

Alachua County Historical Commission

August 12, 2024 Minutes

DRAFT

Members Present: Melanie Barr; Barry Baumstein; Karen Kirkman; Cynthia White, MD; Ashley Wood.

Others Present: Staff Liaison Michael Castine and Camisha Alexis, Planner.

I. Call to Order – Review Agenda and Minutes (June 2024)

Melanie Barr, secretary, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Aug. 12, 2024. A quorum was present. Mike Castine noted Camisha Alexis from Growth Management was in attendance.

Review of the Agenda – Melanie Barr requested to add an item to member announcements regarding her recent attendance at the Florida Trust meeting. Mike Castine requested to add an item to new regarding a grant opportunity. Motion to adopt the agenda with the additional items was made by Ashley Wood (Baumstein, with 2nd). Motion **passed unanimously**.

The draft minutes of June 2024 prepared by staff were discussed and seven minor typos were noted for correction. A motion to approve the minutes, as corrected was made by Wood and seconded by Kirkman. Motion **passed unanimously**.

II. Citizen Comment

A. Members of the public are invited to speak on any item not on agenda.

There were no citizen comments.

III. New Business-

Mike Castine announced a potential grant opportunity by the National Trust of Historic Preservation aimed at the preservation of Black churches. The historical commission discussed the locations of historic Black churches and best contacts. Wood noted that staff should contact Sara Owen, the Town Clerk of Micanopy, and request that she distribute the grant opportunity to the Black churches in Micanopy. Other churches mentioned in discussion were Vivian Filer's church and Old Mt. Carmel. Kirkman recommended that this grant opportunity is sent to the Community

Remembrance Project staff liaison Carl Smart. The email was sent to the Alachua County Historical Commission to further distribute.

IV. Continuing Business

A. Truth and Reconciliation- Updates from Community Remembrance Committee work <http://truth.alachuacounty.us/index.html> - No updates due to no meeting in July.

B. History of Former County Commissioners (since Mid- 20th Century)

Wood highlighted the necessity of including a comprehensive background in the report to provide readers with the proper context. Given that the report focuses on commissioners beginning in 1954, Wood believes that it is important to note that Alachua County has been in existence since 1824, and this additional information will ensure readers have a more complete understanding of the report's content. Wood volunteered to edit and rewrite the background section.

Additionally, Wood suggested that the report include a list of names of county commissioners who served from 1824 to 1954. Wood and Barr suggested a description of the Sankofa and a picture of Dr. Patricia Hilliard-Nunn is included in the report. Barr has volunteered to rewrite a few of the shorter biographies to be robust and representative of the commissioner's contributions

C. State Historic Markers-

Review Cuscowilla Draft- – per BoCC Motion on FL Indigenous-- (Gwen Thompson)
Buchanan Trails (Gwen Thompson)-The historical commission collaborated to make corrections to the draft. Staff was requested to (1) redistribute the draft with corrections at the next historical commission meeting, (2) inform the historical commission of the word count at the next meeting, and (3) provide the citations for members to review.

D. Historic Cemeteries-

Kirkman announced that she received information from a member of the Florida Public Archeology Network that there may be another round of the Abandoned Cemeteries grant in October.

E. Historical Commission Website- provide input to Staff

Website work underway by Historic Commission Staff Liaison and County IT Staff.

This page exists now on the County Manager's page-

<https://alachuacounty.us/depts/manager/about/pages.aspx>

White noted that the link above does not work.

F. Storage of Historical Commission documents

Mike informed the commission that documents are in the process of being transferred to a SharePoint file for access however, the search for the permanent location is still ongoing.

G. Certified Local Government status

Staff advised the historical commission to go directly to the commission if they would like the commission to consider CLG. The historical commission requested that staff look into adding them as an item to the Commission's agenda to bring forward the CLG discussion. Wood and an additional member would like to make a presentation about CLG to the board.

V. Announcements

A. Staff Report- No additional report.

C. Member Announcements – attached separately.

- Wood mentioned the ongoing efforts to get a library in Micanopy. Friends of the Micanopy Library are continuing discussions.
- Barr reported on her recent trip to the Florida Trust meeting and displayed her stationary of the 11 to Save winners- which includes the Thelma Bolton. Barr also distributed the Florida Trust magazine to staff and members. She discussed the Tallahassee 200 Bicentennial flyer and provided the staff liaison the flyer.
- The Historical Commission has requested they receive the Bicentennial survey from the county.
- Wood recommended that all members read the book "The Making of Florida's Universities" by Carl Van Ness. The book explains the politics that went on during the early part of the founding of many Florida universities.

D. Adjournment/ Next ACHC Meeting **September 9th, 2024**

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