

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE BELLEAIR HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD HELD AT TOWN HALL ON OCTOBER 29, 2013 AT 4:00 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Hutcheson, Chairman (arrived late)
Don White, Vice Chairman
Kathy Gaston
Cliff Zurkan
Nancy Reardon
Peter Marich
Andrea Ayers-Layman

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Micah Maxwell, Town Manager
Kevin Piccarreto, Commissioner Advisor

Quorum present with Mr. White presiding; the meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Reardon moved to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2013 meeting as submitted. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hutcheson and approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 489

Mr. White stated that the proposed ordinance was an amendment to Ordinance No. 387; that the previous list of historic properties has been revised.

Donna Carlen, Town Clerk, stated that the properties that were highlight in red were the properties that have been removed and the address listed in blue was an addition to the list of historic properties; some were removed for insurance reasons others have been demolished; stated the new property added was 1466 Orange Avenue; that when the amended ordinance was drafted, the addresses were placed in alphabetical order so that it was easier to locate those properties.

Discussion ensued regarding the historic properties that have been removed; regarding those properties that have been demolished or the owners had asked to be removed from the list; regarding 322 Roebbling Road South.

Mr. White asked about the incentives and advantages to staying on the historic list.

Donna Carlen stated that there were tax benefits for refurbishing homes that were on the list; stated that it was one of the reasons for becoming a Certified Local Government; that it gave the town more authority in dealing with historic properties and provided a few more benefits; that they do educational training for historic structures for the town.

DISCUSSION PROPOSED ORDINANCE NO. 489, continued

Ms. Carlen stated that updating the list of historic properties was part of the process for obtaining the CLG designation; stated that when the ordinance was adopted and finalized we could move forward with the application submittal; stated that once we were approved, we could have someone provide a presentation to the board and outline the benefits and options we might have.

Discussion ensued regarding the gates located at the south entrance at Mehlenbacher and at Willadel; regarding the old jail; regarding the rod-iron signs; regarding the town street light poles.

Ms. Carlen stated that staff could do some research on the street light poles and if it was something that can be added, staff would place them on the list; stated that the board could put that in a form of a motion for recommendation.

Discussion ensued regarding the tax exemption ordinance for historic properties.

Mr. Hutcheson made a motion that the Historic Preservation board recommend approval of Ordinance No. 489 to the commission and to allow for the addition of the street light poles if after research, are found to be historic, and to be added to the list before the commission adopted the ordinance. Motion seconded by Ms. Reardon and approved unanimously.

Ms. Carlen stated that if in the future, there was an item that needed to be added or removed from the historic list, that it could be done and amended as needed.

DISCUSSION OF IMPLEMENTING HISTORIC PLAQUE PROGRAM

Ms. Carlen stated that she wanted to discuss the possibly implementation of the historic plaques; stated that historic plaques had been offered in the past; that she had reviewed the list provided that had received the plaques and the majority of the homes had come off the list; that there were only 3 homes that purchased plaques that were still on the list.

Mr. Hutcheson spoke about the possibility of providing a type of flag that they could add to a flag pole that would be in line with the historic plaque, but in flag form.

Discussion ensued regarding flag poles.

Ms. Carlen stated that she had noticed that the City of Clearwater had small flags at some of the homes in Harbor Oaks; that they were little flags that they could put on the small poles that you can place in your yard; stated that the only issue with the flags was that they deteriorate after a period of time; stated that plaques were bronze and were attached to the house; that the cost of the plaques were about \$150.00 apiece; that the cost was paid by the property owner.

Mr. Hutcheson stated that if we offer to do the plaques, then we might suggest having someone affix the plaque to the house.

DISCUSSION OF IMPLEMENTING HISTORIC PLAQUE PROGRAM, cont.

Discussion ensued regarding providing someone to install the plaques to the home owners; regarding possible liability issues with having someone from the town affix the plaques to the homes.

Ms. Carlen stated that she would have to look into the issue of any possible liability issues with affixing the plaques; stated that she thought it was a good idea for the small flags, which could be placed by the owner's front step; that the small flags would be a more affordable option.

Discussion ensued regarding providing someone to install the plaques to the home owners; regarding possible liability issues with having someone from the town affix the plaques to the homes; regarding the cost of the plaques; regarding the town paying for the plaques instead of the homeowner.

Mr. Hutchison stated that the town should buy the flags and offer them for free to the homeowner.

Discussion ensued regarding town paying for the plaques for the homeowner.

Ms. Carlen suggested that a letter be sent to the residents on the list of historic properties to see if they were interested in having a plaque for their home.

Mr. Hutcheson made a motion for the Town of Belleair to offer plaques for the historically significant homes and for the town to absorb the cost of purchasing the plaques and as a courtesy, to install the plaque. If the town cannot absorb the cost, then the town would pass on the plaques. Motion was seconded by Ms. Reardon.

Discussion ensued regarding the plaque program and the remaining homes that do not have a plaque.

Commissioner Piccarreto stated that in looking at the list, there seemed to be roughly 19 properties that do not have the plaque; inquired if we could reach out to those 19 property owners to see if they were interested in the plaques.

Vote on the motion was taken and carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Carlen stated that if the board was interested, that possibly a letter could be sent to the homeowners to see if there could be a reception perhaps at the Garden Club and let them know about the tax benefits of their homes for being on this list.

Discussion ensued regarding holding a reception for the homeowners.

There was no consensus taken regarding the reception for the residents of property on the list of historic property.

There was no other business brought before the board.

COMMISSION ADVISOR'S REPORT

Commissioner Piccarreto stated that he did not have anything to report regarding any actions that the commission had taken in regard to the historic preservation board.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board the meeting was adjourned in due form at 4:36 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chairman