

**Historic NSB Preservation Commission Meeting
September 20, 2023 at 5:30 pm**

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES for the June 14, 2023, meeting was approved.

Public Participation: None

STATUS UPDATE TO OLD FORT WALL

Capital Projects Manager Jesse Kobe provided an update on the status of this project.

A new wall is being built behind the historic wall to make it structurally sound, a drainage system is being installed to alleviate future damage, and repairs to the front of the wall are being made. Rebecca Harris of SARI was contracted for the archaeological services. Findings so far include evidence of a new mollusk (Great Eastern Spiny Murex) as part of the indigenous diet, and other artifacts that indicate continuous occupation of the site from around AD500 until the 20th Century.

Committee Comments:

- Commissioner Bennett inquired whether the Master Site File would be updated
- Commissioner Thomas-Rees asked whether the project was on budget and when it is to be completed – it is on budget and estimated completion is March/April 2024
- Chair Mahood inquired about backfilling the pile of shell/debris - end of Nov 2023
- Commissioner Toth inquired whether there would be a determination of what the site was – should be part of the final report from the archaeologist
- Commissioner Barretta-Herman asked about signage to update the public on timing

NEW SMYRNA BEACH MUSEUM OF HISTORY PRESENTATION

Greg Holbrook, Executive Director of the New Smyrna Museum of History, gave a presentation about the museum, which is the public outreach component of the Southeast Volusia Historical Society, incorporated in 1992.

- The museum's first project was preservation of the Historic Connor Library in 1994, the museum's first home
- The museum is now located in the old NSB Post Office building, built in 1926 on the site of the first schoolhouse in Volusia County
- In 2003, the Duncan Archives in Dundee, Scotland shared Dr. Andrew Turnbull's handwritten letter and maps referencing the Smyrnaean Settlement
- The museum now has an award-winning New Smyrna British Settlement display
- UCF is working on digitizing the historic newspaper archives for research
- The museum has a YouTube channel with a variety of videos on the history of the railway, interviews with Lois Tipton, and a 1960's film of Canal Street
- Renovations that will add approximately 1000 square feet are in the works

Committee Comments:

- Commissioner Thomas-Rees asked if there was anything the commission could do to help. Mr. Holbrook would like the city to ensure that archaeological contracts require artifacts to go to the museum now that there is a place for them.

2023 DONNADINE MILLER PRESERVATION AWARD APPLICATIONS

There are no applications so far. The deadline is the end of December.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

- Commissioner Barretta-Herman reported that the City Commission will be presented options on the Womens Club building at the 2nd meeting in October
- Commissioner Bennett stated that she would be presenting at an archaeological conference in Pensacola

The next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2023