

**New Smyrna Beach Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
May 12, 2021, at 5:30 pm**

Audio of the meeting can be found [here](#):

Present: Joanna Mahood (chair), Curtis Hodges (vice chair), Angie Barretta-Herman, Terry Bledsoe, and newly appointed member Christie Abramovic. **Absent:** Lianne Bennett

Others Present: Assistant City Manager Brian Fields, Assistant City Attorney Chris Ryan, and Development Services Coordinator Stephanie Ferrara.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES for the meeting on March 10, 2021
The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:

Babe James Center Splash Park - Archaeological Report. A representative of the contractor (Smyrna Archaeological Research Institute) summarized the required report and testing on the park site. No prehistoric archaeological sites were recorded, and no Turnbull era artifacts were found.

Historic New Smyrna Beach Preservation Commission Annual Report. Assistant City Manager Fields summarized the content needed for the required annual report to the City Commission and provided a template for the report. Various HPC members offered comments. Member Dr. Barretta-Herman suggested that the Commission use the report to remind the City that more City support for preservation is needed. Chair Mahood offered to complete a draft report for HPC approval at the next meeting.

Local Historic District Update. Assistant City Manager Fields announced that the City now has a preservation consultant (who does such work in various Florida cities) and noted that a revision of NSB local preservation ordinances may be required. The consultant will attend the next meeting to start this process.

The City is seeking to establish 2 local historic districts that follow the same lines of the national historic districts previously established. Consent of two-thirds of the owners of all properties within the district is needed to establish the districts, allowing for local governance. Letters were sent some months ago to property owners in the two districts, but the number of responses from owners falls short of the requirement. In the mainland district, 131 owners out

of 378 (about 35 percent) have responded to approve the local district. On the beachside, 26 owners out of 101 (26 percent) have similarly responded. Although no owners to date have said “no,” the City cannot legally assume that lack of a response indicates a “yes,” approving a district. Members expressed ideas for getting more responses including going door-to-door to properties, holding public meetings, using social media, and asking for the City Commission to address this in one of their meetings. The Board will follow up on the efforts to get responses from the property owners.

2021 Donnadine Miller Preservation Award. Five properties have been nominated for the residential category of the annual awards:

- 118 Faulkner Street
- 408 N. Peninsula Avenue
- 1115 Palmetto Street
- 210 Palmetto Street
- 1000 S. Riverside Drive

Prior to consideration by the Board, Dr. Barretta-Herman recused herself from the discussion and vote because she is a co-owner of one of the nominated properties. The remaining Board members then voted individually by secret ballot. Each property was rated for historic significance (possible 30 points), community significance (20 points), and charm (10 points). The winning property was 210 Palmetto Street.



Presentation on State “Sunshine Law.” Assistant City Attorney Ryan summarized Florida’s “sunshine law” and explained how both individual Board members and cities can be in violation of the State’s open meetings law, which applies to any gathering or communication of two or more members of the same board at which board business is discussed.

Next meeting: June 9, 2021