

HISTORIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE INFORMAL MINUTES

April 25, 2017 Meeting

The meeting convened at the Newton House at 2:15 PM. Matt Noble, staff member assigned to the Historic Advisory Committee (HAC) was present. Members in attendance were Fran Santini, Russ Carter, Katherine (KT) Cantlon, Susan Dzyacky (via Skype), Megan Heil and Suzanne Katt. In addition, 4 representatives from the Women's Club were also present.

The Minutes of the March 28, 2017 meeting were approved without change.

Judy Kilburg and Helen Bradfish, both past presidents of the Women's Club, explained that even though the application for historic designation from the Women's Club has been completed, there is resistance from some members to completing the process. They believe it is because some of the membership does not fully understand the ramifications of historic designation.

Matt did talk to them briefly about the advantages and disadvantages of the designation. Judy and Helen said a vote could not be taken until members return in the fall. Matt agreed to meet with the membership at that time to explain the significance of historic designation and answer any questions they might have.

Susan's draft of the letter inviting the owners of historic structures to apply for a plaque was discussed. It was determined that the invitation should not include the application and that it should only mention the plaque program and not the other historic programs. Some members thought it was important to explain in the letter that the plaque program imposes no restrictions on the structure. Matt said our only mission for now is to get as many people as possible to request plaques. Susan and Matt will work together to create a simple letter.

There was some discussion about whether envelopes should be hand addressed or labeled. KT offered to hand address the envelopes. Susan provided a chart suggesting marketing strategies to educate people about the plaque program. Suzanne asked members to think about the amount of time each person can realistically devote to the project and what roles they are willing to fulfill.

We also discussed an e-mail from Cecilia Nye. Cecilia wants to participate in the plaque program with her family's home at 3562 Estero Blvd. She also expressed concern that the historic cottages at 3370 Estero would be torn down. She asked that the homes be moved to another location and be preserved.

Russ Carter said that an artist's rendition of one of the homes at 3370 Estero was on notecards sold by the Historic Society. He also expressed an interest in having at least one of the homes moved to land the Historic Society leases from Lee County. As past president of the Historic Society, he said he would talk to the board about it.

Matt agreed to talk to Joe Orlandini about the possibility of preserving the cottage and moving it to the Historic Society site.

Matt also revealed that Lee County wants to move an historic cottage from Boca Grande to Fort Myers Beach to property located by the Historic Society. Matt had just learned about it and said he had to follow up on the purpose. He speculated that Lee County thought it would make a better education center for the Historic Society than a modular structure.

Next meeting on May 30, 2017 at 2 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.