HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES

Date: Tuesday, July 16, 2019
Time: 9:00 AM
Location: City Council Chambers - 315 E. Kennedy Blvd., 3rd Floor

Call to Order
Chair Vivian Salaga called meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Silent Roll Call
Commissioners Present: Dominique Cobb, Patricia Ortiz, Dr. Thomas Pluckhahn, Vivian Salaga, and Missy Schukraft

Commissioners Arriving After Roll Call:

Commissioners Absent: Dr. Ralph Moon

Staff Present: Dennis Fernandez, Elaine Lund, and Beverly Jewesak

Legal Staff: Rachel Peterkin

Commissioners introduced themselves and their position on the Board.

Swear In: Beverly Jewesak swore in all owners, applicants, interested parties, and witnesses in the City Council Chambers.

Announcements: Dennis Fernandez, Architectural Review and Historic Preservation Manager

Election of Officers
Dennis Fernandez stated it was time to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair to serve. Those currently serving could continue, if they agree to serve for another year, or the Board could nominate a new individual to take over those duties. He stated that he will accept nominations for Chair and then Vice-Chair and affirm that the individual is in agreement to serve, and the individual who gets the most votes will serve in that position for the next year.

The floor was opened to nominations for Chair. Commissioner Schukraft nominated Commissioner Salaga for Chair. Commissioner Salaga accepted the nomination. No other nominations were provided. The Commission voted Commissioner Salaga to the position of Chair by a vote of 4-0-1, with Commissioner Salaga abstaining.
The floor was opened to nominations for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Pluckhahn nominated Commissioner Ortiz for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Ortiz accepted the nomination. No other nominations were provided. The Commission voted Commissioner Ortiz to the position of Vice-Chair by a vote of 4-0-1, with Commissioner Ortiz abstaining.

**Review of Minutes:** March 12, 2019, Minutes: Chair Salaga stated that the minutes stand as read.

**Property addition to work plan: Giunta Homestead and Farm**

Elaine Lund, Historic Preservation Specialist, presented a PowerPoint presentation of the Giunta Homestead and Farm. In 1907, Salvatore and Victoria Giunta traveled by ship to the United States from Santo Stefano Quisquina, Sicily, Italy. Like many other immigrants from central Sicily, they came to Ybor City, where work and wages were plentiful. These families settled on the east side of Ybor City in former celery fields, beyond the area built up with cigar factories and worker housing. Being peasant farmers, the Giuntas brought seeds with them from their home. Once the family saved the money to purchase land at the corner of 24th Street and 11th Avenue, they began to farm their heirloom produce and herbs, with which they supplemented their income. The Giuntas acquired more land and built their home in 1924. Like many of their Sicilian neighbors who owned similar homesteads, the family grew their own food, raised their own chickens, baked bread in their outdoor oven, and were largely self-sufficient. The Giunta family still lives in the 1924 house and maintains the property: nearly an entire block containing the house, auxiliary buildings, farmland, and a fruit orchard. The Giunta Homestead and Farm is the only remaining example of an early Sicilian immigrant family homestead and farm in Ybor City. The 1924 house, a two-story bungalow with a porte-cochere, is an excellent example of the Craftsman-style homes of the 1920s found throughout the locally-designated Ybor City Historic District and the Ybor City National Historic Landmark District. The main body of the house has a front-gabled roof, and a side gable roof covers the second story, in camelback fashion. The roof and the exposed rafter tails are covered with V-crimp metal panels. The wood frame structure is clad in a narrow horizontal siding with fish scale in the front gable end. The double-hung wood sash windows are frequently paired, with full-length wood screens, and the front door is surrounded by sidelights and a transom. While the windows, doors, and corners have simple trim, Craftsman detailing is seen in the elaborate brick work in columns for the front porch and the porte-cochere, the decorative gable trusses, and the heavy, arched porch beam and angled porch rail. The Giunta Homestead and Farm is entirely included within the boundaries of the locally-designated Ybor City Historic District. However, the boundary of the 1990 Ybor City National Historic Landmark District bisects the property, excluding the farm. While the Sicilian immigrants’ farms are briefly mentioned in both the local and national district reports, they do not call out these farms as a significant resource type. Local Landmark Designation of the Giunta Homestead and Farm would honor this legacy and provide enhanced protection for the property as a whole. Therefore, staff recommends that the Giunta Homestead and Farm be added to the work plan for the Historic Preservation Commission so that it can be considered for Local Landmark Designation.

Current owners of the Giunta Homestead and Farm, Victoria and Beatrice Giunta, spoke to the board about their family history and answered questions from the Commissioners.

Public Comment: None

**Commissioner Cobb** – What type of vegetables or herbs are you currently growing on the property?

**Victoria Giunta** – We are still growing on the property, however, due to weather conditions changing over the years, our growing season is from late October to harvesting between the months of February to early May. Winter crops are carrots, beets, cauliflower, broccoli and all the standards of that sort. Things that are more delicate like tomatoes don’t do so well. We do plant some unusual things; some are from the Sicilian culture like the vegetable called cardoon. Cardoon is in the family of the artichoke. But unlike eating the fruit of the artichoke, you eat the leaves of cardoon. The leaves are very spiny and they are prepared by shaving the
greenery off and then cooking the stems in a certain way and these make patties. This is a tradition of Sicilian cooking. In addition to that we have the seeds that my Grandparents brought over. We don’t plant the same seeds, and they have been harvested each year as we grow crops. We always try to maintain those. Those seeds are various types of endive and chard. In the Italian culture we call them “gidi”. It makes a very tasty and unusual pizza pie that is a delicacy.

Commissioner Ortiz: Do you still keep bees on the property?

Beatrice Giunta – After our brother’s death in 2004, my sister received help from a local bee keeper to start taking care of the hives which we did for several years ourselves. After a certain amount of time, we had to discontinue having the bee hives, which my brother had there for many years.

Victoria Giunta – What we do for the bees is that we grow particular crops, one being rapini which you see at the grocery store. We let that vegetable blossom and it creates a fire burst and the bees are all over it, it’s all golden and a beautiful sight. We are lucky on that.

Commissioner Ortiz: I have driven by your property several times in the past and have been very intrigued by it. I’m very happy to have learned something here today.

Victoria Giunta – May I share one other thing, because it was brought up about the early farms, to this day as I excavate to check on watering systems we have underground, I still find the original watering system from the early celery farms. The box is flat on the bottom and triangular on the top and the water ran into these ditches and the ditches ran into these rows of boxes that were underground. That is how they irrigated, and I still see pieces of the cypress wood.

Commissioner Schukraft: I want to thank you so much for coming today and giving us this wonderful presentation. I really appreciate your family’s commitment to preserving a part of our history in Tampa and particular Ybor City that not a lot of people know. And to that end, I hope this designation will allow resources to help you archive so much of the information that you both carry with you. And I hope the City can assist in that manner. Thank you again. Very much appreciated.

Commissioner Salaga: I too thank you, as well. Hopefully, this designation will also allow you to do future planning so that the farm can carry on in perpetuity in some manner or another. It would certainly be a shame to see it not continue.

Commissioner Pluckhahn: I don’t have anything else to add except; this is just a great example of integrity and significance to the register.

Motion: Patricia Ortiz Second: Dr. Thomas Pluckhahn

I move that we adopt the staff recommendation and add the Giunta Homestead and Farm to the HPC work plan based upon the fact that the property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history, it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a specific time and period, and has yielded information important to our history.

The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0-0.

Interstate Historic Preservation Trust Fund:
Dennis Fernandez, Architectural Review and Historic Preservation Manager presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Interstate Historic Preservation Trust Fund. Over the last fourteen years this incentive program has received funds from the relocated and sold properties related to interstate expansion. Due also to the protections within the National Preservation Act, once an area is determined to be significant then proper mitigation has to happen with impacts that those historic resources receive. Within the area of Interstates 4 and 275, there has been ongoing expansion, and the Section 106 process resulted in some funds being available to the City for its use related to Historic Preservation. In working with the community and the preservation stakeholders, what was determined at that particular time was to create a revolving Trust Fund out of the funds we received to be able to assist property owners both in the redevelopment of historic properties and in maintaining properties to continue to be occupied by their owners.

Interstate Historic Preservation Trust Fund Mission:
To accelerate the exterior historic preservation of properties in the National Register Historic Districts of Ybor City, Tampa Heights, and West Tampa.

A photo presentation of properties awarded loan, grant, and matching funds for various projects were presented. Since 2005 the Interstate Preservation Trust Fund Loan Program has awarded $4,693,324 in loans. We are currently accepting loan applications until September 4, 2019. Since 2007 Interstate Preservation Trust Fund Grant Program has awarded $692,596 in grants. We are currently accepting applications until October 2, 2019. The Matching Grant Program has a limited eligibility due to it being for property owners that received the relocated properties that were part of the MOA and a number of non-profit organizations did receive those structures like the Ybor City Museum Society, who received a number of structures along 19th Street. Also Tampa Preservation Inc. was a recipient of a structure that was rehabilitated. The Matching Grant Program has an open application deadline.

For more information on these programs interested parties should contact the Architectural Review & Historic Preservation Division for the City of Tampa at (813) 274-3100, Option 3 or https://www.tampagov.net/historic-preservation/programs/trust-fund-program.

Commissioner Cobb: How do you disseminate this information?

Dennis Fernandez: Presentations like this is one way. We place the deadlines on the City’s bulletin board and CTTV station, and we also send out letters to the homeowner associations within the Ybor City, Tampa Heights, and West Tampa areas. We also take opportunities to visit neighborhood meetings to speak on the various programs we offer.

Commissioner Salaga: I would like to add that the three neighborhood associations involved are very proactive, they talk to each other, and typically there is not a lack of information available through the neighborhood associations.

Dennis Fernandez: Once a project is completed in an area we typically get other neighbors inquiring, and that is a good way to get the word out.

Ybor City Local Historic District Guidelines:
Dennis Fernandez gave a brief update on the revision process of the Ybor City Historic District Guidelines. Since we last met we have been working the City’s Contract Administration department to identify qualified firms to be able to bid on the revisions to the design guidelines. Contract Administration will be reaching out to those firms for proposals. My expectation is to have an identified firm by our next meeting and an outline of the time frame for at least the public engagement portion of the revision process. I’ll continue to bring you updates.
**Date and Time of Next HPC Meeting**
September 17, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

**New Business**

**Commissioner Salaga:** I’d like to draw everyone’s attention to the flyer included in our packets today for the celebration of the Cuban Club’s Centennial on Friday, July 26th. It’s really a remarkable building and if you haven’t been inside of it yet, it would be wonderful if you could take advantage of this opportunity and visit the building.

**Dennis Fernandez:** The social clubs throughout the historic areas, but particularly in Ybor City that are still active, really take a dedicated group of individuals to sustain those buildings. As you can see, architecturally elaborate buildings and older buildings are very expensive to maintain. These organizations are to be commended and it is always wonderful to see a property like the Cuban Club being restored both through private and public funds and I think this is a good opportunity to showcase some of the successes there.

**Commissioner Salaga:** Hillsborough County also runs a program for Historic Preservation Challenge grants and I know the Cuban Club has been a recent recipient twice, which really helps to provide some impetus and some leverage in order for these owners to take advantage of these restoration programs.

**Rachel Peterkin – Chair Salaga,** before moving for adjournment, maybe you could have a motion to receive and file any documents presented at this hearing.

**Motion:** Patricia Ortiz  
**Second:** Dr. Pluckhahn

Motion to receive and file all documents presented during this public hearing.

The motion was granted with a vote of 5-0-0.

**Adjournment**
10:11 a.m.

Approved: _____________________________ Date: ____________________

Vivian Salaga – Chair