

BREVARD COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2023

Members Present

Jane Beach, District V
Paula Beckner, District I
Roz Foster, District I
George Kistner, District IV – Chair
Margaret Goudelock, District IV
Martha Loss, District IV
Henry Parrish, District II
Jack Ratterman, District II – Co-Chair
Gregg Young, District V

Others Present

Michael Boonstra, Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Library, Librarian II Genealogy and Archives
Tammy Moon, Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Library, Librarian I Genealogy and Archives
Bob Gross, Indian River Anthropological Society

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:18 pm, by the Chair, Mr. Kistner.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Goudelock, seconded by Ms. Loss, to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2022 Commission Meeting. ***Motion unanimously carried.***

A motion was made by Ms. Beach, seconded by Ms. Foster, to approve the agenda. ***Motion unanimously carried.***

Public Comments

Bob Gross reports the Indian River Anthropological Society is continuing to work on clean up at the Indialantic site. They will be working on the report for the site in February. The Society has also had a request for a survey on a site in Valkaria. Mr. Gross also discussed the recently donated collection from the estate of Weona Cleaveland, Brevard County honorary historian, columnist and author. He hopes to create an index of the works contained in it.

Archivist Report

Michael Boonstra reported the successful launch and event for the library system's 50th anniversary. Also noted was another donation from Johnny Hiatt of Melbourne High School and family artifacts and the publication of Joel McPherson's book on the Indianola Pioneer Cemetery. Mr. Boonstra will be giving a talk at the Pioneer Day on February 11th.

New Business

In regards to the election of officers for 2023, a motion was made by Ms. Foster, seconded by Ms. Beach, that the current Chair, George Kistner, and the current Co-Chair, Jack Rattner continue in those positions. ***Motion unanimously carried.***

At the Jan. 24, 2023 Brevard County Commission meeting, during discussion of Agenda Item I.4. Dissolution of the Historical Commission, Commissioner Tobia voiced concern about the incorrect founding date of Brevard County on the County Seal. In response to this a motion was made by Ms. Goudelock, seconded by Ms. Loss to draft a resolution to the board which will contain the historical facts of the issue and the recommendation that the date be changed from 1854 to 1855. ***Motion unanimously carried.***

The remaining meeting dates for the Historical Commission were decided as follows: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm; Tuesday, July 25, 2023 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm; Tuesday, October 24, 2023 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. All meetings will continue to be held at the Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library. Motion made by Mr. Kistner, seconded by Ms. Beckner. ***Motion unanimously carried.***

Old Business

A decision was made that in order to continue to be able to produce the Indian River Journal it will be necessary to nominate a commissioner to spearhead the effort. Commissioner Gregg Young volunteered for the project. Motion made by Ms. Goudelock, seconded by Ms. Loss. ***Motion unanimously carried.***

Roz Foster reported on Heritage Park. The North Brevard Heritage Council has signed the contract with Field Manor to proceed with the project. Still in progress is the conceptual, as well as a work development and phase plan which she will email to Michael Boonstra for distribution to the commission when completed. Also noted was the Field Manor Gala on February 23, 2023, where she will be speaking on the project.

Commissioners' Reports

Jack Ratterman reported a new push by local groups to make Merritt Island a city, rather than an unincorporated town. The amphitheater plan at the Brevard Veteran's Memorial Center will be breaking ground before October and promises to bring 24 events a year to the venue.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at Catherine Schweinsberg Rood Central Library, Second Floor from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.