

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC) MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023 9:30 A.M.
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERO BEACH, FLORIDA**

PRESENT: John Roberts, Chairman; Dianne Cox, Vice Chairman; Member: Lee Olsen **ALSO PRESENT:** Jason Jeffries, Planning Director and Tammy Bursick, City Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman opened the meeting up at 9:30 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) April 13, 2023

Mr. Olsen made a motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. Cox seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A) Nomination of the Ryburn Apartments to the National Register of Historic Places

Mr. Jason Jeffries, Planning Director, noted that the Ryburn Apartments are already on the local historical register and now the property owner would like them to be on the National Historic Register. He referred to the packet that each member received from the Florida Department of State regarding this request. The letter indicates that before properties within the jurisdiction of the certified local government may be considered by the State to be nominated for inclusion on the National Register, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall notify the owners, the applicable chief local elected official, and the local historic preservation commission. Mr. Jeffries said that Section 76.23 of the City Code says that this Commission makes that recommendation. He said that staff recommends approval of the request, but a formal vote needs to be taken by the Historic Preservation Commission and then he will draft a letter back to the State. He said that the property owners are at today's meeting to answer any questions.

Mr. Roberts asked when the project is projected to be completed.

Mr. Garrett Puzzo, property owner, anticipated having everything completed within the next two (2) weeks.

Mr. Olsen commented that it looks wonderful.

Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve the nomination of the Ryburn Apartments to the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Olsen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Puzzo briefly gave the history of the project. He said that every window in the building is original. They will have a walk-through of the building on Saturday that is open to the public. He appreciated the City working with them on this. He thanked Mr. Jeffries for submitting the application to the State and for everyone's support.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A) Update on Printing the Brochure

Mr. Jeffries commented that they ran into a little glitch concerning printing the brochure. He said in order to print the brochure they need to have a higher resolution so it will need to be redesigned. He does not have a timeline as to when this will be done, but he is working on it.

Mr. Roberts asked if it was possible to get the parameters of what the approval of these historic properties are and the benefits to the property owner of getting them approved by the Historic Preservation Commission and City Council. He basically wants to know what the benefits are.

Mr. Jeffries explained with the local designation it protects the property to make sure no one will change or demolish the structure. With the National Register it provides tax benefits where the property owner is entitled to tax credits. He said that he will give a presentation concerning this item at their August meeting.

Mr. Olsen recalled that in 2004 when there was two (2) back to back hurricanes the National Historic Registry is what saved the Breezeway building at the Driftwood Inn from being demolished.

Mr. Puzzo noted that he would be having his final inspection on Friday and asked if he could get a letter saying that this has been approved. Mr. Jeffries said that he would send them an email.

Mr. Roberts asked if there were any other items coming up for this Committee to discuss in the future.

Mr. Jeffries said not that he was aware of. He said there have been on-going conversations with the Parkway building, which is on the National Register.

Mr. Olsen asked about the Gifford house.

Mr. Jeffries commented that he has talked to the property owner, but she has not submitted an application. With that house since the renovations have been made they have to make sure that none of the upgrades interfered with the integrity of the structure.

Mr. Roberts asked about putting the Historic Preservation Committee's information on facebook.

Mrs. Tammy Bursick, City Clerk, said that the information could be put on the City's facebook page. She encouraged the Committee members not to put information on their private facebook page.

Mr. Olsen wondered if there had been any conversation about the Sexton family putting the Ocean Grill on the National Registry.

Mr. Jeffries commented that one of the advocates for doing that would have been Hilde Tripson and she recently passed away.

Mr. Olsen wondered if it would make sense for him to have a conversation with the owners of Ocean Grill to do that in case of a catastrophic event in which they would probably lose the Ocean Grill.

Mr. Jeffries cautioned the Committee about speaking to anyone on something that might eventually come before them. He said that staff would be happy to speak to anyone concerning putting their property on the State or National Register.

The City Attorney will go over the Sunshine Law at their next meeting.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

6. MEMBER'S MATTERS

None

7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

Today's meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

/tb