



Historic Preservation Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2024

5:30 PM

Administration Building,
4th Floor, BCC Meeting Room,
477 Houston Street,
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

Call to Order

Present: Gerard Casale, Chairman
Dr. Maureen Jung
Melissa Clearman
Randy Harris @ 5:33 pm
Gabriella "Bella" Franco

Absent: Billy Gould
Deirdre Murphy, Vice-Chairman

Staff Present: Beth Carson, Deputy Director of Planning

Chairman Gerard Casale called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the February 1, 2024 Historic Preservation Board Meeting

Maureen Jung stated that the Florida National File should read the Florida Master File.

Gabriella "Bella" Franco suggested that Dr. Jung be referenced as Dr. and not Ms. in the minutes.

Maureen Jung made a motion for approval of the February 1, 2024, HPB minutes as amended, seconded by Melissa Clearman, which carried 5-0.

Minutes from the February 20, 2024 Fleming Estate Marker Subcommittee Meeting

Randy Harris made a motion for approval of the February 20, 2024, Fleming Estate Marker Subcommittee minutes.

There were comments and discussions regarding the language for the marker, the signage for the property, the number of markers, and what part of the property would be included. Maureen Jung seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Mr. Harris noted that the next subcommittee meeting would be held on March 19, 2024.

Public Comment

Chairman Gerard Casale opened the floor for public comment at 5:40 pm.

Hearing no comments, Chairman Gerard Casale closed public comment at 5:41 pm.

Old Business

1. Update on Historic Marker Progress

Historic Preservation Board Members will provide progress update on the historic marker projects.

- A. Middleburg Colored School - Dr. Maureen Jung
- B. Fleming Estate - Randy Harris
- C. Fort 11 - Deirdre Murphy
- D. Keystone Heights - Deirdre Murphy
- E. St. Mary's Episcopal Church - Gerard Casale

Update regarding the Historic Marker Progress for various markers can be seen at [www.claycountygov.com/government/claycounty-tv-and-video-archive/committees/Historic-Preservation-Board/March 7, 2024](http://www.claycountygov.com/government/claycounty-tv-and-video-archive/committees/Historic-Preservation-Board/March_7,_2024), beginning at 9:47 and ending at 38:37. Below is a summary of the discussion and vote.

Dr. Maureen Jung provided an overview and information regarding the Middleburg Colored School update and discussions regarding signage. See Attachment A.

There were questions and discussions regarding signage placement, the "Hunter Douglas Park" sign, funding and language for signage, structural integrity of the schoolhouse, location and the new roof, budget, and moving forward.

Mr. Randy Harris provided details and information for the update regarding the Fleming Estate. Mr. Harris reiterated that the next subcommittee meeting would be on March 19, 2024.

Chairman Gerard Casale provided details and information on an update regarding the Fort 11 project.

There were questions and discussions regarding location, who is working on the project to provide more details and the Keystone Heights projects.

Chairman Gerard Casale provided an overview and information regarding the St. Mary's Episcopal Church update.

Pat Garlinghouse, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, addressed the Board to provide more information on the language for the marker.

There were questions and discussions regarding the text, subcommittee, process, amount of characters allowed, suggestion for Vishi Garig to review applications for markers, funding, references and sources to support information, and how to move forward with projects.

Dr. Maureen Jung made a motion for approval to have Vishi Garig review each application, seconded by Melissa Clearman, which carried 5-0.

New Business

There was no new business for discussion.

Certificates of Approval

There were no Certificate of Approval items.

Public Comment

Chairman Gerard Casale opened the floor for public comment at 6:11 pm.

Hearing no comments, Chairman Gerard Casale closed public comment at 6:12 pm

Staff Comments

There were no staff comments.

Board Member's Comments

Board Member Comments can be seen at [www.claycountygov.com/Government/clay-county-tv-and-video-archive/committees/Historic-Preservation-Board/March 7,2024](http://www.claycountygov.com/Government/clay-county-tv-and-video-archive/committees/Historic-Preservation-Board/March_7,2024), beginning at 39:59 and ending at 45:46. Below is a summary of the discussion.

Randy Harris mentioned that Saturday, March 09, 2024, is Carrie Clark Day. There will be tours of the Clark House, live music, demonstrations, etc., from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Chairman Gerard Casale spoke about the sale of the Gustafson Home in Green Cove Springs.

There were comments and clarification regarding the intent for the property and past and present ownership.

Chairman Casale mentioned the inauguration of the Bartram Trail of Clay County on April 20, 2024, at Camp Chowenwaw starting at 10:00 am.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chairman Gerard Casale adjourned the meeting at 6:17 pm.

Attest:

Committee Chairman

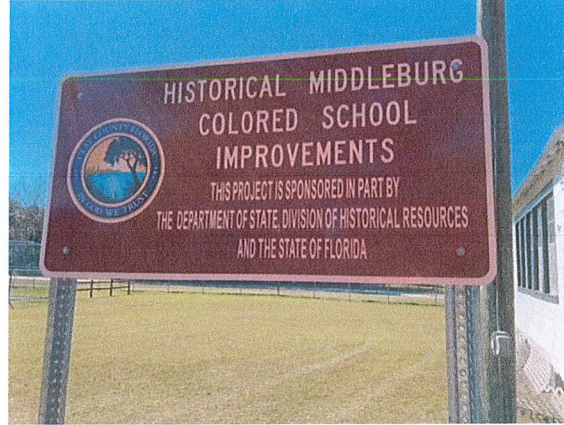
Recording Deputy Clerk

Attachment

“A”

**Middleburg Colored School
Information**

Middleburg Colored School Preservation Project



1. (left) The former Middleburg Colored School, located in Hunter Douglas Park. In 1995, the building was moved from Everett Avenue in Middleburg to the historically Black community of Hill Top and repurposed as the Black Heritage Education Center and Museum. Supported by local efforts, the museum operated 1995-2020, when Covid hit.
2. (right) Clay County grant writers helped attract state support for Step One in the effort to preserve Middleburg Colored School. This sign was erected in February 2024 by the Florida Division of Historical Resources, which, along with the State of Florida and Clay County, are supporting our preservation project.



3. (left) Hunter Douglas Park sign as it appeared 3 years ago.
4. (right) More than 2 years ago I reported the Hunter Douglas Park sign missing. The Parks & Recreation Dept. has been busy opening and upgrading parks all over the county. As of today, Parks cannot give a date when the sign will be replaced.

Question: Can we ask the county signs department to create a temporary sign marking this significant historic building?

Maureen A. Jung, Ph.D., Clay County Historic Preservation Board, Middleburg Colored School update
March 7, 2024