

In Attendance:

Officers

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

Representatives

Rob Bendus, Becky Esmus,
James Hagler, Cathy Hollar,
Betty Intagliata, Caroline Redlin,
Dr. Clifford Smith, Rod Smith

Treasury Report:

Previous Balance 1/31/2016 \$1,017.70

Income: Dues	
City of Sarasota	\$20.00
VAHS	\$20.00
FOSCHC	\$20.00
FOEA	\$20.00
Total	\$80.00
Expenses	
US Post Office Box rental	\$102.00

Balance 3/31/2016 \$995.70

Outstanding Dues:

Englewood Area Historical Museum
Friends of Little Salt Spring
Sarasota County History Center
Women's Club of Sarasota

**Cliff Smith motioned to accept the Treasury Report, 2nd by Betty Intagliata. Vote approved report.*

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Approved as written.

Secretary's Report

Secretary, Laura Dean addressed the assembled in regards to the marketing initiative at the Chidsey Historical Exhibits & Education Center. That project has been put on hold until summer, as the more immediate need of updates to the Coalition website and the initialization of the Heritage Awards marketing plan have taken precedence. She will be creating individual pages on the Coalition website for each paid member, so might contact you for information and/or photographs.

- The meeting was called to order at 4:18pm by Chair Cassell. There was a delay in starting due to an event held by HSP in the adjacent room.

MEETING MINUTES: APRIL 5, 2016

TOGETHER FOR OUR SHARED PAST

HPCsc

HISTORY & PRESERVATION COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY

LOCATION: HISTORIC SPANISH POINT

Chair's Report:



Chair Dr. Frank Cassell started his report with some disturbing news relayed from Bill Goetz of Friends of Little Salt Spring regarding the historically recognizable large sign along US 41 directing people to Warm Mineral Springs. This sign has been removed and apparently demolished by either the City of North Port, or perhaps the owner of the property on which it sat since the 1950s. There was no news to report on the Three Graces Fountain by sculptor Sophie Johnstone, which stands in the same location near the Warm Mineral Springs Motel.

A bit of hopeful news was given about the Jack West buildings at Warm Mineral Springs. Archaeological Consultants, Inc. of Sarasota will be conducting a survey of the buildings site and the buildings in the coming months. Stay tuned for updates about this situation.

The new president of Venice Area Historical Society, Caroline Redlin, was introduced and welcomed to the group. She replaces Barbara Smith and Chair Cassell conveyed both our gladness to meet Ms. Redlin, and our sadness to not see Ms. Smith at the meetings.



The creation of the Heritage Awards committee was briefly discussed, and Chair Cassell thanked the members for their hard work. The committee is; Russ Gutmann, Dorothy Korwek, Ruthmary Williams, and Frank Cassell. Laura Dean is not on the committee, but will serve as marketing and public relations advisor.

Old Business:

1. Dorothy Korwek presented a report on the status of the Sarasota County Heritage Awards which is being hosted/presented by HPCsc. The committee has agreed on the terms for nominations, and will be sending out informational letters and nomination forms to the Coalition members, and others in the county who may wish to nominate a person or group for one of the four categories.

The four award categories are:

Historical Research - Outstanding contributions through research and publication to increase knowledge of Sarasota County's past.

Historic Preservation - Outstanding efforts to preserve historical sites and/or effective advocacy of historical preservation efforts in the county.

Archaeological Conservancy - Outstanding efforts to preserve and document prehistorical sites and/or effective advocacy of archaeological conservation.

Public Education - Outstanding programs or individual efforts to inform the public about Sarasota County's history and its significance.

Nominations may be made using the form provided with these minutes, or with a downloadable form online starting April 15 at www.historicpreservationsarasota.org/heritageawards. The deadline for nominations is October 15. Award recipients will be notified on or after November 15. The awards will be given out at a luncheon event in January or February of 2017. Details about that event will be worked out by fall of 2016. If you have any questions regarding the nomination process, the awards, or wish to serve on the committee, please contact Dorothy Korwek.

2. Coalition Vice Chair, Betty Nugent talked about the March 2015 field trip to Warm Mineral Springs. Ten people attended and a representative from the City of North Port showed them around the site, including the Jack West designed Cyclorama building. It is a rare treat to go inside the historic structure, which is in okay condition, but suffers from extensive mold and some rodent evidence. The wall murals and displays seem to be holding up well considering their age. There is still much concern by the Coalition about the need for preservation of the buildings and especially the significant cyclorama structure, as it holds opportunities for education and historical interpretation.

New Business:



New Sarasota County Historical Resources Manager: Robert Bendus addressed the meeting to talk about his past connections with Sarasota and Manatee County as well as the future plans for SCHR. Mr. Bendus previously worked in the 12th Judicial Court Circuit, and throughout the 16 years of dealing with the logistics of the historic courthouses of Sarasota, Manatee, and De Soto Counties, he became interested in historic architecture and preservation. He chose to pursue that interest and has degrees in history and archaeology. (He is currently finishing up his doctorate in history at Florida State.) In 2011, Bendus began serving as State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Upon hearing of the need for a strong manager of SCHR, he applied for the job and started in the position in early March.

Some of the future plans for the department include addressing the organization of the resources and the public access to the research materials and collection. Also of interest is the creation of exhibits of collection items and educational interpretation and presentation of collections. The forever back-burner item of interest to the Coalition, the comprehensive county-wide history museum, is another thing on Mr.

Bendus's list of future projects. He believes that community partnerships and collaborations with Sarasota County Historical Resources are needed. New surveys of historic and archaeological sites are definitely on the agenda as they relate to the need to review development approval procedures. Lastly, staff at the SCHR will be filled as need is determined following implementation of other priorities. Mr. Bendus will keep the HPCsc updated on the staffing needs and any changes or additions.

Member Spotlight

Friends of the Sarasota County History Center President, Betty Intagliata, spoke about the Historical Exhibits and Education Center in the Chidsey Library Building. The recently hired manager, Bridget Donahue, has taken a full time job with Manatee County as Curator of the Manatee Village Historical Park. Therefore, FOSCHC will need to fill the Chidsey Manager position very soon. They will revisit applicants and may have to advertise the position. Visitation has remained steady thru this first quarter, with an average of 150 visitors per month. The gift shop is doing well, and attendance to programs is up. FOSCHC joined the Arts & Cultural Alliance as outreach for membership.

The current featured exhibition, Paul Rudolph: The Florida Houses, will close at the end of April. Next up in the rotating gallery is the fabulous exhibit designed by Venice Museum and Archives about John Nolen. Hopefully it will be installed and opened in early May. Two upcoming lectures focus on the Civil War period in Florida. The first will take place at the Sarasota Garden Club at 7:00pm on April 22 by Dr. James Denham entitled, "Florida and The Civil War", and the second is by underwater archaeologist, Jeff Moates, who will discuss the diverse vessels and provide examples of Civil War related shipwrecks in the Tampa Bay area. That lecture is at noon on Saturday, April 30 at the Chidsey Building. Both presentations are free to the public.

A most urgent need is for volunteers to cover shifts at the Historical Exhibits and Education Center. As summer approaches and winter residents return north, there are a lot of holes on the volunteer calendar. Please consider volunteering at least one shift per month from 10:00am – 1:00pm or 1:00pm – 4:00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays or 10:00am – 2:00pm on Saturdays. Ask members of your organizations if they can volunteer. Keeping the Chidsey Building operating benefits all of the Coalition groups and Sarasota County's Historical Resources department. Call Betty at (941) 484-0769 or email her at ejane5761@aol.com.

Upcoming Programs and Special Announcements:

Historical Society of Sarasota County Conversations at the Crocker for April is "Secrets of an American Palace". Ron McCarty, Curator of Ca'd'Zan, will lead a conversation and show rare photos of the famous mansion he calls "Mable's House."

7:00pm in the Crocker Memorial Church at Pioneer Park. Free to Members - \$10 to guests.

Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeology Society's monthly meeting on April 12 features former Smithsonian researcher Sandra Starr with a program on Pre-Columbian maize deity K'uk'ulkan.

7:00pm at the North Port United Community Church, 3450 S. Biscayne Blvd. Free to all.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PROGRAM INFORMATION TO SECRETARY, LAURA DEAN, FOR INCLUSION IN MINUTES AND ON THE COALITION FACEBOOK PAGE.

laura@runjikproductions.com

Meeting Adjourned: 6:00 PM

Next Business Meeting: June, 7 2016 4:00PM at HISTORIC SPANISH POINT

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE MAY 3RD FIELD TRIP

Don't miss the chance to tour the Ringling Circus Museum with the one person who knows it best. Deborah Walk, Assistant Director of Legacy & Circus, Tibbals Curator of Circus and Curator of Historical Documents at The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, will be our host and guide. Meet at the historic John Ringling Gate in front of the Visitors Center at 2:00pm.
