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**Planning & Historic Preservation Board**

Tuesday • November 17, 2020 • 7:00pm

**Minutes Regularly Scheduled Meeting**

1. Call to Order: 7:00 p.m.

2. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance to Flag:

3. Roll Call:

Board Members

Ann Baird, Vice Chair -- Present

Marian Baron -- Present

Stephen Elder -- Absent

Dakota Johnson -- Present

Fro Warren, Chair -- Present

Scott Walker, Town Attorney -- Present

Patty Polk, Deputy Town Clerk -- Present

4. Consent Agenda Approval:

1. Agenda Approval
2. Minutes of Regular Meeting October 27, 2020

***Motion made and seconded (Baird/Baron) to approve the agenda and October 27, 2020 Regularly Called Meeting Minutes as submitted; Passed 5-0***

1. Citizens Forum

* Stoney Slaton *(104 NE Seminary Ave)* in the northernmost median on Cholokka Blvd, there is a sun dial which was installed by the girl scouts some time ago. Is there any way possible to move this sundial to the southernmost median as there is more open space without trees? Chair Warren answered that this is Town property and you can take this to the Town Commission.
* Bud DesForges *(554 NW Seminary Ave*) in that same northernmost median there is a huge Silver Palmetto in front of the Outpost, and it has gotten out of hand and is becoming a traffic hazard. Further, Bud stated that the Silver Palmetto is a specimen plant *(it is not on the Specimen Tree list)* but could be cut back to one third of its size or maybe some of it could be replanted elsewhere. *(Deputy Town Clerk Polk asked Public Works about the palm, but it had already been trimmed as part of a regular maintenance routine.)*

6. Public Hearings – None

7. New Business: None

8. Unfinished Business

* Duke Energy LED Lights – Discussion ensued.

Ann Baird has looked at the sample Micro LED Lights and they are a lot softer light, and more of a yellowish light. She likes them but wonders if they provide enough light?

Marian Baron has viewed the lights, as well, and she felt that that the Micro LEDs do provide enough light, just not as big of a spread, and that’s what the people wanted. Her feeling is that there is a major cost for replacing all the current lights with the Micro lights. We should be concerned with individual residents with specific problems who are being impacted, and we should be selective about replacing lights only in areas adjacent to some of the larger lights causing a quality of life issue. If we are going to make any major investment with lighting, she thinks that should be done after careful review, planning, and consideration. Further, as technology is always changing, is it possible that Duke will be coming to us in a few years looking to replace the existing lights? If we’re thinking

of making an investment in lighting, we might want to consider changing out light posts in our historic district on Cholokka Blvd. with something more historic.

Ann Baird discussed lamp posts along Cholokka Blvd, which is a County-owned road. Baron brought up that Gainesville has more historic-looking lights and the possibility of getting the County to invest. Attorney Walker stated that the City of Newberry had installed the period-looking lights on State Rd. 26 and Main Street and thought that High Springs had also installed some lights. Attorney Walker thought that some of funding could have come from Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) funding. However, the City of Newberry does not have a CRA, but they had an ‘adopt a light program’ where some of the businesses downtown contributed to a light. He doesn’t remember the cost of each lamp post, but it was an effective way of the City doing what it is that you’re talking about. Baron discussed that there are many ways to accomplish getting historic-looking lights installed by possibly applying for infrastructure grants, and she has contacts in Gainesville who she will contact to learn more about the CRA program and how they funded downtown street lighting.

Stoney Slaton, appreciates the Micro lights and the footprint they offer. He has a light across from his house which causes light trespass, but it doesn’t glare into his bedroom. The Micro light would work better and could be considered for residential streets. Baird thought that the Micro light on Ocala Avenue is nice. Baron suggested that the Town send out a 30-day notice to the community stating that residents should contact the Town for an evaluation of any problem light. Any resident who has a specific complaint could express their desire to have a change made to the light. Chair Warren questioned if an email would suffice and Baron thought that a more appropriate method of notification could be found. Polk suggested that we email the notice and post it at Town Hall and the post office. Bud DesForges expressed that the Micro lights are good. He agreed that we need a better way to communicate with the citizens, and he thought that the office probably has a resident LED complaint call list which could be used.

***Motion made and seconded (Baron/Johnson) to ask the Town Administrator to inform the citizens of the possibility of problematic street light replacement adjacent to their properties; passed 4-0***

* Speeding on Tuscawilla Road and Seminary Avenue – Possibility of adding more stop signs and/or speed signs

Marian Baron had provided a map at the last meeting and has adjusted it per discussion. She eliminated anything adjacent to the MACS school because she thinks that should be addressed as a separate issue. She believes that we should ask what MACS’ plans are for the property purchased across the street and warn them of the potential dangers of people crossing from this property to the school. They may want to make up their own safety plan. She had a brief conversation with the Town Administrator who brought up the topic that the Town may be taking on responsibility and/or liability if we put in speed humps and crosswalks. Additionally, Baron noticed that when driving west on Seminary towards CR234 the speed sign for MACS is after entry drive therefore not providing enough warning to drivers. Also sign states from 7:45 am but people are arriving at 7:15 am; this sign should be moved. On her revised map, Baron had added a speed hump on Division Street per discussion at our last meeting. Baird likes the *4-way* *Stop* signs because they are really effective and Dakota Johnson agreed. He acknowledged that there are already two speed humps on Division Street and three *Stop* signs.

Baird has been observing cars going over the speed hump on Cholokka Blvd. near Bay Ave and noticed that vehicles do slow down even if they go around the speed hump. Slaton is waiting for someone to scrub their tire on the tall curb and roll their car while going around the speed hump. Baron thought that they should have put the speed hump all the way to the curb as no one should be parking there. Warren answered that it is legal parking. Baron stated that the owners of that building park their cars on either on the sidewalk or on the street. Discussion ensued if it is legal to park on the sidewalk in front of their building.

DesForges is in total agreement with the *4-way Stop*, but doesn’t like the idea of adding more speed humps. He knows that people speed on Tuscawilla Rd. which has a 30MPH speed limit. He is very cognizant of sandhill cranes and wildlife and doesn’t think that speed humps are necessary or conducive for slowing traffic. Drivers will get used to the locations of the speed humps and will speed in between them. Baird questioned if we can put a *Stop* sign on Tuscawilla Rd., which would require a *3-way Stop*. DesForges answered that Tuscawilla Rd. is a County road and that they are not going to put in *Stop* signs or speed humps. Baron reminded everyone that a citizen on that road requested an additional speed hump. Do we have any other options? Can we get the Sheriff to put in a camera that issues tickets and get revenue from speeding tickets? Chair Warren answered that we wouldn’t get the ticket revenue. Slaton likes the idea of a camera issuing speeding tickets and wanted to know if the Town could purchase a camera and issue our own citations? Attorney Walker answered that we cannot, as legal enforcement is provided through the Sheriff.

Chair Fro stated that in 2017 the Sheriff set up a speed monitoring device and the resulting report said that 35% of the cars were speeding, and that was the end of that. Attorney Walker answered that there is a new Sheriff, Clovis Watson, and an Undersheriff, Joel DeCoursey coming in. Watson is the former City Manager of Alachua and DeCoursey is the currently the City Manager of High Springs and former Chief of Police of Alachua and High Springs; they might be more sensitive to small town issues and traffic problems. The Board discussed inviting the new Sheriff to a meeting to discuss our concerns.

***Motion made and seconded (Baird/Baron) to propose to the Town Commission to install a 4-way Stop at the intersection of NW Seminary Ave and N Division Street and invite the new Sheriff to come to a meeting to discuss our traffic and speeding concerns; passed 4-0***

9. Board Member Comments:

* Marian Baron (Seat 1) – None
* Ann B. Baird (Seat 2) – The bench by the post office belongs to the post office and is in need of repair; Chair Warren will look at it to see if he can fix it.
* Stephen (Dakota) Johnson (Seat 3) – Is happy to be back to in-person meetings and talking to you guys in person instead of staring at us through his phone.
* Stephen Elder (Seat 5) – Absent

10. Chair Report Fro Warren (Seat 4) – questioned Attorney Walker about County Amendment 1which just passed; how does this affect Micanopy, Florida? Walker responded that it affects Micanopy because the County has established a growth area map around the Town and around each one of the cities in Alachua County. If you annex into the area included in the growth-area map portion of the property, then the County retains control of how that property develops as opposed to the Town of Micanopy having control. We believe this is a Home Rule power issue more than anything else. If I’m a property owner of a parcel of land contiguous to the Town, meet the requisites, want to voluntarily annex into the Town of Micanopy, want to come to this Board for my planning, zoning, and historic issues, and come here to be represented by the Town Commission; that is one of the major reasons for petitioning for volunteer annexation. Volunteer annexation is the typical way that all cities grow. For the County to step in and say that they have the better idea or a more paternalistic view of the way the Town of Micanopy should govern itself, is an issue of what Home Rule power is all about. The issue is that the ballot question that was up for vote on the ballot didn’t really tell the voter what the County is doing, and it is being challenged in court right now. The City of Alachua (which is expanding expeditiously) was the first one out of the box to file a lawsuit; the Town of Micanopy (having minimal annexation) is not part of the lawsuit. There is an attorney in Tallahassee, David Theriaque, who has filed a lawsuit against the County challenging exactly the issue that Fro raised about amendment language on the ballot and if it properly informed the voter of the issue.

11. Adjournment 8:28 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