



MINUTES

Sunrise Historical Commission Meeting

Monday, September 9, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Sunrise City Hall, Everglades Conference Room

10770 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise FL 33351

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

The following members were found to be present:

Toby Ginsburg Cohen

Heather Clough Robinson

Ketty Andre

Stacy Sherman

Philip Howell – absent (excused)

Bernard Shaw – absent (unexcused)

Roberto Fernandez III – absent (excused)

Administrative Assistant II - Bernita Sherrod

III. Open Discussion

No one was present.

IV. Approval of Minutes: August 12, 2024

MOTION A motion to approve the minutes of August 12, 2024 made by Ketty Andre was seconded by Heather Clough-Robinson. All were favor.

V. Follow Up Items

VI. New Business

Next Historical Commission Meeting is scheduled tentatively for Monday, November 18, 2024.

Susan Ostroff, a long-time resident of the City of Sunrise was introduced to the Historical Commission to be interviewed. Ms. Ostroff is one of the photographers that commissioned a nature portrait for the New City Hall. Ms. Ostroff gave a description of her education as a teacher and librarian in various schools and Broward County libraries. She discussed many of the programs that she was involved in for schools. Ms. Ostroff spoke on some of the things that

she teaches in her classes and she also detailed the difference in being a Media Clerk as opposed to a person with a Masters in Library Science.

Ms. Ostroff stated that she no longer works for Broward County, as her passion is working more closely with school aged children. She does, however, keep in touch with employees there and she will also be attending a convention with Broward County Libraries.

Stacey Sherman suggested that Ms. Ostroff attend a future meeting(s) once the digital display is completed to follow up on some of her students to maybe get them more involved in the City of Sunrise and to let them know of scholarships and other opportunities that students could benefit from.

Susan Ostroff advised that three of her children were involved in the City of Sunrise's Leadership Academy. Ms. Ostroff said that she would be happy to pass on information to her students.

Heather Clough-Robinson thanked Ms. Ostroff for her work and acknowledged the importance of her being a Librarian. Ms. Clough-Robinson stated that librarians helped her with her studies while in school. Ms. Clough-Robinson asked Ms. Ostroff if she had any advice for anyone aspiring to become a librarian or a journalist.

Ms. Ostroff advised they should have a love for information, love working with students and to believe in oneself. She stated it was never too late to go back to school. Ms. Ostroff mentioned the late Erma Bombeck, who was a columnist, that also felt the same.

Susan Ostroff talked about her time in radio while at Piper High School. Ms. Ostroff spoke about a press conference she attended for former President George Bush. She played an audio of the showcasing, with a list of questions that she asked at the press conference. Ms. Ostroff brought in photos, several newspaper articles and transcripts along with other memorabilia for the Historical Commission to review. Ms. Ostroff advised that there were still some people in the area that she worked with during that time that she could see if they'd like to be interviewed by the Historical Commission.

Ms. Ostroff spoke about having trouble with interference while doing radio from other stations. She volunteered her summers to continue working at the school radio station in order to keep it on the air. Ms. Ostroff continued to volunteer after she graduated high school.

Chairperson Toby Ginsburg-Cohen asked Ms. Ostroff what she wanted her legacy to be. Ms. Ostroff stated that she wanted her children, as well as her students, to come to her for help and advice. She wanted the students to know that they could achieve their goals.

Susan Ostroff spoke about her love for nature and photography. Ms. Ostroff photographed a burrowing owl family in Plantation Central Park, which was on display in City Hall on the 5th floor. Ms. Ostroff wasn't sure where her passion for taking pictures came from. She does remember watching her aunt and uncle take pictures, but she never got to learn from them. However, she attributed her wanting to get her college degree to them, as her uncle was the first in the family to achieve that goal.

Ms. Ostroff reflected on being a struggling student growing up in a single parent household.

Ms. Ostroff stated that her biggest mentor and role model was Dr. Henrietta Smith, who taught at the University of South Florida. She said that Dr. Smith opened her eyes to storytelling. Ms. Ostroff was looking to have her own after school storytelling classes. She stated that she was not a big fan of accelerated reading, as she felt it gave the wrong message by using a point system instead of focusing on the actual lesson of reading. Ms. Ostroff felt that reading should also be pleasurable.

Stacy Sherman advised that she was the first vocational teacher to become certified in reading. Ms. Sherman also felt the point was missed in the actual pleasure of reading, as opposed to taking a test for points.

Heather Clough-Robinson mentioned a book Bubble Gum Brain and asked the question “are you becoming or are you being?” Susan Ostroff stated that she was becoming; becoming more aware and to consider the feelings of others.

Ketty Andre asked if Ms. Ostroff knew what the percentage of students that actually went into the profession of being a librarian. Ms. Ostroff felt it was fewer than expected due to challenges with books being pulled from schools that are brought before the County to be reviewed. Ms. Ostroff felt it was very stressful.

The Historical Commission thanked Ms. Ostroff and invited her to come back.

VII. Adjournment

Seeing there was not further business the meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Bernita Sherrod, Administrative Assistant II