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***Town of Micanopy***

***Planning & Historic Preservation Board***

***Regularly Scheduled Meeting***

***Tuesday • December 17, 2019 – 7:00 pm***

1. Call to Order: 7:03 p.m.

2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance to Flag:

3. Roll Call:

Board Members

Ann Baird, Vice Chair -- Present

Tom Brady -- Absent

H. Grace Fuller -- Present

David Massey -- Present

Fro Warren, Chair -- Present

Andrea Parker, Town Attorney -- Present

Patty Polk, Deputy Town Clerk -- Present

4. Swearing in of new Board Member, Dakota Johnson. Attorney Parker swore in Mr. Johnson and he was seated at the dais.

5. Agenda Approval:

***Motion made and seconded (Baird/Johnson) to approve the agenda as amended, adding Transparency of Board Activities under New Business; passed 4-0***

6. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: November 19, 2019 – Regular Called Meeting Minutes

***Motion made and seconded (Baird/Fuller) to approve the November 19, 2019 regularly called meeting minutes as amended, adding Attorney Swore in Robert Lockward under section 7 after line #3; passed 4-0***

6. Citizen’s Forum: None

7. Public Hearings:

8. New Business:

* Transparency of Board Activities – H. Grace Fuller brought up this subject.

She has spoken with citizens regarding the dissemination of inaccurate information about subjects which have been discussed by P&HPB members in meetings. The Town Administrator had stated that minutes of the P&HPB meetings are not posted on the Town website; Fuller feels very strongly that the meeting minutes should be posted on the website and available to everyone. Polk explained that the Town Commission will need to direct the Town Administrator to add P&HPB minutes to the website. Troy Blakely, NE Seminary Ave, stated that anyone can request minutes at any time and they will be provided. Bud DesForges, NE Seminary Ave, brought this topic up at the last Town Commission meeting because, although he knows that he can request copies, he looked online and didn’t see any other Board minutes except the Town Commission meeting minutes. Blakely does agree that all Board minutes should be included. Attorney Parker explained that we have recently had to take down the website for the Town’s protection, rebuild it to be ADA compliant to avoid law suits, and when posting to the website we have been very careful to make sure everything is posted correctly. Fuller understands that the minutes had previously been posted in Town Hall and would like them posted again. David Massey, NE Seminary Ave, stated that rumors will fly no matter what, but he hopes that posting minutes would help control misinformation. Fuller stated that not everyone has the ability to go online or may not want to ask for minutes for various reasons. Dakota Johnson stated that there are citizens, due to health issues, who cannot come in to request minutes. Chair Warren does agree that transparency is important, and he will discuss this with the Town Commission. Stoney Slaton, NE Seminary Ave, stated that there are other ways to get the information to the citizens such as through live streaming and software programs that convert dialogue. Fuller heard that some people are planning to record the meeting and post it on *You Tube*. Attorney Parker stated that if someone wants to record the meetings, they are more than welcome and could put it on their personal *You Tube* channel. Fuller questioned if she posts on *Micanopy Matters* would this be a problem? Attorney Parker reminded everyone of the Sunshine Laws and that Board Members should not comment on anything that may come before the Board.

***Motion made and seconded (Fuller/Johnson) to strongly request to the Town Commission that all minutes be posted online and physically posted in Town Hall to include all Board and Committee minutes; passed 4-0***

9. Old Business:

* Town Entrance Triangle on NW Seminary Ave and CR234 – In limbo until we find out from the school what they want to do, as they have been parking over there.
* Accessory Building & Recommendations – Fuller stated that anything they have discussed on this topic is just discussion at this point. It will be up to the Town Commission to approve this document. People have approached her regarding 25’ setbacks for accessory buildings stating that that would not work for them. This is not a finished document and public comment is always welcome. Residents can apply for variances if the code doesn’t work for a property. Discussion ensued at length. Discussion will continue on page 8 at the next meeting.
* Airbnb/Short-Term Rentals – Ann Baird discussed an article she read about people who are making money by renting out a room or their entire house through Airbnb’s. H. Grace Fuller stated that investors are purchasing homes and turning them into Airbnb’s. Chair Warren stated that we cannot regulate Airbnb’s as it’s being challenged at the State level; the only thing we can require is an occupational license (business tax receipt). Attorney Parker will continue to monitor the case on appeal in Miami, and she will keep us posted.
* Bicentennial Celebration 2021 – Keep this in mind as it is coming up fast; the Town will be 200 years old in 2021.
* Micanopy Cemetery Lots – This was brought up at the Town Commission, and Fro is confident that the commission will incorporate the adjoining lots into the cemetery in the next few months. H. Grace Fuller discussed that it was mentioned at the Commission meeting that The *Battle of Micanopy* had taken place on those lots, and she is going to reach out to Chris Monaco and see what knowledge he has. When she mentioned a ‘dig’ she meant an archeology dig, which means they’re looking for information, not for artifacts. After the dig is complete, the land becomes usable. Chair Warren stated that an archeology dig can be very expensive. Fuller will investigate the process and the possibility of help from the University of Florida, and she will present it to the Town Commission.

10. Board Member Comments:

* Dakota Johnson stated that it was a heck of a first meeting.
* H. Grace Fuller thanked everyone for giving her the space and place to express some very passionate feelings she has for the wellbeing of this Town and what the Board is hoping to do. She wished everyone Happy Holidays.
* Ann Baird welcomed Dakota to the Board and is happy to have him. She wishes every meeting was like this as we learn more, and we learn which direction to go. We need more people here to give their opinions.
* Fro Warren told Dakota about his first meeting. “He showed up for his first meeting and the Chairman of the Board accused the, then Town Administrator, of having sham meetings; they were pointing and screaming at each other. The Chair resigned and another member was appointed as Chair. He walked out wondering what had he gotten himself into.”

11. Adjournment: 8:04 pm

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MINUTES APPROVED:

As submitted\_\_\_\_As amended\_\_\_\_ at Planning & Historic Preservation Board Meeting\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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JP Warren, Chair Patty S Polk, Recorder