECHO program which would allow organizations to apply for \$600,000 without requiring a cash match. This is still in the proposed stage. It would require approval from the County Council.

Chair Wagner announced that the Daytona Beach Save Our Neighborhoods group now has funds to hire attorneys to fight unwanted and intrusive development in the historical neighborhoods. This effort has been effective in uniting various neighborhood associations.

M. Fincher announced that the next meeting would be May 27 at the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse Museum in Ponce Inlet.

### **PRESS & CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Harold Cardwell announced that meeting in the SNPJ lodge was very nostalgic to him. He remembered attending polka dances held here over 50 years ago.

Harold Cardwell spoke about the need to provide archeology awareness to local governments.

Harold announced that the City of Port Orange had recently had an historic marker donated to them. It was a marker for an Army Air Corp Observation Post site from WWII.

Tom Baskett announced that he had attended a lecture at the Museum of Arts & Sciences by the grandson of W.J. Carpenter who designed the Putnam Hotel in DeLand as well as a number of older Volusia County Elementary Schools such as Seville, Enterprise, Starke and others. He suggested that at some time in the future the HPB might want to explore some of the "lost" architectural history of Volusia County.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, Chair Wagner adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Fincher, Cultural Coordinator & Recording Secretary

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary \_\_\_\_\_