

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING  
JUNE 22, 2006**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dawn MacGibbon, Chairman  
Nancy Miller-Houck, Robert Parker,  
Larry Sandles, Christel Schmidt

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Julia Moore

**OTHERS PRESENT:** David Hilston, Urban Design Manager

**CALL TO ORDER/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Roll Call
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting – July 27, 2006
- C. Last Scheduled Meeting – May 25, 2006
- Ms. MacGibbon welcomed Ms. Evan to the Board.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- A. Meeting of May 25, 2006
- Mr. Sandles MOVED, Ms. Schmidt SECONDED approval of the May 25, 2006 minutes.
- Mr. Parker noted the Blanchard House signage referenced on page 6 was located on U.S. 41 as opposed to I75.
- MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Sign Permit - Su Casa - 121 East Marion Avenue
- Mr. David Hilston, Urban Design Manager, displayed an overhead of the proposed sign, stating the site was the old Arcade building. He noted the sign met City Code requirements as far as material and type. He displayed an overhead of the actual location, explaining the projecting sign would be nine feet above grade perpendicular to the structure. He concluded this was exactly the type of sign staff recommended.
- Ms. MacGibbon confirmed lighting was unnecessary.
- Ms. Miller-Houck questioned the size of the sign.
- Mr. Hilston replied ten square feet.
- Mr. Sandles MOVED, Mr. Parker SECONDED approval of the proposed signs as they met the intent of City Code.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A. Certificates of Appropriateness

- Mr. Hilston presented three Certificates of Appropriateness for the Chairman's signature as follows: repair and addition at 307 Taylor Street; rebuilding of 634 West Marion Avenue; adding a dormer and refinishing the attic at 221 Durrance Street.
- Mr. Sandles confirmed one of the structures met the requirements of the revised Land Development Regulations (LDRs).

**OTHER BUSINESS**

A. Punta Gorda Historical Society, Inc.

- Mr. Parker announced new programs had started, adding the Society had experienced a positive influx of young members.
- Ms. MacGibbon mentioned a recent newspaper article on the garden at the Women's Club.
- Mr. Parker concluded the museum and fundraising were on schedule. He then asked when funding would become available for the History Park as a historic structure on Marion Avenue was just put up for sale.
- Ms. MacGibbon noted the shed on this property also held some historic significance. She mentioned the current owner was in her 90s. She opined the house was definitely repairable.

B. Punta Gorda Urban Design Group Project Status Report

- Mr. Hilston drew members' attention to the Project Status Report, as delineated in the agenda material, stating funding was currently dedicated to the development in and around Laishley Park. He commented on disaster recovery funds, stating the City was prohibited from spending same from U.S. 41 North west; thus, the Board would see work on the east side of Punta Gorda, basically recreating their commercial district.
- Ms. MacGibbon questioned the status of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard (MLK) streetscaping.
- Mr. Hilston distributed copies of the MLK Streetscape Concept Plan, as depicted in the agenda material, stating only the phasing had changed. He pointed out Phase 1 was complete, adding the project had been sent out for bids.

- Mr. Sandles then noted staff had provided members with an Application for Certificate of Appropriateness for 456 Durrance Street, confirming the Board would review same at their next meeting.

**Note: Board Member Comments were heard following Staff Comments.**

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- Mr. Parker announced work had commenced on the home of Ms. Letisha Chambers, asking if she had contacted staff.
- Mr. Hilston replied affirmatively.
- Mr. Parker then asked when the Freeman House would be ready for occupancy.
- Mr. Hilston replied the City Council had discussed same at their June 21, 2006 Meeting, adding he would report back to the Board. He noted the lease with the City for joint use of the Freeman House by the Historical Society and the Chamber of Commerce was approved.
- Mr. Sandles stated he understood there was some issue with window replacement.
- Mr. Parker responded the Historical Society had windows in storage.
- Mr. Hilston stated he would have Facilities Maintenance staff contact Mr. Parker.
- Ms. Miller-Houck then reported the Courthouse project was moving forward, with the architectural work projected for completion in August 2006. She stated the intent was for use as an appellate court.
- Ms. MacGibbon commented the County seemed committed to this project.
- Ms. Miller-Houck stated the City and County could not reach an agreement with regard to the four lots adjacent to the Courthouse.
- Ms. MacGibbon explained the City was awaiting the results of their parking study, which would be complete in August 2006.
- Mr. Hilston commented the site was nicely balanced with green space on both sides, adding the County was desirous of replacing same with parking for judges; however, the City was understandably opposed to trading parking for green space in the downtown area.
- Mr. Sandles asked if parking could be impervious.
- Mr. Hilston replied affirmatively; however, the City wished to make the area a formal town square.

- Mr. Sandles then confirmed the appraisal on the old McGinnis Bail Bonds property was complete and a purchase offer extended.
- Ms. Miller-Houck requested an update on Mr. Hilston's department.
- Mr. Hilston replied existing projects remained on track; however, he acknowledged the loss of artistic design with the resignation of Mr. Bob Crispin, landscape architect.
- Mr. Sandles expressed the Board's delight with regard to Mr. Hilston's continued employment with the City.
- Ms. Evan stated she was happy to have the opportunity to serve on this Board.
- Ms. MacGibbon commented on past discussions of seeking Certified Local Government (CLG) status, asking if staff was pursuing same.
- Mr. Hilston replied affirmatively.

**Note: Staff Comments were heard prior to Board Member Comments.**

**STAFF COMMENTS**

- Mr. Hilston announced Ms. Dee Hayward, Department of Interior consultant, planned to tour the area to document hurricane damaged structures.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting Adjourned: 9:01 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn MacGibbon, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Kelly, Recording Secretary