



SUMMARY MINUTES of the SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
of the HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD  
VENETIAN CENTER  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 4:30 P.M.

The Historic Preservation Board of the City of Leesburg held its regular meeting Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at City Venetian Center. Chairman Henderson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

The following members were present:

Sanna Henderson  
Paige Chassie  
Guy Ross  
Skellie Morris  
Stewart Kaplan  
Vickie Lingerfelt

The following members were absent:

Merle Skinner

City staff present included Sabrina Mitchell, Administrative Assistant II., Careylee Murray, Planner, and Christine Rock, Senior Planner.

Dan Miller gave a brief explanation for tonight's meeting and stated with the increase in permitting, plan review and economic development activities of the Planning & Zoning office including customer inquiries, and endless meetings, he asked Christine Rock, Senior Planner to introduce and handle the new business case on the agenda today.

## MINUTES

### APPROVAL OF SUMMARY MINUTES OF April 7, 2021 HPB MEETING

Minutes from the April 7, 2021 meeting were presented for discussion/approval. Without objections or other discussions, **Commissioner Kaplan motioned to APPROVE, Commissioner Lingerfelt seconded the motion. The motion CARRIED unanimously by a 6-0 vote.**

## NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Henderson introduced the first item under new business.

### 1. LEESBURG CENTER OF THE ARTS – DOWNTOWN MURALS

Christine Rock, Senior Planner stated Staff has been working with the Center for the Arts and their Director, Maria Stephanovic in regard to the creation of a mural program for downtown Leesburg, and she will make a presentation to the Board today in regard to the plans and ideas of this program, afterwards Staff will share an update on the success of the Mote Morris reconstruction and repair. As previously stated, the Center for the Arts is actively engaged in work to encourage art in the Leesburg area, and has come up with the idea of having a program that allows artists to showcase their work using murals on the side of existing buildings. This is designed to enhance the look, energy and activity in downtown.

Ms. Maria Stefanovic, the Director of the Leesburg Center for the Arts gave a detailed presentation on Leesburg Center of the Arts downtown murals and explained the Lake Walls Murals in Historic Downtown Leesburg; transforming empty walls into an outdoor art gallery, mission of CFA is to provide art education, awareness and opportunities to artists, creatives and dabblers in the North Lake County area; Lake Walls will be an annual mural festival held each spring in downtown Leesburg, FL; new artists will be invited each year from across the State of Florida to participate on a predetermined theme; benefits will beautify and revitalize downtown structures, create community attachment to the growth of Leesburg, create a unique identity for the City, and promote tourism, provided packets and discussed downtown Leesburg mural locations.

Tropic Theatre, operated all women (staff) article in Daily Commercial; face parking lot/Beacon/library, update Market Street/Festival Street; Parking Garage, public art, maintain parking garage; Leesburg Partnership, share same building- Leesburg Partnership selfie mural; I love Leesburg; Leesburg Center for the Arts, three different murals/same theme; Renew Day Spa, painted brick; deep blood red, expand upstairs- outdoor patio; Mystic Ice Cream, promote theme; atmosphere on block; Leesburg Heritage Museum, proposing side/back wall, amazing collection- tells story of Leesburg; reproduction- Bass tournament; Water Gypsy Coffee Company, corner 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main- antique building; western auto, coffee shop- proud owner, add mural on the side- encourage visitors, take pictures; concept (mural), native animals; reviewed Lake Walls selection process; muralists are chosen by quality/strength of past work, ability to meet theme criteria, durability, longevity and ease of maintenance of the materials proposed, chosen muralists will be required; submit their CV, an artist's statement, images of past murals, and a draft concept of the proposed mural before being approved to start work; five people (committee), and best intentions (downtown).

Ms. Stefanovic stated the proposing prospective artists/muralist are; Gillian Fazio, Lakeland, FL, Christian Stanley, Orlando, FL, and Cecilia Lueza, currently in Ocala, FL; the coffee shop; proposing Leesburg Center for the Arts, I love Leesburg; 3-D; Partnership- front door; picture provided to Board.

Board Members and Mr. Miller discussed it will be cool to take a step further (each location), mural prices, plan to remodel museum, mural; last, start date, will affect historical status, and choice of mural; Center of Arts. Maria addressed comments from Board and stated the murals cost \$10 to \$12 a square foot; we will provide food, artist equipment, lifts, housing; (funding), MEA grants- parking garage, shady canvas- back of library, bring in concerts, selling art, owners/businesses investing; raised money for Center of Arts building, plan to remodel museum, murals maintained;

7-10 years, start date; March 2022; art and mural festival. Mr. Miller stated there will be no change in historical status, also Maria Stefanovic gave a brief presentation/discussion on the murals at the meeting held on August 28, 2019, and stated to the Board they didn't have a quorum at the meeting to vote; Mr. Miller stated would the board recommend. Maria stated to the Board; if they had any thoughts on adding City Staff to the Center of Arts committee to let her know, also there will be eight murals and seven walls; completed, (in fourteen days); in paper.

Chairman Henderson stated if any other discussion from the Board.

Chairman Henderson entertained a motion to approve the downtown murals and then the voting took place.

**BOARD MEMBER CHASSIE made a MOTION for APPROVAL of the LEESBURG CENTER OF THE ARTS – DOWNTOWN MURALS – BOARD MEMBER KAPLAN SECONDED the MOTION which CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by a vote of 6-0.**

## **DISCUSSION ITEM**

### **1. MOTE-MORRIS HOUSE AWARD**

Christine Rock, Senior Planner gave a brief presentation and stated a little over two years ago the Mote Morris was partially destroyed by fire. The building had significant damage to all areas of the house, but the building was not a total loss. As the Fire Department was able to control the fire and save the building. Representatives of various City offices, including the City Manager, Public Works, Building and Planning Departments all worked together with the insurance company, consultants and contractors, the Historic Board and City Commission to ensure that Leesburg did not lose this treasured structure.

Public Works and Planning Staff were on site after the fire and presented to the Historic Board photos, and documentation regarding the damage. On June 1, a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held at the Mote Morris House, celebrating the successful collaboration of the public and private sectors in saving this Historic structure. As a result of the activities of the City and the City's contractors and consultants, the Mote Morris House received an award from the American Institute of Architects. 2021 Award of Excellence, Historic Preservation and Restoration. We would like to share with you this brief video, as seen on the KMF architect's website.

Dan Miller stated as you can see, this award came from the country's premiere architectural organization, and is something for which the City can be quite proud., also mentioned there was terrible damage; breaks your heart; however, the piano was salvaged.

Christine Rock, Senior Planner stated she will email the website to the Board Members of the video.

Chairman Henderson stated enough people wanted to save the house.

Chairman Henderson entertained a motion, and stated any other discussion from the Board

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

NONE

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dan Miller stated we have several Historic Board members terms which are expiring, and we need to have applications filled out and returned to us. Joyce Hughes resigned from the Board due to medical issues. We have one more alternate for Joyce Hughes spot with the understanding of the kind of things we do.

Chairman Henderson mentioned the Historic House of the month; on the corner of Webster on next block; house fixed; Dan Miller replied this month he didn't think about the monthly sign, but wants to wait awhile to let them get finished. Chairman Henderson stated she suggest the Board giving that house the sign.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE LEESBURG HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD IS JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 (AS NEEDED BASIS)

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

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Sanna Henderson, Chair

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Sabrina Mitchell  
Administrative Assistant II  
Planning & Zoning Division  
Community Development Department