

In Attendance:

Officers

Dr. Frank Cassell, Chair
Betty Nugent, Vice-Chair
Dorothy Korwek, Treasurer
Laura Dean, Secretary

Representatives

Don Bayley, Joe Blais, Margaret Borrows,
Beck Esmus, Jim Gumpert, Cathy Hollar,
Caroline Redlin, Barbara Sharpe,
Dr. Cliff Smith, Rod Smith,

Treasury Report:

Previous Balance 2/7/2017 \$2,495.70

Income (dues & luncheon)	
Income (dues & luncheon)	930.00
Expenses	
USPS (1-year box rental)	112.00
Suncoast Engraving & Awards	192.60
1 luncheon ticket refund	40.00
Venice Golf & Country Club	1,700.82
	\$2,045.42

AWARDS LUNCHEON:

Income = \$1,970.00

Expenses = \$1,893.42

Net Profit of \$76.58

Balance 4/3/2017 \$1,380.28

*Report Approved

Previous Meeting Minutes:

*Approved as written

Secretary's Report

Secretary, Laura Dean asks that organizations be sure to include her in emails of newsletters and program announcements so she may publicize them on the Coalition website as well as the Coalition's Facebook page.

Please add to your mailing lists:

laura@runjikproductions.com

The meeting was called to order at 4:08pm by Chair Cassell.



The Lord-Higel House, Venice, Florida

MEETING MINUTES: APRIL 4, 2017

TOGETHER FOR OUR SHARED PAST

HPCSC

HISTORY & PRESERVATION COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY

LOCATION: HISTORIC SPANISH POINT

Chair's Report/Old Business:

Chair Dr. Frank Cassell thanked everyone who attended the Sarasota County Heritage Awards luncheon on February 25. It was a nice gathering of 52 people who enjoyed social hour and lunch that included chicken, salmon, beef and rice pilaf with a side of Florida vegetables. The awardees were delighted with the honors, and one of them, the Newtown Conservation Historic District, has won a Florida Trust for Historic Preservation award for Outstanding Achievement in the Preservative Education/Media category. The Coalition congratulates them.

Here are the 2016 Sarasota County Heritage Awards awardees:



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY: Work to preserve and document prehistoric sites and/or effective advocacy of archaeological conservation.

**DR. GEORGE M. LUER -
ARCHAEOLOGIST**



HISTORIC PRESERVATION: Efforts to preserve historical sites and/or effective advocacy of historical preservation efforts in the county.

**MICHAEL SWAIN -
FILM PRESERVATIONIST**



HISTORICAL RESEARCH: Contributions through research and publication to increase knowledge of Sarasota County's past.

**NEWTOWN CONSERVATION
HISTORIC DISTRICT**



PUBLIC EDUCATION: Programs or individual efforts to inform the public about Sarasota County's history and its significance.

**VENICE MAINSTREET, INC. and
VENICE HERITAGE, INC.
JOHN NOLEN HISTORIC DISTRICT
STREET SIGN TOPPERS PROJECT**

(Thanks to Steve Koski for photos)

The Awards Committee will meet on April 20 to discuss the 2017 awards. Please send any suggestions to info@historicpreservationsarasota.org

Old Business continued: Dr. Cassell also thanked the Englewood Area Historical Museum, and Coalition Vice-Chair, Betty Nugent, for a well-attended and interesting tour of the museum, the Green Street Church, and the Lampp House. This whirlwind tour of Englewood was the March 7 Coalition field trip and was attended by 16 people. (Special thanks to Betty Nugent for the amazing dinner served to the lucky ten people who could stay for it.)



MAY 2nd FIELD TRIP

Join the Coalition for an exciting tour of the Venice Train Depot on May 2nd at 4:30pm. Remind your members that our field trips are open to anyone, and most are FREE. On this special occasion we will tour the restored Venice Train Depot and its exhibits, plus view an interesting presentation about the restoration projects.



ABOUT THE STATION (from venicegov.com)

The Historic Venice Train Depot, built in 1927, was the last stop on the line of the Seaboard Air Line Railway that extended south from Tampa through Sarasota. In the mid-1920s, the train station was the arrival point for people interested in buying property in Venice, a new town that the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was developing. In later years, the cadets of the Kentucky Military Institute arrived at the beginning of each New Year to spend their spring term in Venice, staying until Easter. During World War II, trains delivered personnel, vehicles, construction materials, and supplies to maintain the Venice Army Air Base. From 1960 to 1991, the Ringling Bros. & Barnum and Bailey Circus made its winter home in Venice, arriving in November or December by train and leaving weeks later to take new circus performances around the country.

Passenger service ended in 1971, and in 1975, the Depot building was closed. The tracks continued to be used for freight service until 1997, but the station was left to vagabonds, graffiti artists, and deterioration from the elements. Sarasota County purchased the property from the CSX Railroad and restored it to its original condition. The newly renovated station was opened to the public in November 2003.

Directions: From U.S. 41/Venice Bypass heading north or south, turn onto EAST Venice Avenue and head west. Keep right to stay on E. Venice Ave. and not to go over the bridge. Turn right into the parking area.

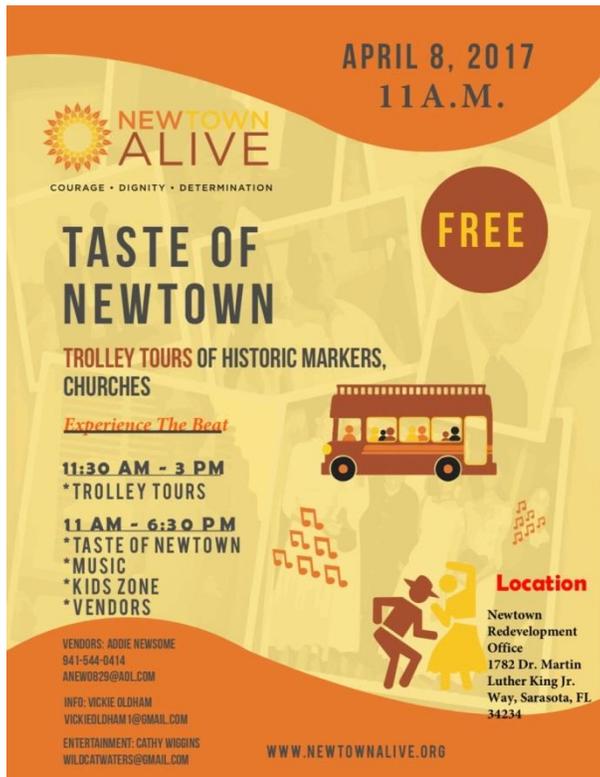
New Business:

The 100th anniversary of Sarasota County is coming up on July 1, 2021. The Coalition's executive officers feel that the Coalition should be at the forefront of planning and implementing a county-wide celebration. Chair Cassell opened a discussion of this topic, and it was received with enthusiasm by those in attendance. Although this anniversary is 4 years away, planning, fundraising, and marketing may take up to that long to properly implement. Dr. Clifford Smith made the suggestion that a first step in the process is to initiate involvement with the county by notifying the County Commissioners of this upcoming historical event, and the Coalition's desire to create/inspire an all-encompassing, county-wide, series of commemorative events. Sarasota County Historical Commission representative, Jim Gumpert, agreed with this suggestion. Chair Cassell will write a letter to the commission on behalf of the History & Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County.

Stay tuned for updates, and get your motor running for the "Road to Sarasota County 100" . . .

Upcoming Programs and Special Announcements:

- The **Englewood Area Historical Museum** is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War with exhibits and events throughout the month of April. A Vietnam Vet will be your tour docent from 1:00-4:00pm every Friday-Sunday. If you are a veteran of this war, come and have your portrait taken with the 50th commemorative flag. Artifacts and memorabilia will be on display to honor those who served our country during the war.



➤ **City of Sarasota Historic Preservation & Planning Dept.** Dr. Cliff Smith invites Coalition members to attend a FREE event “Taste of Newtown”. (See image at left)

➤ **National Railway Historical Society** is publishing a series of articles in the national society’s newsletter regarding local rail history, and the Ringling Circus railcar restoration project. This is great national exposure for the local chapter, and the Venice Train Depot.

➤ **Friends of the Sarasota County History Center** will have the last of their spring Florida Humanities Speaker Series this coming Friday, April 7 at 7:00pm. “Florida’s Amazing History and Why You Should Care” **Eliot Kleinberg** presents a whirlwind tour of 500 years of Florida history and how it has changed the state, for better or worse, capped with a strong argument that Florida’s biggest challenge is encouraging its transplants to become Floridians and work to solve the state’s problems. The lecture is free and open to the public, but please let the Friends know you plan to attend by calling 941-361-2453.

FOSCHC recently hired Bill Goetz as manager of the Chidsey Building, but **still need volunteers for at least one day per month. The hours are Noon-4:30pm Tuesday-Saturday.**

- **Lemon Bay Historical Society** is pleased to announce some positive news regarding the historic Green Street Church. Englewood Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) has offered to match funds and help facilitate the moving of the church to property owned by LBHS.
- **Venice Area Historical Society** announces a summer lecture series focusing on south county history from 1865 to 1965 titled, “Early Sarasota County: Women, African Americans, Celery, Turpentine, and Cattle.” These will be afternoon presentations at 1:30pm on Tuesdays, June 13, July 11, August 8, and September 9 and will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice (who is a sponsor of the series) at 1971 Pinebrook Road. All programs are free and open to the public. Visit <http://www.veniceareahistoricalsociety.org/> for more details about each lecture.
- **Venice Heritage, Inc.** is selling tickets right up until May 8, for the May 9 drawing where YOU can WIN A VILLA STAY FOR FOUR IN TUSCANY! For just \$25 you can be entered in a drawing for a chance for four people to stay for SEVEN NIGHTS in a Tuscan Villa. Although it doesn’t include airfare, the winner may choose from one of the six villas located in Manciano, Italy. Buy tickets online, and see the luxurious villas at www.veniceheritage.org Proceeds benefit the Lord-Higel House. The annual members only Heritage Dinner will be held on May 25 at the Venice Yacht Club. The special speaker will be local news and lifestyle reporter, Linda Carson. Tickets are \$60 per person.
- **Sara De Soto Chapter, DAR** will host Betty Nugent as a guest speaker on April 15, and on May 2, they will hold a ceremony to recognize the winners of the annual student essay contest.
- **Historic Spanish Point** is celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the museum with a luncheon on April 4, and special programs, including the members’ annual meeting on April 13.

(announcements by those present only)

Meeting Adjourned: 5:45 PM

Next Business Meeting: June 6, 2017 at Historic Spanish Point
