

Naples Historical Society, Inc.
Naples Historic District Initiative Workshop Goals

Naples Historical Society hopes to discuss with City Council these potential policy-changing subject-matters with regard to historic preservation:

- A. The Society recommends that City Council acknowledge the updated list of Contributing Structures based on the final decision by the National Register (estimated around May 11, 2017).
- B. National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) decisions (e.g. base flood elevation exemptions) rely on what is deemed historic per the Florida State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the National Register of Historic Places. Steve Martin confirmed this in an email dated December 16, 2015. Ruben Acosta and Jason Aldridge, both of the FL Dept. of Historical Resources confirmed, too.
- C. With regard to Florida Building Code, Chapter 12, Historic Buildings:
 1. The “program” that FL Building Code refers to in Chapter 12, Historic Buildings, is a program of SHPO until a transfer of authority is provided to Naples (which occurs after a formal request is approved—letter from the Mayor, Resolution or Ordinance, DRB role and DRB resumes).
 2. FL Building Code does not require a community to be a Certified Local Government (CLG) for historic preservation purposes, although a binding decision by the FL Building Commission may be desired.
 3. The definition of what is historic is based on Exception #2 (for historic houses IN the District) and #3 (for historic houses OUT of the District).
- D. City Council should determine if Naples should pursue becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG). The Society recommends against this because Michael Zimny, CLG Coordinator in Tallahassee, confirmed that Naples does not need to be a CLG in order to have an historic preservation program (March 6, 2017 email to Mr. Moss).
- E. The Society asks all to understand that the historic preservation process relies basically on two basic questions: (1) Is the historic house in the Naples Historic District?, and (2) What are the modification plans? The Society prepared a Chart to demonstrate the potential process.
- F. The Society believes that the existing Design Review Board’s purpose and expertise are more than adequate to handle design review modification requests for historic houses. The alternative is to create a new commission, which is not recommended, or to go through the Collier County Historical & Archeological Preservation Board via an inter-local agreement. The Society recommends against this as well (since a CLG is not necessary for historic preservation).

- G. Naples City Council should consider amending the 50% rule to reflect a shorter timeline for substantial improvements (to 6 months from 12 months). This is for those historic houses that are not in the District or have not received individual historic recognition by the State of Florida. The Society believes that if modification requests deviate from historic integrity, the DRB will render judgment accordingly.
- H. The Society respectfully requests a date to workshop proposed draft design guidelines for historic houses AND for new construction in the vernacular at the DRB. Learning of the DRB's discussion and decisions may facilitate City Council's final decisions.
- I. The Society respectfully requests that Council consider the value of investing in an historic preservation specialist so that historic preservation takes pro-active outreach; this would be for an 18-24 month period and would not be a full-time staff member, but rather through a 1099 contractor.
- J. The Society asks for a preliminary timeline to get this project to City Council for a full hearing, and weave that into the timeline for the Comprehensive Plan due date, September 1, 2017, so that Naples' historic preservation program, in its finished, form is included.
- K. **The Society asks for a confirmation for a May 15, 2017, workshop so that the City of Naples can formalize the discussion with Naples Historical Society and ensure staff has appropriate direction.**

END