

SEMINOLE COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING

September 20, 2007

The regular monthly meeting of the Seminole County Historical Commission was held on September 20, 2007, at the Museum of Seminole County History located at 300 Bush Blvd. Sanford, Florida. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman John Bistline at 3:00 p.m. sitting in for Chairman, Linda Batman.

Members Present: John Bistline, Rosalie Wright-Cook, Alex Dickison, Don Epps, Ettie Jane Keogh, Robert Hughes, Eunice Mann, Beverly Mason, David Miller, Cecil Tucker, Paul Zuroski, Commissioner Van Der Weide and Karen Jacobs from the Museum

Absent: Lillian Griffin, Phil Tua, Bonnie Ward

Announcements:

August minutes were approved.

Historical Markers:

Altamonte Hotel: approved and waiting to order in Oct.

Student Museum marker- approved and waiting to order in Oct.

Gabriella-site is not ready yet

Lake Mary Presbyterian- to be dedicated on Saturday October 13, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. on Wilbur Avenue.

Casselberry/Fern Park- this was put on hold until the October meeting
How did the city operate for 25 years without taking up taxes? They had city water etc. Should this information be on the sign?

Commissioner Van Der Weide said the Board has not forgotten the museum but apologized for not funding the museum this year and said they were automatically going back into the grant process and hopefully will be successful in the future.

Comments and concerns that were proposed to Commissioner Van Der Weide were as follows:

1. Not closing the museum one day at week. How does closing the Museum save money? How much does it save? Who determines the costs? Where did they get their figures? Who are they?

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2. The Historical Board understands the crunches for budget but the part-time person fills the needs to keep the museum open that sixth day and meets the needs of the community. To close the museum would be taking two steps backwards. It is one person compared to hundreds in the library.
3. Commission Van Der Weide said the Historical Commission can voice their opinion at the final public budget hearing on next Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
4. Commissioner Van Der Weide said that if the tax referendum is passed in January, the county might have to lay off people. If it weren't for the 3% Save Your Homes, the taxes here would be outrageous. People are moving out of the county. The people in Seminole County are in for a rude awakening.

The Historical Commission proceeded with their scheduled work session and discussed many items including the following:

1. The Museum's budget
2. Are the museum's bills getting paid in a timely fashion?
3. Is the Museum's coordinator in charge of the Museum's budget?
4. The closing of the one day of the Museum
5. Who will represent the museum at the budget hearing?
6. Would the museum be better served under another department? such as Leisure Services or Tourism?
7. Sending a letter of concerns to each County Commissioner which has been done in the past.
8. Getting correct figures for the museum's electric bills, etc. to help determine the costs of closing.
9. E-mail letter to all for critique comments.

Society Report: Antique appraisal Fair at Lake Mary Community Center on Sept. 15, 2007 raised \$300.00 toward the building fund.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50.

