

**MINUTES
SPECIAL JOINT WORKSHOP
HOLLY HILL CITY COMMISSION
AND
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD
MAY 11, 2004**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor William D. Arthur called the meeting to order in Room 227 at City Hall, 1065 Ridgewood Avenue at approximately 6:00 p.m. Attending with Mayor Arthur were Commissioners Arthur Byrnes, Gilles Blais, Lou Schmitt, and Roland Via.

Historic Preservation Board Members in attendance were as follows: Chairman I.S. "Bud" Call, Darlene Call, Don Wiggins, Albert Edwards, Alice Masterson, and Dennis Bates.

Also attending were the following staff members: City Manager Joe Forte, Community Redevelopment Coordinator Marsha Radulovich, and City Clerk Jeaneen Clauss. Assistant to the City Manager Greg Wood arrived at approximately 6:30 p.m.

2. COMMENTS / CONCERNS

Mr. Forte explained that the purpose of this workshop is for the Board to have an opportunity to advise the Commission of anything they may need to better work as a volunteer advisory board. He mentioned that the original intent for this Board was to see it get on its feet and become a Historic Preservation Society, with its own non-profit designation (501C3). Mr. Call agreed that a separate non-profit group should be developed but he also felt that this Board should remain in place as an advisory board and link between the Commission and the Society because they would need help from the Commission for rehabilitation and demolition of properties as they move towards historic preservation goals.

Ms. Call stated that she felt they should focus on getting the museum open because they have a facility now and they have volunteers waiting in the wings to work in it a couple of days per week. Another prompt focus should be to recognize the eleven properties that have accepted their invitation to be designated as historic sites. There are twenty-two other properties in the City that qualify but have not responded to the initial invitation. Follow-ups will be done with all of them to promote this. The Commission inquired if there would be any additional restrictions placed on these properties which could discourage them from doing this. The Board is not fanatical and would only want to see these property owners received the benefits of grants and tax breaks from preserving their properties – not financial hardship. Mention was made that City Hall has been recognized as having historic significance but did not pursue recognition for architectural integrity because that would render the building less useful as they need to remodel it to keep it efficient. The Commission discussed formally designating these properties in

conjunction with the dedication of the museum – maybe even providing a historic tour bus for the day. The City’s 103rd anniversary is July 1st and we can shoot for that day but it will likely not allow enough time to pull everything together. The Commission and Board discussed the museum and it appears they have plenty of room to grow on that site. They wondered if they might attain historic items directly linked to Holly Hill that are currently in the custody of other museums and agencies. Mention was also made that publishing a book based on the history of Holly Hill would be nice to have and many other cities have done that.

The Board presented a budget request for the upcoming year as they work towards specific goals. Some of this may be considered from CRA funding.

The Board has prepared a historic preservation ordinance for the Commission to consider adopting. They based in on Lake Helen’s ordinance because they have similar demographics. This ordinance will be reviewed by the City Attorney and then prepared for Commission consideration.

The *Antiques on the Avenue* was mentioned and the Board felt that the event was a good starting point and that it will naturally build from there. They stated that they received complaints from local antique dealer who felt like the promoter did not actively pursue their involvement. Several local venders expressed how pleased they were with their sales revenue for that weekend. The Board would have liked an opportunity to have a booth at the event to promote their historic preservation goals, but that was not permissible according to the contract with the promoter. The City will seek to correct that next year because of the natural connection between antiques and historic preservation.

Both the Board and the Commission expressed their appreciation for this very productive workshop.

3. ADJOURNMENT

The workshop officially adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Attest:

City of Holly Hill

Jeaneen P. Clauss, CMC
City Clerk

William D. Arthur
Mayor