

In Attendance:

Officers

Dr. Clifford Smith, Chair
Dr. Frank Cassell, Vice-Chair
Dorothy Korwek, Treasurer
Laura Dean, Secretary

Representatives

Don Bayley, Rob Bendus, Jim Gumpert,
Cathy Hollar, Betty Intagliata,
Harry Klinkhamer, Steve Koski,
Betty Nugent, Lawry Reid,

Due to run-over from a previous meeting about the Sarasota County Centennial, the Coalition business meeting was called to order at 4:30pm by Chair Smith.

Treasury Report:

Previous Balance 3/5/2018	\$1,813.58
Income (dues & luncheon)	\$1,893.00
Expenses (luncheon)	\$2,271.45
Balance 3/5/2018	\$1,435.13

**Motion-Koski / 2nd-Hollar Report Approved*

Secretary's Report:

Previous Meeting Minutes March 2018

**Motion-Hollar / 2nd-Klinkhamer Approved as Written*

Secretary, Laura Dean asks for all organizations 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

SUMMER 1948 AT LIDO CASINO



TRIVIA QUESTION: Were the iconic seahorse sculptures saved when the casino was demolished? Where are they now?

MEETING MINUTES: MAY 1, 2018

TOGETHER FOR OUR SHARED PAST

HPCSC

HISTORY & PRESERVATION COALITION OF SARASOTA COUNTY

LOCATION: HISTORIC SPANISH POINT

Chair's Report:

Coalition Chair, Dr. Clifford Smith thanked the Sarasota County Heritage Awards Committee for all their work to present the six awards at the April 7 luncheon. He commended the increased turnout to the event, as well as the excellent venue and organization of the whole awards process. Lawry Reid of Friends of Little Salt Spring also commended Vice Chair Dr. Frank Cassell for his well-written and presented awardee introductions. All in attendance agreed that this year's ceremony and luncheon was a success.



Old Business:

The **2nd Annual Sarasota County Heritage Awards were handed out at a luncheon on April 7**. There were 69 paid attendees and about half dozen complimentary lunches. Attendance was very good with more than 20 more people attending than last year. The financial summary reflects an income of \$2,522.00 and expenses of \$2,560.35 for a loss of \$38.35. As this program is not intended to be a fundraising activity, this small loss is acceptable.

In general, the comments from both attendees and awardees, reflects a positive outcome and very much enjoyed experience. A very nice article (attached at end of minutes) was written by Audrey Blackwell of Venice Gondolier in which she discussed all of the awardees and presented photos. Harold Bubil wrote an article in the Sarasota Herald Tribune about Jeff LaHurd's award.

The Awards Committee will meet this summer to start the process for next year's awards. Put your thinking caps on and come up with nominations this fall.

[photo: Jeff LaHurd, Howard Davis, Steve Koski, Betty Intagliata, Deborah Walk, Christopher Wilson]

BUILDING ROADS TO PARADISE: Sarasota County 1921-2021

Sarasota County Historical Resources Director, Robert Bendus, has officially requested on behalf of his department, that the History & Preservation Coalition proceed with the establishment of the official **2021 Centennial Steering Committee (2021CSC)**. Chair Smith has appointed Vice Chair Cassell to head up the committee and begin gathering more volunteers. (Copy of official letter attached with these minutes)

Mr. Bendus has asked that 2021CSC submit a preliminary plan of Centennial activities on October 16, 2018. He will then review and submit it to the proper Sarasota County government officials. Bendus plans to be an active part of the committee as well as serve as liaison with the county.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve on this important committee for the next four years, please contact Vice Chair Cassell at fcassell@pitt.edu. There will be a meeting of the committee at 3:00pm on Tuesday, June 5 before the regular Coalition meeting at Historic Spanish Point.

New Business:

The assembled had a brief discussion about the current media hype regarding the proposed changes to the bayfront historic and arts area, specifically the potential demolition of the Van Wezel performing arts hall and/or the former Selby Library building. Coalition Secretary, Laura Dean, has received upwards of 18 email requests from individuals and media questioning the HPCsc's official stance or statement on this news.

Christopher Wilson of the Sarasota Architectural Foundation, and Marsha Fottler of the Historical Society of Sarasota County have already written organization statement letters. Laura read the statement by HSOSC, and will forward it and SAF's letter with these minutes.



Dr. Cliff Smith educated us about the status of the buildings in that area, and explained that in the coming year the City of Sarasota will be re-surveying the district and that due to historical designations already in place, any proposed changes will fall under federal review. Namely, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) which requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment. [CLICK to download a citizen guide to learn more.](#)

The development group undertaking the planning of commercial and arts areas and structures in the bayfront historic district, **THE BAY**, has been made aware on many occasions of the ongoing efforts by the Sarasota County Historical Commission to formulate fundraising and building reuse plans for the former Selby Library/GWIZ building. Despite this, all three of the current proposed project plans place parking garages over that space. Look for yourself at

https://www.thebaysarasota.org/uploads/Sarasota_AprilPublicMeetingBoards.compressed.pdf

These plans also do not include the Van Wezel in its current Taliesen Architects form. In 2019, that structure will be eligible for National Register designation. It is an iconic symbol of Sarasota and has hosted world class entertainers for 50 years. Many Sarasotans feel it is vital that it be saved and repurposed into a safe public space. A recent public meeting held by The Bay was attended by over 1,000 people, with as many turned away due to space limitations.

A motion was made by Harry Klinkhamer to write up a Coalition statement on this matter, and was seconded by Betty Intagliata, and then approved by unanimously. Coalition Vice Chair Cassell and Secretary Dean will work together on a statement letter and share that with you via email later this month.

Upcoming Programs and Special Announcements:

Venice Area Historical Society reports over 170 people attended the April lecture on Highwayman Artists by Gary Monroe. The **Tuesday May 15 7:00pm** presentation will be by historic reenactor, Ersula Knox Odom. She tells the story of Civil Rights Leader, Mary McLeod Bethune. This free lecture will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation located at the corner of Pinebrook Road and Edmundson Road in Venice.



Venice Museum & Archives will be holding a Museum Day celebration on Saturday May 19 from 10:00am-2:00pm. Check their website (www.venicemuseum.org) and [Facebook page](#) for more details.

Venice Heritage, Inc. invites you to their annual fundraising dinner on Thursday May 24 at 5:30pm at the Venice Yacht Club. The speaker is author Jim Clinch, who writes light-hearted and humorous mystery novels. Cost is \$60 per person. Visit www.veniceheritage.org/events for more information and registration.



Lemon Bay Historical Society has raised over \$100,000 for the relocation of the Historic Green Street Church, and is very close to receiving the final permits so the site preparation can begin. They hope to have the church moved to the new location by the end of the summer.

[To donate to the cause, click here](#)

Time Sifters Archaeology Society welcomes New College professor, Dr. Uzi Baram on May 16 with a topic of *Archaeology and Rising Sea Levels: Global Perspectives and Local Concerns*. Meetings take place at the Selby Library, 1331 First Street in downtown Sarasota at 6:00 PM and are free. Visit www.timesifters.org for more information.

Warm Mineral Springs/Little Salt Spring Archaeological Society will feature John McCarthy talking about the recent big archaeological story out of Manasota Key. Tuesday, May 8, 2018, 7:00pm NEW LOCATION FOR MAY ONLY Suncoast Technical College, 4901 Cranberry Blvd N. North Port. Free and Open to the public

Friends of the Sarasota County History Center have announced that they will no longer operate the Historical Exhibits & Education Center in the Chidsey building. *See attached announcement.*

Meeting Adjourned: 5:39pm

Next Business Meeting: June 5, 2018 at Historic Spanish Point

NO GENERAL BUSINESS MEETINGS IN JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER
