

**University of Florida Historic St. Augustine, Inc. (UFHSA)**

**A direct support organization to UF as provided, Chapter 267.1736 Laws of Florida**

**UFHSA Board of Directors Meeting**

**April 21, 2017**

**Time Convened: 10:02 a.m.**

**Time Adjourned: 1:56 p.m.**

**Governor's House, 48 King Street, St. Augustine, FL**

Meeting called to order 10:02am.

A motion to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2016 board meeting was made by Board Member Bill Robinson, Board Member Kathy Deagan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the board approved the minutes unanimously.

Cindy Stavely: Colonial Quarter Financial Report:

The CQ is doing well and they hope with the new changes they will be making to increase profit.

Linda Dixon: Financial Reports to date: 3 accounts that are tracked. Proposed budget - about the same, Planned Preservation Projects: roofs; (4 identified as critical and hope to complete at least 3 this year), gutters on some buildings, Riberia yard, building signs project, landscape project at GH, 2 planned projects to support the academic projects at GH. Decrease in administrative overhead cost: RCM overhead cost waived for DSO's this year. A motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Board Member Kathy Deagan, Board Member Bill Robinson 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Hurricane Matthew: The damage was mostly moisture, trees, and debris. The damage totaled about \$552,531 on state property side and about \$72,762 from historic side. The buildings were cleaned and dehumidified.

Cindy Stavely: Strategic Plan on the Colonial Quarter (CQ):

The CQ Name was confusing. Now calling it St. Augustine Colonial Experience. The new St. George Street ticket booth is complete and now open to the public. They feel this will increase ticket sales. They are working with reenactor groups. The frequency of reenactor events has increased. Property usage guidelines have been established with the groups to establish clear expectations for scheduling, logistics and communication. Regular meetings are held to ensure the guidelines are working and to make improvements if necessary. The Explorer Outpost has opened in the Gallegos House. They feel it is a much improved retail offering than the previous store. St. Augustine Seafood Company: Renovation plans for the Florencia and the Triay houses have begun. Renovation is expected to start in June. The restaurant will serve authentic local seafood, decorated in an old Florida theme. A fast casual restaurant.

Presentation: Marty Hylton, Director of Historic Preservation: The Preservation Institute of St. Augustine (PISA):

The concept is based off of the Preservation Institute of Nantucket (PIN) that was created in 1972. Properties were donated to the UF run program in 1986 and currently have about 650 participants. PIN prepares the next generation of heritage specialist as part of a multidisciplinary, applied research and learning program that documents, conserves, and interprets the islands historical cultural resources. They offer public workshops and professional training as well as community demonstration projects. The PISA institute will prepare the next generation to manage the change of architectural, historical and cultural resources throughout Florida, the U.S. and globally. They will use an integrated approach that combines coursework, research and learning activities. Recently they assisted with disaster recovery after Hurricane Matthew. Students will be able to engage in historical research, materials investigation and testing, evaluation of significance, and selection of a treatment approach among other things. A motion to ratify the proposal was made by Board Member Bill Robinson, Board Member Craig Dezern 2nd and the board approved it unanimously.

Presentation: Michael Francis – Research in Spain: LaFlorida:

Project is a history of various people of all ages and genders that came to live in Florida. The information discovered were names, jobs, ages, and physical descriptions. Initially it was thought there would be more evidence of people surviving small pocks, so far they have only discovered 5. They are currently working on digital recreation of 1764 map. They have also discovered the food provision information from the day they left on the expedition to the day they landed in Florida. They are expecting to launch in the Phase I of this project in the fall. It will be bilingual.

John Reagan: City of St. Augustine Report:

The city wishes to create a cultural change. An example is preservation flood control of the sea wall. Every project that is started is started with sea levels in mind. They are also creating European traffic theories that will bookend the city. The city is working on a Master Plan of Historic Preservation. Archeology being the focus. They are focusing on goals on sustainability. The biggest issue is flood control and sea level rise.

Presentation Dr. Gail Hansen: Ribera House:

Dr. Hansen was asked to engage with her students to help envision a repurposing of the side yard at the Ribera House. The Ribera House was reconstructed of the native coquina stone and was plastered inside and out. The walled garden was used for an interpretive garden and public open space. Adding a second gate is suggested to simulate a residential entrance appropriate for a higher up family like the Riberas. The proposed design would also create access between St. George and Spanish Street, have garden sculptures, be ADA accessible, lighting for night use and gated entry for security. Dr. Hansen's students came up with several ideas and presented them to Ed and Linda for feedback. They proposed many good and creative ideas for the space. Incorporated in the plans are the entry way, shade garden, stage/activity area. It is an area people will be attracted to for rest from walking around, it can be a place for visitors to eat lunch and will also be a park. It will be functional for shop owners of Ribera House. This project would need to be done in phases and would also need to be part of UFHSA's legislative agenda. Phase I would likely be the entry way. There is a great story to tell about the area and a great project as well.

Linda Dixon: First Colony & Building Plaques Update:

The First Colony exhibit has returned to Governors House. It is offered as a free exhibit. Since March 4<sup>th</sup> they have had 7500 people visit the exhibit.

The building plaque text is written for all but 6 buildings. The text development is almost completed. Installation and costing is pending the final approved sign text.

At this time the name change of Governor's Office was put forth by Chair Lastinger. A motion was made to name the Governor's Office in honor of Board Member Michael Gannon. Board Member Kathy Deagan made the motion to change the name, Board Member Herschel Shepard 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and board unanimously approved. The room will now be called The Dr. Michael Gannon Royal Governor's Room.

Linda Dixon: Space Update & Governor's House Application for Historic Award:

The newly renovated space upstairs is complete and now available for academic activities since it is fully ADA accessible and has upgraded technology. Many areas are open for flexible use, but a few rooms are secure to house equipment and resources used by faculty members. Signage is in the works to announce changing of the name of Government House and also the naming of the Michael Gannon room. Improvements are almost complete. The last thing needed to be completed is landscaping and some additional exterior lighting.

An application for Governor's House was submitted to the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation for a historic award. Linda informed the board of application and date of the Florida Historic Preservation conference. During the conference winners of the awards will be announced.

Allen Lastinger & Ed Poppell: Film Update:

Ed will be presenting the film to PBS. Robbie and her team are editing the film down to a 2 hour running time. The film will be made into 4 episodes. Board Member Michael Francis is helping develop the educational curriculum for schools. Chair Lastinger also wanted to propose commemorating the film to Board Member Dr. Michael Gannon who recently passed away. They are not sure if PBS will allow this, but would like the board's authorization to do suggest this. Board Member Roy Hunt made the motion, Board Member Kathy Deagan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and the board voted unanimously for Chair Lastinger to propose this.

Magen Wilson: St. Augustine Historical Society:

Magen informed the board that on May 25<sup>th</sup> Kathy Deagan will be receiving the Herschel Shepard award from the St. Augustine Historical Society. All board members are invited and welcome to attend. A new edition of the book The Oldest City will be released around September. The St. Augustine Historical Society was invited to participate in the Old Spanish Trail event that will be held in May in Tallahassee, FL. The trail starts in St. Augustine and ends in San Diego, CA.

Ed Poppell: Slip and Fall:

The lawsuit continues and it is pending.

Kathy Deagan: Recent Dig in St. Augustine:

A discovery of a Catholic Graveyard was made after Hurricane Matthew. The dig took place in/by the building that houses A1A Ale Works along Charlotte Street. Involved in the dig: City of St. Augustine, UF, state archeologist and the Catholic Church due to it being a Catholic graveyard. They discovered 24 burials in the space. The location was once a Catholic Church of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. 1/3 of the burials were children.

Jane Adams & Ed Poppell: Legislative Update:

This legislative session they are hoping to procure funds for roofs. They are waiting to see if UFHSA will be granted those funds on or after May 5<sup>th</sup> when legislative session is scheduled to end. The hope is for UFHSA to receive \$250,000. There is a challenge this year with the new rules that were created. Ed Poppell noted that Florida Senator Hudson was strong backer for UFHSA.

Chair Allen Lastinger: News

The Chair and Ed Poppell had a discussion with the publisher of the St. Augustine Record. The Record would like to run a few articles to spotlight the major projects that UFHSA is working on. This will inform their readers of the work that UFHSA does in St. Augustine. The work on Governors House has been chosen as their first spotlight.

At this time Chair Lastinger asks Lora Smith to poll the board members for the Fall 2017 meeting date.

Chair Lastinger adjourned the meeting at 1:56pm