

In Attendance:**Officers**

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

Representatives

Judie Bauer, Jim Clubb, Bridget Donohue,
 Bill Goetz, James Hagler, Betty Intagliata,
 Steve Koski, Jennifer Perry,
 Barbara Smith, Dr. Clifford Smith

Treasury Report:

Previous Balance 11/30/2015	\$977.70
Income	
Discover Greater Sarasota	\$20.00
Time Sifters	\$20.00
	\$40.00
Expenses	
None	\$0.00
Balance 2/1/2016	\$1,017.00

Outstanding Dues:

Friends of Little Salt Spring
 Sarasota County Historical Commission
 Women's Club of Sarasota

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

Previous Meeting Minutes:

The December business meeting minutes were provided by Judie Bauer. They were 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. There are lighted panels on the north end of the lobby which will feature informational pieces about each Coalition member. Over the course of the next couple of months, these panels will be designed by Laura. She will coordinate the content with each member representative. To begin, each Coalition organization will get four panels, with the possibility of expansion in the future. The concept is to be informative to the public, while also creating a clean and cohesive look.

- The meeting was called to order at 4:03pm by Chair Cassell, who thanked Judie Bauer for organizing the meeting's location. He also asked her to pass along thanks to Venice City Hall.

TOGETHER FOR OUR SHARED PAST

HPCsc

HISTORY & PRESERVATION COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY

LOCATION: VENICE CITY HALL COMMUNITY ROOM

Chair's Report:

Chair Dr. Frank Cassell's report was a reflection of the Coalition's recent year, which included quite a few changes and additions to the HPCsc and its meetings. Firstly, the officers began having planning meetings, where agenda topics and ideas for ways to improve the Coalition were discussed. As a result of these meetings, new goals were set. One goal is to identify and coordinate common interests among Coalition member organizations, and assist with partnerships. Another is community awareness of the Coalition and its members. A third is to begin cataloging historic sites deemed endangered, and voice concerns and offer support in order to encourage preservation efforts of those endangered sites.

An important goal was to also be a voice of concern regarding issues related to historic preservation on a county administrative level. This included the important topic of the staffing changes at Historical Resources (History Center). A strong letter of concern was sent to County Administrator, Tom Harmer, and HPCsc also voiced support and encouragement to Sarabeth Kalajian, Director of Libraries and Historical Resources in the hiring process of the History Center manager.

Chair Cassell pointed out that in fall of 2015, we adopted a new schedule for meetings, and began including field trips every other month to sites managed by Coalition members. Those trips included Venice Museum & Archives, and Pioneer Park. The Coalition has also held meetings at different locations like the Chidsey Historical Exhibits & Education Center. These two things will continue in 2016.

2015 was a year in which the History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County participated in reviewing and supporting the county's update of the Comprehensive Plan. Members attended workshops held by the county and discussed concerns and also praised the plan, with an emphasis on maintaining the quality of historic preservation items within the plan. The HPCsc also requested to be included in the plan's appendix or references to historic preservation organizations.

HPCsc supported member organizations' projects and programs in 2015. Many representatives have volunteered to work shifts at the Chidsey Historical Exhibits & Education Center, which is now managed by Friends of the Sarasota County History Center. Members also supported the fundraising efforts of Venice Area Historical Society's Circus Railcar Project. Chair Cassell encouraged members to continue that trend in 2016.

Finally, the Chair concluded by thanking all member representatives for their patience and participation in the 2015 changes and initiatives. He also thanked his fellow officers for their dedication.

Old Business:

1. The first of “Sarasota County’s Most Endangered”, the Warm Mineral Springs buildings designed by Jack West, was discussed. Back in November, Secretary Laura Dean, and Bill Goetz of Friends of Little Salt Spring, coordinated on a letter of concern to commissioners of Sarasota County, and the City of Northport regarding the fate of these structures. Ms. Dean reported that to date, she has not received any responses to her mailings, and voiced concern about the next steps in the process. A good point was made, that Ms. Dean’s letter, while well written, and firm, was not addressed as a personal letter to the recipients, and perhaps was overlooked as such. This is a good point, and Ms. Dean will plan on resending in a different format.



Bill Goetz brought up a related concern, which is more pressing than the Jack West buildings. The Three Graces fountain by sculptor Sophie Johnstone, which stands on US 41 near the Warm Mineral Springs Motel and the famous large arrow sign, is in danger of being removed by the county. In fact, the county asked the City of Northport if they wanted to move it to a new location, and they are not interested in that, the county would be “disposing” of it somehow. This is of enormous concern, because the piece was created in 1958 and is considered “public art” since it’s been in that location ever since. Mr. Goetz will keep a close eye and ear on this topic, and report any news to Secretary Dean, who will share it with the Coalition.

2. Regarding the Coalition’s new award program initiative; the first official committee meeting was held on January 27. The committee reached consensus the name will be "The Sarasota County Heritage Awards Program." The first awards event will be a luncheon held on a Saturday in May of 2017. There will be four heritage awards made in 2017:
 - A. Outstanding contributions to expanding knowledge of Sarasota County's past. (Honors individuals whose research has added significantly to the knowledge and understanding of the County's history.)
 - B. Outstanding work in historic preservation. (Honors individuals and/or groups that have demonstrated excellence in working to preserve and sustain the county's many significant historical structures and sites.)
 - C. Outstanding work in preserving important archaeological sites in the county. (Honors individuals and/or organizations that have been particularly effective in preserving prehistory sites.)
 - D. Outstanding contributions to educating the public about Sarasota County's historical and prehistorical periods. (Honors individuals and/or organizations that have done an outstanding job of organizing and presenting information on the county's past. Schools, museums, government entities, and historical societies are eligible.)



In future years, three more awards will be included; Public Leadership, Volunteer of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement. A simple nomination form will be designed. Nominators will have to provide basic contact information and a short essay of 350 words or less explaining why a particular individual or organization should receive an award. In evaluating nominations the committee will recruit specialists knowledgeable about the fields in which awards were to be given.

3. Historical Resources department news. Jennifer Perry, interim manager at the History Center, announced that after many months, Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources has hired Robert F. Bendus as the new historical resources manager. Bendus has a long career in public service. He previously worked for the 12th Judicial Circuit of Florida and the Sarasota County Clerk of Court. Most recently, he served as Director of the Division of Historical Resources in the Department of State, and as Florida's State Historic Preservation Officer. Mr. Bendus will start in the position on March 6. Ms. Perry will return to her permanent job as public services manager for the libraries. The Coalition formally thanked Ms. Perry for her time as interim manager at the History Center.
4. Vice Chair, Betty Nugent, reported on the Coalition January Social, which took place on January 25 at the Jockey Club in Northport, and benefitted Friends of Little Salt Spring. Speakers included Steve Koski and Jeff Moates. It was well attended, and \$737 was made. Proceeds from the raffle portion of the event will go towards future conservation and digitalization of slides from a Carl J. Clausen archive. The remainder of funds raised will be used for public outreach and other projects in the future.

New Business:

Election of 2016 Officers: The current officers all agreed to another term if elected. Dr. Clifford Smith motioned to accept the 2016 slate of officers, Barbara Smith seconded the motion. All officers were elected for another term.

2016 Field Trips: March 1 field trip will be at Warm Mineral Springs at 2:00pm. If possible, we may tour the Jack West Cyclorama. Keep your fingers crossed. Vice Chair, Betty Nugent will inform Secretary Laura Dean if anything changes, so she can notify the Coalition via email. Other proposed trips include Venice Train Depot, Historic Spanish Point, and others.

New Chidsey Manager: Betty Intagliata, President of Friends of Sarasota County History Center, introduced the manager of the Chidsey Historical Exhibits & Education Center, Bridget Donohue. She is from Massachusetts and received her B.A. in Archaeology & History from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. In 2013-14, Bridget completed an internship at Pilgrim Hall Museum in Plymouth. Bridget is experienced in exhibit design, set-up and transport of artifacts and art.

Member Spotlight

James Hagler, Director of Historical Resources at City of Venice, spoke about the city's progress in being awarded as a certified local government. [The Certified Local Government (CLG) program was enacted as part of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980. The program links three levels of government-federal, state and local- into a preservation partnership for the identification, evaluation and protection of historic properties. Designation as a certified local government, either as a municipality or a county, makes historic preservation a public policy through passage of a historic preservation ordinance. The ordinance establishes a historic preservation board to develop and oversee the functions of its historic preservation program. Florida's Certified Local Governments are eligible to apply for special matching grants from the Bureau of Historic Preservation to assist their preservation programs. Funding is available for projects such as: surveys to identify and evaluate significant historic properties; nominations to the National Register of Historic Places; preservation education materials such as booklets, brochures, slide or video programs; and local historic preservation plans. – from dos.myflorida.com]

In Venice, this process has been on the agenda for 9 years, so the news is good that the Venice Historic Preservation Board is in the final stretch towards completion with more than 95% of the ordinances and comprehensive plans written. It is likely the designation will be made within a year. Mr. Hagler notes the tremendous community support throughout the process, and looks forward to seeing the positive changes to historic preservation once the designation is complete.



Upcoming Programs and Special Announcements:

Friends of Sarasota County History Center will have a very special speaker at their annual meeting on March 24. Dr. Leslee Keys, Assistant Professor of History and Director of Historic Preservation, at Flagler College, will discuss her book, "Hotel Ponce De Leon: The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of Flagler's Gilded Age Palace." A detailed account of the historic building's transformation from opulent luxury hotel in the late 1800s to its current state as private, liberal arts Flagler College in Saint Augustine, Florida. The event starts at 5:30pm with an hour of social time and refreshments in the Chidsey building, then a short business meeting, and a walk next door to Sarasota Garden Club for the speaker presentation at 7:00pm. Reservations Required. For more information email schcfriends@verizon.net or call (941) 361-2453.

Venice Area Historical Society invites you to attend the dedication of the historical plaque at the Banyan House on Tuesday, February 16, 1:30pm, at the house at 519 Harbor Drive, Venice.

The 25th Anniversary and Annual Meeting of the Venice Area Historical Society will be held Tuesday, March 15, 11:00am It is a \$25 buffet luncheon at Pelican Pointe Country Club with Commissioner Alan Maio, Mayor John Holic, and others in attendance. Coalition Chair, Dr. Frank Cassell is the keynote speaker with, "After the Ball Is Over" on the Palmer family business interests after the death of Bertha Palmer in 1918. All are welcome. Reservations should be sent VAHS, P. O. Box 995, Venice 34284-0995.

Venice Museum & Archives is proud to announce the upcoming exhibit "Historic Eagle Point, A Legacy of Old Florida in Venice" will run March 1 – July 27. Take a coordinating tour of Eagle Point property March 11, 12, 18, & 19 at 10:00am ad 2:00pm. Tickets for the guided tour are \$25 per person, cash only.

Historical Society of Sarasota County is offering you the chance to learn local history and enjoy our beautiful



bay on a Le Barge cruise narrated by John McCarthy, noted Sarasota historian. Sunday, March 6, 2016 11:00am – 1:00pm. \$40.00 per person, \$50.00 VIP. Reservations a must! Call the HSoSC office at 941-364-9076, Monday through Friday 10:00am to 2:00pm.

This month's Conversations at the Crocker will be "The Great Developers, 1920s and Today" with Harold Bubil, Real Estate Editor of the Sarasota Herald-Tribune moderating the panel which includes Jay Tallman (Founders Club and several beachfront condominiums), Kevin Daves (Ritz Carlton Sarasota and The Concession) and Pat Neal (10,000 private residences since the 1970s and still counting). Special guest Rolland King, who co-developed South Gate ("the Lakewood Ranch of its day," said Bubil), Forest Lakes and other developments from citrus groves in the 1950s and 1960s.

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

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: 5:45 PM

Next Business Meeting: April 5, 2016 4:00PM at HISTORIC SPANISH POINT

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MARCH 1 FIELD TRIP TO WARM MINERAL SPRINGS AT 2:00PM

Meet at the springs for a tour of the grounds and possibly the historic cyclorama.
