



Alachua County Advisory Board Program

Historical Commission

Gwen Thompson, Chair
Jerald Cheeseborough, Vice Chair
Melanie Barr, Secretary

May 6, 2024

Commissioner Mary Alford, Chair
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
12 SE 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32601

Dear Chair Alford and Alachua County Commissioners,

The Alachua County Historical Commission has approved a motion to recommend the Board of County Commissioners to direct staff and the County Historical Commission to begin the process to become a Certified Local Government (CLG) for the purpose of Historic Preservation. The members of the Historical Commission strongly feel that as a CLG, Alachua County will be able to more effectively achieve its goals to promote, protect, and preserve Alachua County's historic resources.

CLG creates a preservation partnership between the federal, state and County government. The program provides technical assistance and training programs for staff, elected officials, and the community historic organizations from the State Division of Historic Resources. The CLG program provides grant assistance for qualified preservation projects. Additionally, the County will have a formal role in the National Register nomination process if CLG status is achieved.

The following steps are required for Alachua County to be designated a Certified Local Government:

1. Adopt a qualified Historic Preservation Ordinance (HPO).
2. Establish a qualified Historic Preservation Board.
3. Enforce designation and protection of historic resources as required by the Historic Preservation Ordinance.
4. Maintain the 2000 Survey of Historic Resources and update at intervals.

5. Provide public participation in the Historic Preservation program.

Designation as a certified local government, either as a municipality or a county, makes historic preservation a public policy through passage of a historic preservation ordinance. The ordinance establishes a historic preservation board to develop and oversee the functions of its historic preservation program.

Currently, the City of Gainesville, the City of Newberry, and the Town of Micanopy are CLGs. Attaining CLG status has been of longstanding interest to the Historical Commission for quite some time. In 2011, the BoCC directed staff and the County Historical Commission to compile information regarding the process and fiscal impact of the Certified Local Government program. Staff provided information and presentations to the Board over the next several years, however, ultimately the Board decided to not further pursue Certified Local Government status at that time.

It is understood that the Commission will need further information on the resources that the County will need to commit in order to go forward towards CLG status. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue regarding Alachua County's historic resources.

If you need additional information regarding the CLG process, please contact the staff liaison, Michael Castine, mcastine@alachuacounty.us.

Sincerely,

Gwen Thompson

Gwen Thompson, Chair