



Alachua County Advisory Board Program

Historical Commission

Pat Moore, Chair
Bonita Dewiliby Moore, Vice Chair
Melanie Barr, Secretary

January 13, 2020

Sarit Sela, AIA, Architect/ City of Gainesville FL

Dear Sarit,

The Alachua County Historical Commission at a regular meeting on January 13 discussed the Gainesville Masonic Lodge. This building is already listed on the National Register, evidence of its importance to local history and the quality of the architecture. It is important to the streetscape in downtown, and its unique architecture is important to preserve. We think the Secretary of Interior Standards for Historic Preservation will allow sufficient flexibility for adaptive reuse of the building.

We are a group of volunteers appointed by the County Commission, and act as an advisory group on matters related to County history. We understand any decision to list the Masonic Lodge on the City Historic Register will impact development in the City of Gainesville, matters of which in the past we have not been involved. Yet the importance of this structure to Alachua County is such that our group discussed the effort of City Staff and the January 7, 2020 vote of the City Historic Preservation Board to add this building to the Gainesville Historic Register. Our members are active in local historic organizations within Gainesville as well as several small towns around Alachua County. Collectively and within these various organizations our group researches local history, plans public education events and supports historic preservation. We are aware from presentations by State of Florida Historic Resources Staff that listing on a local register offers the best, in some cases the only, protection to historic buildings. A vote of our group resulted in unanimous support for listing on the City Historic Register. The Alachua County Historical Commission supports the listing of the Masonic Lodge in Gainesville to the Local Historic Register. Please ensure the historical significance is protected and preserved. The economic value of such action will benefit the City now and in the future.

Respectfully,

Pat Moore

Pat Moore, Chair
Alachua County Historical Commission

Xc: Michele Lieberman, Alachua County Manager