



City of Sunrise Historical Commission Meeting

Date: Monday, June 20, 2022

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: City Commission Chambers

Address: 10770 West Oakland Park Boulevard., Sunrise, FL 33351

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Toby Ginsburg Cohen

II. Roll Call:

Chair Toby Ginsburg-Cohen

Vice Chair Bernard Shaw

Heather Clough-Robinson

Aleece Dawson

Philip Howell

Laura Males – absent (excused)

Dionne Smith

Also Present: Meryl Girard, Deputy City Clerk

John Feeney, Curator, Plantation Historical Museum

III. Open Discussion

No one came forward.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes May 9, 2022

MOTION A motion to approve the minutes of May 9, 2022 with a reference on page two to see item on page five made by Philip Howell was seconded by Bernard Shaw. All were in favor.

V. Correspondence

Deputy City Clerk Meryl Girard read an email received from board member Laura Males, dated May 31, 2022, stating she would be out of town until August or September and was not sure when she would return.

Chairperson Toby Ginsburg Cohen said Ms. Males should be in attendance for the July 11th meeting.

VI. Old Business

A. Follow Up Items

- Sunrise Lakes (Laker) Advertisement Phase 3

Deputy City Clerk Meryl Girard checked with the Marketing Director, who advised she was still unable to reach anyone at Phase 3. She added the information to be posted on the bulletin boards throughout Sunrise Lakes was upgraded to a color flyer with more current information. The City was still in the process of posting.

Chairperson Toby Ginsburg asked Philip Howell if he had information.

Mr. Howell said the contact was Judy Soto from the Recreation Board in Phase 3. They mentioned they do not place political ads in the Laker, and felt this was that type of ad.

- Photographs from Topping Off Ceremony

Deputy City Clerk Meryl Girard reported the photographs were emailed to all board members on May 11, 2022.

At this time the board moved to New Business and the speaker, Mr. John Feeney.

B. Sunrise History Museum Items for Review

- Old Post Office
- Upside-Down House
- City Hall: Old and New
- Time Capsule
- Center for Scholastic Chess

VII. New Business

A. Speaker, John Feeney, Curator, Plantation Historical Museum

Mr. John Feeney introduced himself, and spoke about the City of Planation and the Plantation Historical Museum. Plantation was incorporated in 1953. In the 1970s five or six women decided they wanted to preserve the history of the City and started collecting items. They were given a small room in city hall and became the Historical Society. They got more items and more members and were given a larger room, which became a museum in city hall. The Historical Society decided to get a building. They tried several places. The first was Mr. Peters' home on Broward Boulevard and East Acre Drive. Mr. Peters originally purchased 10,000 acres, for \$25 per acre, from a man that had grazing land with cows, and that is how the city began. Peters Road and Peters Elementary were named after him. He had a ranch on what is currently Plantation Heritage Park.

The Historical Society wanted to use Mr. Peters' home for the museum, but it was dilapidated. It was a wooden structure with termite damage and was falling apart. They then decided to use Chamber of Commerce Building, but it was vandalized. Eventually the Historical Society received grants, held fund raisers, and raised enough money to build the current museum on Fig Tree Lane. The one-room museum opened in June 1985. The Historical Society ran it for a while, then the city hired a curator and a staff member. In 1991 they knew they were going to get the city's first fire truck, and built a room to house it. In 2008 they added a larger room for programs and presentations.

Mr. Feeney discussed various types of displays; permanent, semi-permanent and rotating displays.

Vice Chair Bernard Shaw mentioned the time capsule and the trophy cabinet in City Commission Chambers. They will be included in the new museum.

Mr. Feeney suggested different departments could be showcased each month, noting police and fire were popular. Anything about the city's history, how the city started, and what was there before the city began, was all important information. In Plantation it was grazing land. There were temporary camps for Seminole Indians who hunted there. There were also Tequesta Indians in the 1500s. He asked if there was anything similar to that in Sunrise.

Chairperson Toby Ginsburg Cohen said there had been arrowheads found previously.

Mr. Feeney continued to list items that may be of interest for the museum: City motto, City flag, City seal, and City demographics. The size of the City and populations was of interest. He mentioned if the City had received any awards or recognitions, and if there were any famous people that came from Sunrise, these can be included. Information about how Sunrise Golf Village became Sunrise is a good topic. Listing past Mayors and Council Members with the dates they served is interesting. Old City buildings, if there were any, and he added to always grab things of interest from old buildings. He said photographs of landmarks, including Sunrise's Upside-Down House are historical.

Chairperson Toby Ginsburg Cohen suggested the Sunrise Musical Theater.

Mr. Feeney added anything that makes the City famous now, such as the Florida Panthers and the mall.

Chairperson Toby Ginsburg Cohen said the chess program is widely known.

Mr. Feeney mentioned having a photograph and brief biography of the current Mayor and Council Members. He said old businesses, entertainment venues and places of worship were interesting.

Mr. Feeney spoke about various places to obtain information. Former employees usually have information and knowledge, as well as long-time city residents. The Florida Memory website is a very good source. He said that they are always careful with

copyrighted photographs, and make sure to credit anyone that loans them anything. He said oral histories or interviews are important. A digital display could be set up with information on a continuous loop.

Vice Chair Bernard Shaw understood they were going to have an old police car placed in front of the police station. There is currently a 1939 fire truck that is supposed to get fixed up and put in front of the fire station.

Mr. Feeney said that displays can include, but not be limited to, anything that is historical. He listed several displays they have had at the Plantation Historical Museum. They have the first cell phone used in the City and it was made at Motorola, which was in Plantation. Old street or building signs are good. He said that uniforms from police, fire, or public works are interesting. He listed several other things: proclamations, special events and sporting events, awards, paper items, maps, trophies, diagrams, blue prints, desk items, and books. He said to utilize props. For example, if you were to set up the Mayor's first desk as a display, you may need to use an old phone. It may not be the Mayor's original phone, but it was a phone from the period, so it was a prop. Because Plantation and Sunrise were both relatively new cities, compared to cities up north, it was hard to focus on architecture.

Mr. Feeney added that Plantation also has a Historical Preservation Board. Their purpose was for the preservation of historical buildings. They had none at the time.

Vice Chair Bernard Shaw asked what method they used to reach people.

Mr. Feeney listed several methods, including internal memos going to departments, then they reach former employees through word of mouth.

Vice Chair Shaw thought putting information in the utility bills would be a good idea. A lot of older people do not have computers.

Mr. Feeney said they did that with their water bills. Posting the information somewhere in a City facility, such as the Civic Center or Senior Center is helpful. Several years ago, a retired Plantation High School Coach saw a posting and called. He donated a jacket and several awards.

Chairperson Toby Ginsburg Cohen asked what Mr. Feeney did at the museum.

Mr. Feeney said he was the curator since 2014, and has worked at the museum since 2010. The Historical Society sponsored their presentations. When they expanded to three rooms they had some national and state exhibits. Next year is Plantation's 70th anniversary, so they will have some special exhibits.

Mr. Feeney handed out some cards from the museum. He spoke about some of the exhibits they have had the past few years. They had a large World War II exhibit, it attended by many veterans. They did the history of piracy and how it effected Florida.

It was educational, kid friendly and entertaining. Currently there is a model train exhibit. They have had numerous exhibits in addition to the city exhibits.

Chairperson Toby Ginsburg Cohen asked about the Historical Society.

Mr. Feeney said the Historical Society is a 501(c)(3). They sponsor the museum and have a donation container for visitors. The museum has no admission fee. The City maintains the museum and building.

Mr. Howell described the space of the new Sunrise museum to Mr. Feeney, in hopes it would trigger some ideas. He said it was not a room with four walls and a door, it was an open space. This would lend room for creativity.

Mr. Feeney said he will email the list of items discussed, so everyone can have a copy. He suggested getting LED lighting to begin with, the type of light that would not fade photographs or documents.

Mr. Howell said he brought up the subject previously and suggested lighting options.

Ms. Robinson said history is important especially for children. Mr. Feeney was doing important work.

The Historical Commission members thanked Mr. Feeney for his informative presentation. Mr. Feeney invited everyone to visit the museum. He invited the members to contact him with any questions, as the time gets closer for the Sunrise museum to open.

Ms. Dawson noted that she will not attend the July 11th meeting, she will be out of town.

Ms. Robinson also noted she will not attend the July 11th meeting, she will be out of town.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned

Seeing there was no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Meryl Girard, Deputy City Clerk