

TOGETHER FOR OUR SHARED PAST

# HPCCSC

HISTORY & PRESERVATION COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY

LOCATION: HISTORIC SPANISH POINT

**In Attendance:**Officers

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

Representatives

Jean Airey, Margaret Borrows, Jim Clubb,  
 Becky Esmus, Bill Goetz, Cathy Hollar,  
 Steve Koski, Howard Rosenthal,  
 Linda Schilke, Barbara Smith,  
 Dr. Clifford Smith

Guests

Joe Blais, Carol Leonard, Susan Stewart

**Treasury Report:**

Previous Balance 4/7/2015 \$916.47

**Income**

City of Venice HPB \$10.00

**Expenses**

None \$0.00

**Balance 6/2/2015 \$926.47**

**Outstanding Dues:**

Time Sifters Archaeology Society

*The following income will be reported in the next treasury report.*

**Former Members Returned:**

Lemon Bay Historical Society

**New Members:**

Discover Greater Sarasota  
 Englewood Area Historical Museum, Inc.

*\*Betty Nugent motioned to accept the Treasury Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Becky Esmus. Vote approved report with no changes.*

**Previous Meeting Minutes:**

No corrections or amendments were suggested. The assembled voiced praise for this new minutes format. Margaret Borrows motioned to accept as written. Barbara Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vote approved April minutes.

**Chair's Report:**

Coalition Chair, Dr. Frank Cassell commended Friends of Sarasota County History Center President, Betty Intagliata, for her recent award from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. The prestigious "Individual Distinguished Service Award" was presented to Betty at the FTHP conference in Miami on May 9. She received a round of applause from the assembled at the Coalition meeting.

Chair Cassell also introduced new and returning members and guests.

- Jim Clubb represents new Coalition member, Discover Greater Sarasota, which provides guided history and nature walks throughout Sarasota and Manatee Counties. With over 320 members and more than 70 events in the last few years, this group also provides In-Library presentations for those unable to participate in walks. It is a free membership. Check out [www.meetup.com/Discover-Sarasota](http://www.meetup.com/Discover-Sarasota) to learn more.
- New Coalition member, Englewood Area Historical Museum, EAHM, announced that they have acquired a building at Buchan Community Park, and that fundraising efforts are underway for the museum. Representative, Betty Nugent, asked for a letter of support to be written by the Coalition for the proposed museum, so that it may be added to others used for grant applications. Dorothy Korwek made a motion to write a letter of support, her motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbara Smith. The motion was approved. Betty Nugent will communicate with Chair Cassell about what should be included in the letter.
- Friends of the Englewood Archives, Inc. were guests on a fact-finding mission to see if Coalition membership would assist in their group's goal of raising funds and awareness for the Archives, which will serve as a repository for Englewood's public records and historical documents. Director Joe Blais and Secretary Carol Leonard were present. The Englewood Archives would encompass territories in both Charlotte and Sarasota counties.
- Susan Stewart, the Regent of Myakka Chapter of DAR, visited the meeting to gauge whether Coalition membership would be good for her chapter, which is located in Venice and has 150 members.
- Finally, special thanks to returning members Lemon Bay Historical Society, who sent representatives, Jean Airey and Linda Schilke. The group's membership had lapsed, and the only contact information the Coalition had was out of date, thus a connection was lost. They are thrilled to re-join, and the Coalition is pleased to have them back.

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## Old Business:

As of May 28, the Friends of Sarasota County History Center have signed a sub-lease with the county for the Chidsey Building. It needs to be approved by both the City Commission, and the County Commission. Once approved, FOSCHC can begin the process of opening their museum. The sub-lease starts on August 15, 2015 and is for one year with an option to renew for two consecutive years. The group hopes to take about 60 days to prepare for the opening, with the main focus being training volunteers. FOSCHC president, Betty Intagliata, reminds Coalition members who offered volunteers to be prepared to start having training sessions soon. See the attached letter, which was also sent with this meeting's agenda, for a list of those who have volunteered. Also, remember that groups who volunteer to cover shifts at the museum (times to be determined) will be allowed to distribute marketing materials for your group. On that note, please consider the materials you have and think about if they need updating and/or reprinting.

The goal of opening the museum, which will feature exhibit galleries, a Florida research room, meeting room, and gift shop, is tentatively October 15.

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## New Business:

The following actions needed to be discussed and/or approved:

- Appoint a Membership Committee

This committee will serve as a research and development entity for the Coalition, meaning they will look into groups which should be considered for membership, contact them, and tell them all about the benefits of Coalition membership. This committee will also contact former member groups to try and persuade them to re-join. The Membership Committee will be comprised of volunteers. If no volunteers come forward by the fall meetings, further action will be taken.

Betty Nugent made a motion that History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County vote to appoint a membership committee. Her motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Margaret Borrows. The motion passed.

- Raise next year's dues to \$20

In order to proceed with some plans to further promote and improve the functions and services of the HPCsc, the membership dues need to return to the former rate of \$20 per year. Funds will be used for a myriad of promotional materials, as well as the annual website and post office fees. The new dues rate would take effect January 2016.

Becky Esmus made a motion to raise the current \$10 dues rate back up to the traditional rate of \$20. It was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Clifford Smith, and approved.

- Create name badges for executive board and representatives to wear at meetings and events

Part of the HPCsc's 2015 goals is to increase visibility and public awareness of the Coalition and its members. A simple step would be the creation of name/information badges to be worn at individual member group's meeting and events. New member Jim Clubb, offered to donate clear, magnetic badges, which will hold a 4x3 card and business card. Secretary Laura Dean, will design a selection of inserts for the badges.

Jean Airey made a motion to accept Mr. Clubb's generous donation, and implement the badges in the coming season. Her motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve Koski. The motion approved.

- A new plan for meetings that provides for some to be held at alternate sites

In an ongoing effort to make the Coalition meetings more efficient and interesting, the Executive Board suggests the addition of meeting dates, and/or the addition of field trips for representatives, and member group guests. A discussion ensued about the date and time of HPCsc meetings. It was decided that the first Tuesday after 4pm is still the optimum time, however, if additional meetings or field trips are scheduled, reps can attend as available. The assembled showed excitement about field trips, so the Executive Board will work on possible trips for either the fall, or for the 2016 season.

Another part of the discussion was the decision to communicate via email over the summer break, and hold the first meeting of the fall season in September, with a hope that a fall Coalition meeting can be held at the Chidsey Building. A December meeting will be skipped, but there might be a field trip opportunity instead. *More to be announced after the Board researches options.*

### Other New Business:

Changes are happening at the Department of Historical Resources, aka the History Center. Firstly, Sarasota County is not going to replace historian Jeff La Hurd, who has retired. Besides speaking to many organizations throughout the county about our rich history, Jeff also helped citizens who came to history center for research. This historian position is very important for the continued mission of providing research opportunities to the people of the county.

Secondly, Ryan Murphy, the archaeologist, is taking a full-time position in management in the Parks Department. Question: will his position be replaced? In a county so blessed with archaeological sites, and under constant land development, it would seem a full time staff archaeologist would be prudent.

There is a part time archivist in place, and Lorrie Muldowney will be stepping out of the administrative role. The new manager will be someone from the Library System.

In a word, there seems to be confusion, and indecision about staffing, which could adversely affect the management of the resources, archive, collection, and the public's access to the History Center's services.

At this Coalition meeting, Barbara Smith made a motion that HPCsc write a letter of concern about the changes, and lack of communication to the history based groups in the county. Her motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Goetz, and was passed. Chair Cassell will start on a draft of the letter, and find out the appropriate parties to send it. **A key component of the letter will be emphasis on the number of concerned county citizens our Coalition's members comprise. Therefore PLEASE remember to send your group's member tally to Secretary, Laura Dean, as soon as possible.**

### Special Announcements:

#### **Friends of Little Salt Spring** Archaeology Works

When: Saturday, June 13 1:00-3:00pm

Where: Morgan Family Center, 6207 W. Price Blvd., North Port, FL

Cost: Free

Learn about the people who lived at Little Salt Spring with hands-on activities and demonstrations. Appropriate for all ages, and kids will receive a Junior Archaeologist activity booklet.

#### **Venice Heritage, Inc.** Lord-Higel House Fundraiser

A \$500 contribution gives you a seat on the porch. Honor a friend or relative, or yourself, with a teak rocking chair and name plaque to be placed on the porch of the historic Lord-Higel House. Proceeds will benefit the house's restoration.

How to Donate: Email [veniceheritage@gmail.com](mailto:veniceheritage@gmail.com) or visit their great new website [www.veniceheritage.org](http://www.veniceheritage.org)



**Venice Area Historical Society** is pleased to report the fundraising for the Circus Train Car is going so well. [CORRECTION FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES -VAHS has raised, with a goal of \$225,000, nearly all of the funds for the circus train car. (The \$60,000 was the result of \$30,000 being raised as matches to challenge grants given by 3 Society members, one \$15,000, one \$10,000, and one \$5,000.)] The board voted to begin the project by contacting

the Florida Railroad Museum to initiate the legal agreements to transfer the car. VAHS hopes to accomplish the exterior restoration of the railcar over the summer 2015.

**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](mailto:laura@runjikproductions.com)

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**Meeting Adjourned: 5:35pm**

**Next Meeting: September, 1 2015 4:00pm at Historic Spanish Point**

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