

**APPROVED**  
**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE**  
**FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2011 – 12:00 P.M.**

**Cumulative Attendance**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
E. Clay Shaw, Chair	P	8	1
Dr. Claire Crawford, Vice Chair	P	7	2
Peg Buchan	P	9	0
Sandra Casteel	P	8	1
Beauregard Cummings	P	4	1
Maureen Dinnen	A	4	3
Patricia Hale	P	6	3
Mark Halgunseth	A	3	1
Stephanie Jean	A	5	4
Ina Lee	P	7	2
Chuck Malkus	P	5	0
Nuccia McCormick	P	7	0
JoAnn Medalie	P	8	1
Donna Mergenhagen (12:08)	P	8	1
Wingate Payne	P	9	0
Mary Rizor (12:14)	P	4	1
Lisa Scott-Founds	A	4	1
Lewis Tunnage	P	9	0
Dennis Ulmer	P	9	0
Birch Willey (12:06)	P	7	2

As of this date, there are currently 20 members appointed to the Committee, which means 11 would constitute a quorum.

**Staff**

Shannon Vezina, Staff Liaison  
Chaz Adams, Public Information Office  
Barbara Hartmann, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Communications to City Commission**

None.

## I. Call to Order

- **Opening Statement and Roll Call**

Vice Chair Crawford called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

- **Approval of Minutes from May 4, 2011 Meeting**

**Motion** made by Ms. Casteel, seconded by Mr. Cummings, to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2011 meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Mr. Willey arrived at 12:06 p.m.

Michelle Williams, Director of the southeastern region of the Florida Public Archaeology Network, and Sarah Nohe, Public Outreach Coordinator, explained that two events held by the Network have been accepted as Centennial projects. One of these is a "Dash Through the Past" event, which is a run/walk scavenger hunt. The event will be held on the first weekend in November. Ms. Williams said the first 100 participants will receive free stainless steel water bottles; the request is for \$200 to cover half the costs of the bottles, which will feature the Centennial logo on their clips.

Ms. Mergenhagen arrived at 12:08 p.m.

Ms. Lee pointed out that the Committee has not previously donated any money toward Centennial events, and expressed concern with the precedent a donation could set. Ms. Payne noted, however, that the Centennial year is almost over, and the request comes from a public facility.

**Motion** made by Ms. Hale, seconded by Mr. Malkus, to donate \$200 to the FAU Foundation for the Florida Public Archaeology Network run, and their water bottles. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed 12-3 (Mr. Willey, Ms. Lee, and Ms. Mergenhagen dissenting).

- **Conference Call Participation**

**Motion** made by Ms. Lee, seconded by Ms. Casteel, to approve telephonic participation by Chair Shaw. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

## II. Review of Historian's Work and Major Functions

Ms. Rizor arrived at 12:14 p.m.

Ms. Payne said Sue Gillis, Centennial historian, prepared the text for three of the four state historical markers. She also produced the text for 10 plaques to be placed in parks. Ms. Gillis worked with both individuals and groups on specific historical questions, and produced the materials used by the Speakers Bureau; she also held six sessions of speaker training. To date, more than 40 presentations have been made to audiences that wanted extended information, including the Florida Neighborhood Council Convention.

Ms. Gillis also worked with the Trailblazers to track down the names of all original residents of the City in 1911. There are two lists, one in alphabetical order and one annotating the source of the names. She helped complete a driving tour of part of the City, and helped mass-produce some of the trunk shows' contents for different audiences.

Ms. Mergenhagen added that Ms. Gillis also did research for several Fort Lauderdale neighborhoods and created a pamphlet on how to conduct research. She concluded that the Committee also owes a debt of gratitude to Ms. Payne, who helped Ms. Gillis a great deal.

The following Item was taken out of order on the Agenda.

- **Disposition of Centennial Materials**

Ms. Payne recommended that the work products compiled by Ms. Gillis be housed at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, with the provision that they make it available to other historical organizations, such as the Trailblazers, Old Dillard Museum, or Stranahan House, as desired. She suggested that some Centennial speakers may want to transition to the Historical Society's Speakers Bureau. Ms. Vezina added that the exhibits could rotate between the Historical Society and Old Dillard, or the Stranahan House.

**Motion** made by Ms. Payne, seconded by Ms. Rizor, that the Committee recommend to the City Commission that the work product of the City historian be housed at the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, with the agreement that the Society will share it with other history organizations. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

### **III. Legacy Projects**

- **Update on 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge and Sistrunk Monument**

Ms. Vezina recalled that the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge project was discussed at the May meeting. The City Manager is currently working with City Staff to try to pursue affordable options for this project.

With regard to the Sistrunk monument, she continued that the City Commission is waiting until they get more information on the potential bridge project so the two prospective legacy projects could be discussed as a whole.

Ms. Lee recalled that the Committee had voted to have the Fort Lauderdale Beach Park parking lot project become a Centennial legacy project, as it is scheduled for completion by the end of the year. She suggested that the Committee consider taking advantage of this event as a legacy project.

Mr. Ulmer said the City Commission had discussed this project and believed the Committee had wanted to name the lot for the Centennial. Ms. Vezina said she would look into the status of the project to learn if the Centennial can be incorporated where appropriate. Ms. Lee noted that it is possible that the parking lot would be the Committee's only legacy project. Ms. Lee asked that the Committee clarify that they are not asking to rename the parking lot near Fort Lauderdale Beach, but are only asking that it be considered a legacy project.

Mr. Cummings advised that theatrical performances will begin in the next month, and recalled that the Committee had voted to support these performances. The Trailblazers have paid for most of the production costs. Mr. Cummings asked that the Board contribute \$2500 toward this project. Vice Chair Crawford noted that this project is already included in the Committee's budget, so another vote on it would not be necessary.

Chaz Adams of the Public Information Office advised that he would be meeting with the Beach CRA and Parking and Fleet Services with regard to the parking lot restoration, and would have more information on its progress later in the day. Ms. Mergenhagen added that the signage might mention the prior significance of the location, including its history with regard to archaeological finds. Ms. Payne noted there is a state historic marker near the site, although it does not note the archaeological significance of the location.

Mr. Ulmer recalled that at an earlier time, the Committee had discussed participating in the WaterWorks 2011 project. He had spoken to a representative of the Utilities Department about this, and was advised that when the City Commission originally approved WaterWorks, it was their intent that it be a Centennial project. He asked if the Committee should submit a list of suggested legacy projects to the City Commission. Vice Chair Crawford pointed out that the Commission has approved the historical markers, park plaques, and work on the Sistrunk monument and the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, and asked how they might add WaterWorks, as this project is now nearly complete.

- **Park Plaques Project Continuation**

Ms. Vezina stated three plaques have been installed to date, with the next to be placed in George English Park. The tentative date for this installation is October 27, 2011. The remaining plaques will be placed in their respective parks before the end of the year, including one at Bass Park on December 31. This means the intent is to have all park plaques installed by the end of the calendar year.

Ms. Payne asked if the Committee could recommend to the City Commission that when a new park is opened, a plaque explaining why or how the park got its name be placed there. Ms. Vezina asked how this information might be found by the City, noting that the Committee's information was located by Ms. Gillis. Ms. Payne noted that the Committee had opted to install the plaques in older parks, where the honorees may have been difficult to research; however, with more recent parks, this information might be found in the honoree's obituary.

**Motion** made by Ms. Payne, seconded by Ms. Casteel, that the Committee recommends to the City Commission to continue the park plaques program as new parks are opened, and as funds become available to install plaques describing the achievements of the honorees of the existing parks. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Ms. Lee proposed that all the Committee's recommendations, such as the above motion, be compiled in a single document "going forward into perpetuity." Ms. Payne agreed that they could look back at suggestions made by the Committee and perhaps compile them at the next meeting.

### **III. New Business**

- **Extension of Speakers Bureau and Traveling Exhibits into 2012**

Ms. Payne and Vice Chair Crawford advised that the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society will be handling the scheduling of speakers and exhibits, as well as moving the exhibits from place to place.

- **Partnership with Broward County Historical Commission to Host Pioneer Day**

Ms. Vezina explained that Broward County hosts an annual Pioneer Day, and it was determined that the Fort Lauderdale Centennial would be a good "tie-in" event. The Historical Commission would like to host Pioneer Day in Fort Lauderdale this year. The event would be held between October and mid-December 2011. Each of the City Commissioners has been invited to nominate a pioneer who will be recognized at the event.

Chair Shaw asked what obligations this would mean for the City. Ms. Vezina said the partnership has already received preliminary approval from the City

Commission; they would host the event, working with the Historical Commission, and put forth the five nominated pioneers. The Historical Commission would work with the other participating municipalities in Broward County, each of which would also have the opportunity to nominate two pioneers to be recognized at the event. They would also distribute a program at the event.

Mr. Willey asked if there would be financial obligations. Ms. Vezina replied that there might be some costs for refreshments at and promotion of the event, and reiterated that the City Commission has already indicated its support of these minor expenses, which will not exceed \$2,000.

She added that the audience at Pioneer Days typically consists of the families of the recognized pioneers. There are approximately 50 pioneers, which means roughly 200 to 250 people normally attend the event. The prospective location is outdoors, near the History Center.

**Motion** made by Ms. Mergenhagen, seconded by Ms. Rizor, that the Committee support partnering with the Commission on Pioneer Day. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

- **Presentation of Founding Pioneer List**

Ms. Vezina recalled that there had been previous discussion of formally presenting this list at a City Commission meeting. Vice Chair Crawford noted that the document lists the names of 700 individuals living in Fort Lauderdale in 1911, and advised that if it was formally presented at a City Commission meeting, it would be included in the record of that meeting.

Ms. Vezina suggested that a copy of the list could be presented to the Mayor and City Commission, and permanently displayed at City Hall. Ms. Payne proposed that a link to the annotated list could be added to the document as well, and recommended that both Ms. Gillis and representatives of the Trailblazers be invited to the City Commission meeting as well.

- **Report to Commission of Centennial Activities and Initiatives**

Ms. Lee proposed that before or after the final Centennial event on December 31, the Committee should make a professional presentation to the City Commission, showing their activities and accomplishments from the past year. She also suggested placing an ad in the *Sun-Sentinel*, thanking everyone who had helped with Centennial events.

The Committee briefly discussed whether it would be best to make the presentation to the Commission in December 2011 or January 2012. It was

determined that they would plan to make the presentation at the December 6, 2011 City Commission meeting.

Vice Chair Crawford commented that a great deal of history has been included in the Centennial celebration. Ms. Vezina added that Ms. Gillis has also compiled documents related to Seminole history and women's history. This information will ultimately be compiled into a single document online. She noted that there is still additional information to be included.

Ms. Mergenhagen stated that the Centennial project of refurbishing the Marshall Bridge has encountered a "speed bump," primarily because the County will not begin painting the bridge until a specific time and tiles may not be installed until January 2012. She explained that the group in charge of the project is concerned that it will not be considered a Centennial project if it is not complete. It was agreed that the project would not lose its Centennial designation.

Ms. Vezina asked if the entire Committee could work on compiling a list of every individual, entity, or group that has helped with Centennial events and should be thanked. These lists could be sent to her office. Ms. Vezina requested that the names be sent to her by October 28, 2011.

#### **IV. Other Matters of Interest**

- **Confirm Date of Next Meeting**

Chair Shaw asked if the Committee would like him to work with Ms. Vezina to set the date of the next meeting on an "as needed" basis.

Ms. Payne proposed that a meeting date be set so the members can review their report to the City Commission. As the report would be presented in December, she suggested that the Committee meet in mid-October.

Ms. Vezina requested that a Committee member work with her office in preparing the final report. Ms. Lee suggested that someone from the historical fact-finding group would be best for this.

After further discussion the Committee determined that they would work on establishing a meeting date in late October.

#### **Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.