

History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County

June 7, 2016, Meeting Minutes

Historic Spanish Point

Present: Joe Blais (Friends of Englewood Archives); Dr. Frank Cassell (Sarasota County Historical Commission); Becky Esmus (Historic Spanish Point); Bill Goetz (Friends of Little Salt Spring; Cathy Hollar (Daughters of the American Revolution); Dorothy Korwek (Venice Heritage); Steven Koski (Warm Mineral Springs, Friends of Little Salt Springs, Sarasota County Historical Resources); Dr. Clifford Smith (City of Sarasota).

- I. Dr. Frank Cassell, Chair** of the HPCSC called to the meeting to order at 4 p.m. He welcomed Joe Blais, who represents the Coalition's newest member, Friends of Englewood Archives.
- II. Treasurer's Report.** Dorothy Korwek reported there was \$1,015.70 in the bank account. Three organizations have yet to pay their dues. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.
- III. The Minutes of the HPCSC April Meeting were approved unanimously.**
- IV. Chair's Report.** Dr. Cassell said that the organization's officers continue to seek ways to help strengthen the HPCSC member groups. On behalf of the Executive Committee, he called the Gulf Coast Community Foundation based in Venice and talked with Wendy Dening. The Foundation does try to assist the development of nonprofit organizations by offering a variety of educational programs that address challenges often encountered by such groups.

The HPCSC voted unanimously to ask member groups to discuss the organizational problems they face, and to determine if their board members would be interested in attending training sessions or reviewing online presentations. Among the most common problems are board development and recruitment, public relations and advertising, attracting new members, and writing grants, but individual organizations may well identify other areas of concern. The HPCSC organizations are asked to email their results of their discussions to our Secretary, Laura Dean, before the end of August if possible.

Armed with this information, the HPCSC will invite Wendy Dening to our September meeting to explore possible programming with the Gulf Coast Community Foundation.

Dr. Cassell also reported that he had attended a joint meeting of the Sarasota City and County Architectural Commissions. He invited Dr. Clifford Smith, who is involved with both groups, to comment. Dr. Smith said the groups met periodically to "keep the lines of communications open." He and Sarasota County Historical Resources Manager Rob Bendus are the principle staff to these groups and work together to coordinate activities. Dr. Cassell commented that he was heartened to see the cooperation between these groups who have such great responsibilities in managing our architectural heritage.

V. Old Business

- A. Dr. Cassell reported that he had written to all HPCSC groups and many other similar groups to urge participation in the Heritage Awards Program. He stressed the need to encourage submission of high quality nominations in all four awards categories.

- B. Dorothy Korwek reported on last month's HPCSC "field trip" to see the circus archives at the Ringling Museum. The tour was informative and interesting, and we are indebted to Deborah Walk and her staff for taking the time to show us this huge and impressive archival collection. However, turnout for this trip was light. This led to a discussion about opening up these events to all members of HPCSC groups and to hold these events on non-work days (weekends). The officers will discuss options for these events that educate HPC members about local resources.

VI. New Business. No items were presented for discussion

VII. Member Spotlight

- A. Bill Goetz of the Friends of Little Salt Spring made a presentation on a possible threat to the Three Graces Fountain on Route 41 near Warm Mineral Springs. Bill has had trouble obtaining public records from the Sarasota County to research this threat. The Fountain is a sculpture erected in 1958 as part of the entryway to Warm Mineral Springs. Artist Sophie Johnstone also has a piece on display outside the Van Wezel Performing arts Hall in Sarasota. [Note: the Sarasota County Historical Commission, a member of the Coalition, subsequently agreed to help Bill obtain the records he needs.]

- B. Steve Koski reported briefly on behalf of Rob Bendus, Manager of Sarasota County Historical Resources. He updated the group on the search for a county archeologist and several other matters. He stated that Historical Resources is starting discussions/preparations for celebrating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Sarasota County in 2021.

VIII. Adjournment. The Coalition adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by
Frank A. Cassell, Chair
Dorothy Korwek, Treasurer