

## **Historic NSB Preservation Commission Meeting**

**January 12, 2022, at 5:30 pm** – Video of the meeting can be found [here](#):

**Board members present:** Joanna Mahood (chair), Dr. Angeline Barretta-Herman, Terry Bledsoe, Stephanie Thomas-Rees, and Douglas Toth.

**Absent:** Curtis Hodges (vice-chair) and Christie Abramovic.

**Others Present:** Senior Planner Robert Mathen, Assistant City Attorney Shey McCurdy, and Development Services Coordinator Stephanie Ferrara.

**THE MINUTES** for the October 13, 2021 meeting were approved.

**2022 HPC Goals.** Staff sought member input on goals. Member Barretta-Herman stressed the desire for more attention to local historic districts and education. Chair Mahood agreed and expressed support for work on historic landmarks, rack cards for historic districts, and increased interaction with related historic groups in NSB. Staff have already begun efforts in some of these areas.

**Old Fort WPA Wall Repairs.** The city has a grant of \$900,000 from the state, completed construction documents prepared by consultants GLE Associates of Tampa, and is ready to bid the project. The HPC approved the initial request for repairs in September 2019. Repairs will include a new support wall behind the damaged historic wall. The work will be done with suitable archaeological and environmental care. Construction is expected to begin in mid-2022 and to be completed in one year.

**City Statutes, Chapter 50, Historic Preservation Update.** Staff submitted a draft revision of Chapter 50 prepared by city consultants S&ME, including staff comments. S&ME will prepare a final draft after receiving all staff and commission member comments. The final draft will be submitted for state approval and eventual conversion into a revised city ordinance.

Several commission members have already sent comments to staff. Member Barretta-Herman was concerned about the process dragging on, clarity of responsibilities stated in the draft, and maintenance of the 50-year requirement for historic designation. Several members expressed concern that the HPC's role in the current draft is too weak on the issue of "demolition [of historic structures] by neglect." Weak criteria in the draft might allow owners an easy way to avoid historic preservation; for instance, a \$5,000 fine means little in a project of \$500,000 or more. More positive incentives for preservation are needed to help citizens.

**Election of the 2022 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.** The commission unanimously reelected Joanna Mahood as Chairperson and Curtis Hodges as Vice Chairperson.

**Approval of 2022 HPC Meeting Schedule.** The HPC approved a schedule of quarterly meetings at 5:30 pm on the second Wednesdays in March, June, September, and December, and tentative meetings (if needed) in the other months.

**2021 Donnadine Miller Preservation Award.** After learning that no award had been made for the non-residential category in 2021, the commission added the matter to the agenda. The commission then voted to award the non-residential award to the city for the City Hall Annex Building, which represents an adaptive reuse of a historic church that was adjacent to city hall.

**The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2022.**