

## Cultural Resources Review Board Minutes

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**Committee/Board/Agency:** Cultural Resources Review Board

**Date/Time of Meeting:** Monday, June 12, 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

**Members Absent:** Blair Knighting

**Commission Liaison:** Commissioner Joseph – by phone

**Staff Present:** Ryan Mauch, Jan Brewer, Hali Barkley, Kyrsten Gage, Brian Kelsay

**Public Attendees:** Ed Slavin, Leslee Keys, Jena Baker-Dennis, Sallie O'Hara

- Mr. Jonihakis brought the meeting to order at 1:30pm.
- Mr. Jonihakis opened Public Comment for items not on the current agenda.
- Ms. Schjelderup proposed adding a step to the board member selection process to include an in-person interview process for applicants. Staff explained the current process and that if the board wishes to implement an interview process staff would ask the Office of the County Attorney and Administration if in-person interviews would be possible.
- Public Comment: Ed Slavin commented on the process that the City of St. Augustine has in place.
- The board unanimously voted to move forward with trying to implement an interview process, if approved by County Administration.
- General Public Comment: Ed Slavin spoke about previous County Cultural Resource staff and mentioned an email he sent to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the Cultural Resource Specialist position.
- Motion by Ms. Schjelderup and seconded by Ms. Jordan to approve the minutes from the February 13<sup>th</sup> 2023 CRRB meeting. Board approved as amended unanimously. The amendments included one spelling error for Mr. Jonahakis' name and Item 3 updated to an information-only item.
- The current agenda was approved with Ms. Newman's request to have an additional item added to the agenda to discuss the qualifications of the Cultural Resource Specialist position. Item 7 was added.
- **Item 1:** Information only. Staff introduced Hali Barkley as the new CRRB Staff Liaison. Commissioner Joseph welcomed Ms. Barkley and Mr. Olson clarified that the Cultural Resource Specialist position has additional duties other than the CRRB Staff Liaison. No action required by the board.
- Public Comment: Ed Slavin spoke on previous staff that was in the Cultural Resource position.
- **Item 2:** Information only. Staff provided update on Canright house. Funding is pending in the state budget, and should be finalized by mid-June to early July. Mr. Manaute, owner of the Canright house has given a deadline of August 1<sup>st</sup> for completion of the move.
- Mr. Olson asked for clarification that the funding is coming from the state and staff provided a confirmation. Ms. Sjhelderup asked to confirm where the \$35,000-line item comes from. Staff stated they will review and provide an update to the Board. No action required from board.
- Public Comment: Ed Slavin offered support for preservation of Canright house, warned of the possibility of the governor vetoing the funding and encouraged the adjustment of the county budget for the relocation of the Canright house.

- **Item 3:** Information only. Brian Kelsay, Public Works Engineering project manager, presented an update on the Hastings Community Center and Library with updated renderings on the building and layout design. Mr. Kelsay explained that this particular project is still the preliminary design phase.
- Mr. Olson expressed his support of the updates. Ms. Schjelderup asked about community engagement. Mr. Kelsay responded about the few meetings Public Works has provided for the public to comment on the project with support from the community and mentioned another public meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the project's design and opportunity for the public to make recommendations. Mr. Jonihakis asked if the future community and library center will be open after the library closes and Mr. Kelsay responded in the affirmative. Mr. Jonihakis also expressed his support. No action required from board.
- Public Comment: Ed Slavin spoke on the security of the proposed future Hastings Community and Library building with the large windows facing toward the street and also about the demolition of the previous building shell. Mr. Slavin recommended designing the new building to look as much like the previous building that was removed from the property. Mr. Kelsay explained the large windows are toward the side and rear of the building.
- Public Comment: Dr. Leslee Keys, local historic preservationist, spoke on the proposed building's design features and that it does not reflect the historic streetscape of Hastings. Dr. Keys recommended the project architect consider resiliency and a single hipped roof. Dr. Keys also commented on public engagement and the dates of previous public meetings.
- Public Comment: Jena Baker-Dennis, Hastings Main Street Inc, expressed her experience with public engagement on this project and her personal and the Hastings Main Street Inc groups displeasure of the design of the new building and believes it should fall more closely in line with the rehabilitation of the structures currently on Main Street. She mentioned information she will be forwarding along from a local architect and land planner on how to better move this project forward. Ms. Dennis urged the county to take what the local citizens want into high consideration.
- Public Comment: Sallie O'Hara, Hastings Main Street Inc, expressed the feedback she has received from the public that the renderings were not supported from the local citizens. Ms. O'Hara would like a redesign to fit the historic nature of the Hastings Main Street as expressed by the community and cost should not prohibit the redesign because many of the materials proposed to be used currently are very expensive. Ms. O'Hara also questioned when the public meetings have been held.
- Commissioner Joseph announced upcoming meetings to discuss this project within the following 2 weeks. June 27<sup>th</sup> tentatively.
- Mr. Olson maintained his previous comments but hears the comments from the public to make it more historically compatible and expressed support of the large windows. Mr. Jonihakis stated the simple edits that would need to be made to fit the historic nature desired by the public. Ms. Newman recommended taking input from the community.
- **Item 4:** Vote deferred to next meeting via motion by Mr. Jonihakis. Discussion ensued on how the board would like to implement the interview process. Mr. Jonihakis recommended the choice for a candidate to be a resident of District 3. Staff stated that seven (7) of the fourteen (14) applicants meet the minimum requirements as highlighted in the land development code for the CRRB.
- **Item 5:** Dr. Leslee Keys, historic preservationist and representative of Jena Baker-Dennis, presented Ad Valorem Tax Exemption (AVT) 2022-01 application for the rehabilitation of the two historic and significant cultural resource structures located at 316 North Main Street in Hastings. Dr. Keys presented Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the AVT application including photos and descriptions work completed.
- Ms. Schjelderup asked about fire suppression methods and proximity to fire station and Dr. Keys explained they do not need a fire sprinkler system due to size of the buildings and use, and the fire station is within 1 mile. Jena Baker-Dennis, the property owner, provided additional information

regarding fire suppression on the buildings. Mr. Jonihakis made a motion to recommend approval of AVT 2022-01, seconded by Ms. Newman, and this item was unanimously approved. A certificate of completion will be forthcoming confirming the recommended approval by the CRRB and this item will be set as a consent agenda item before the Board of County Commissioners.

- Public Comment: Ed Slavin expressed his support of the approval of the AVT application.
- **Item 6:** Dr. Leslee Keys, historic preservationist and representative of Jena Baker-Dennis, presented the Ad Valorem Tax Exemption request for the rehabilitation of the historic significant cultural resource structure located at 301 North Main Street in Hastings. Dr. Keys presented Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the AVT application including photos and descriptions of work completed. Mr. Jonihakis made a motion to recommend approval of AVT 2022-02, seconded by Mr. Olson and this item was unanimously approved. A certificate of completion will be forthcoming confirming the recommended approval by the CRRB and this item will be set as a consent agenda item before the Board of County Commissioners.
- Public Comment: Ed Slavin expressed his support of the approval of the application.
- **Item 7: Additional item not on agenda to discuss staff qualifications:** Ms. Newman mentioned previous discussion regarding the qualifications of the cultural resource position, requirements of the Certified Local Government (CLG) and staff liaison to the CRRB. Staff explained that the County personnel department approves qualifications for staff positions and referred any questions regarding personnel matters to the County's Human Resources Department. Staff also mentioned that most CLG personnel conducting reviews for cultural resources are planners, there are no requirements from the CLG that staff shall be either a historian or archeologist and the county is not in jeopardy of losing the CLG certification due to current staff not being a registered historian or archeologist.
- Public Comment: Dr. Leslee Keys explained the history of the CLG program and its role to bring historic preservation to the local level and the county CLG contact should have some historical background. Dr. Keys mentioned the CLG training requirement of every other year and that the county staff person attended the previous week. She encouraged new county staff to take advantage of future trainings.
- Public Comment: Ed Slavin expressed support of Dr. Keys statements and mentioned an email he sent to the CRRB which lists the qualifications of the previous and current staff liaison. He also mentioned the demolition of historic structures in St. Johns County and an investigation on the termination of previous County staff in the cultural resource position.

#### Board Reports

- None

#### Staff Reports

- Staff mentioned the National Register of Historic Places listing application going forward for Beluthahatchee Park and requested the CRRB to issue a letter of support for this project and all board members agreed.
- Staff updated the CRRB on a proposed historic marker located on Neck Rd. that Mr. Gary Coulliette (a resident of Neck Rd.) is pursuing. Mr. Coulliette is reaching out to County staff in an attempt to have a County emblem on the marker instead of a State marker.
- Staff mentioned that staff created a document of county landmarks along with their descriptions on the County's cultural resource webpage.
- Commissioner Krista Joseph updated the board that a utilities cable that is being installed on Anastasia Island along SR A1A and adjacent to potential cultural resources and that this project is being monitored.

- Mr. Jonahakis called the meeting to a close at 2:30 PM
- **Meeting Chair:** Nick Jonihakis **Staff Recorder:** Hali Barkley