



HISTORIC TOWN OF EATONVILLE, FLORIDA HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD MEETING MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 1:00 PM

Town Hall (Council Chamber) - 307 E Kennedy Blvd. 32751

SPECIAL NOTICE: These meeting minutes are presented in an abbreviated format intended as a public record discussion of stated meeting according to the Florida's Government-in-the-Sunshine law. Meetings are opened to the public, noticed within reasonable advance notice, and transcribed into minutes for public record. ***Audio Recording are available through the Town's website on the Council Agenda Page.*

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Rosa Pickett called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Quorum was established by roll call through Mrs. Veronica King

PRESENT: (4) Chair Rosa Pickett; Board Members: Laverne Bellamy Williams; Vice Chair LaDwyana Jordan;; Jane Turner (Absent: Ann Dawkins-Curtis)

STAFF: (2) Veronica King, **Town Clerk**; Cobbin McGee, **Planner**

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Rosa Pickett led the invocation with words of inspiration followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: There were no citizens to participate during citizen participation

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *(Board was given an opportunity to review the minutes before voting.)*

Chair Pickett **Motion to Approve** meeting minutes for March 13, 2025; **moved** by Vice Chair Jordan; **second** by Board Member Turner; **AYE: ALL, MOTION PASSES.**

BOARD DISCUSSIONS/DECISIONS:

Historic Preservation Ordinance Review (Follow Up) – Discussions took place with consideration to property tax exemptions (vacancy lots), local designation (boundaries have already been identified), and adding a design review component (Refer to policy); Mr. Cobbin referenced a statement from an email sent by Harry Klinkhamer *[(d) Any county or municipality may, for the purpose of its respective tax levy and subject to the provisions of this subsection and general law, grant historic preservation ad valorem tax exemptions to owners of historic properties. This exemption may be granted only by ordinance of the county or municipality. The amount or limits of the amount of this exemption and the requirements for eligible properties must be specified by general law. The period of time for which this exemption may be granted to a property owner shall be determined by general law]*; Eatonville has one of the highest mileage rate in the State of Florida; recommending research and vetting through legal, getting state feedback (Tyler Smith); because of the historical preservation ties to the state of Florida, any changes made to the ordinance would have to go to them first before approval through two public hearings; can get more research (on property tax exemptions) to determine if this is something to pursue; staff will speak to the attorney about a draft ordinance in consideration to the recommended changes. **Staff Feedback:** Mrs. King provided the email copy of sample ordinances but did not provide in print all of the sample ordinances due to size, a physical copy is available upon request; NY Nathiri - It lies within the purview of the board to make a recommendation about local designation boundaries, based on information and research already done and available, the board could consider local designation outside of the scope of the current historic registry, have the FEMA survey as documentation, Mr. Cobbin - the board has the potential to assume the power from the state to set the limit and to designate what is

contributing and what is not (request to get the attorney involved); the historic design guidelines already exist, it is a matter of policy, do not need to include it in the ordinance, can add language in the ordinance that refers to the policy (suggest adding the policy language), there may be a broader commentary around Mr. Smith's recommendation (historic design guidelines), he may be speaking to a more step by step process of the review (Mr. Cobbin will speak with Mr. Smith to get clarity); **Additional Board Comments** – Board Member Turner has lots of information dated back to 2010 and wants to share with board; Mrs. King requested a copy to restore information back to the town's archives.

Historic Preservation Grant Proposal Outline – Discussions took place suggesting to move forward in consideration of the upcoming grant deadlines for submittal; referred to email stating that the Heritage education projects are no longer being accepted and has been replaced with a wayfinding program for CLGs and Mainstreet; there are two webinars on "How to Apply"; recommend that Mr. Cobbin, as the planner representing the board share with the council where the historic preservation board is in the grant process (Mr. McGee will get with Mr. Pressley); After May 9, NY Nathiri will work with Mr. McGee; there may be an opportunity to receive \$250-\$500 funding to underwrite the cost for a grant writer (NY Nathiri); Board Member Turner will reach out to a grant writer in Winter Park to inquire about cost and availability (will update the clerk by April 15), want to ensure there is diversity as far as the grant writing is concerned (not limited); NY Nathiri - typically what PEC does is as a team, no longer write grants but work with the pieces that need to get done, this is pro bono, the hardest part is the timeline, if Ms. Turner can get the grant writer at pro bono, that will be better, if there is expenditure, it will have to be approved, encourage getting it done with existing resources, can find someone to underwrite \$250 -\$500 so that the town does not have to take it out of general funds, there is a process, need to get it done paying the minimum amount of money so it is not held up with the board having to approve it. Vice Chair Jordan – inquired about the process in bring in someone to assist (with grant writing), the person has to be directed to Mr. McGee and go before the board, suggest that Board Member Turner reach out to contact within the next week (April 15) to see this way we going in, Mr. McGee will keep the clerk updated on the progress, once shared with the board a special can be determined if needed.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Jane Turner (Board Member) – (Previous stated) Provided lots of information to include documents and pictures to share with the board, will provide copies to the town for record the archives.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Cobbin McGee (Planner) – Expressed how proud he is of the board; will review the information provide by Board Member Turner along with the FEMA survey and will apply for the Surveying Grant.

Veronica King (Town Clerk) – Proud to see the board active and moving things along; informed the board about an upcoming event at the Eatonville library on the topic of Heirs Property Saturday, April 12, 10:30am – 12pm (flyer was provided), refreshments will be served, NY Nathiri is extending an invitation for the board to attend in person or virtually, a general statement (public notice) has been posted outside (in the bulletin board) indicating that board members and council members may be attending special events, the board members are not to discuss among themselves anything that may come to the board (for a vote), but the board is not prohibited from going to the event, event will be recorded, the QR Code will connect you to the event.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS: *(Permitted by the board to speak)*

NY Nathiri – request a copy of what the board member received.

ADJOURNMENT Chair Rosa Pickett adjourns meeting. **Meeting Adjourned at 2:08 P.M.**

Respectfully Submitted by:



Veronica L. King, Interim Town Clerk