



**City of Gainesville  
Department of Sustainable  
Development  
Planning Division**

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## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT**

### **Activities Report 2019 – 2020**

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD CHAIR:**

**Jay Reeves**

**VICE CHAIR:**

**Bill Warinner**

**MEMBERS:**

**Michelle Hazen  
Elizabeth Hausauer  
Michael Hill**

**Danielle Masse  
Nicole Nesberg**

**Kyra Lucas  
Elizabeth Hauck**

**STAFF LIAISON:**

**Jason Simmons, Planner**



**BACKGROUND AND EXPLANATION:****Background:**

This report is prepared in order to answer a request from the City Commission for an annual report to be submitted from the City of Gainesville advisory boards. The report responds to the following questions:

**A. What do you understand the mission of your board to be?**

Section 30-3.5.A outlines the duties of the Historic Preservation Board. However it should be noted that the duties are done in conjunction with and the support of city staff.

A. *Establishment and purpose.* The Historic Preservation Board (HPB) is hereby created and shall have the following duties:

- (1) Update the official inventory of cultural resources and submit to the City Commission recommendations and documentation concerning such updating.
- (2) Develop programs to stimulate public interest in urban neighborhood conservation, and participation in the adaptation of existing codes, ordinances, procedures and programs to reflect urban neighborhood conservation policies and goals.
- (3) Explore funding and grant sources and advise property owners concerning which might be available for the identification, protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of historic, architectural, archaeological and cultural resources.
- (4) Cooperate with agencies of city, county, regional, state and federal governments in planning proposed and future projects to reflect the concerns and policies expressed in this article, and assist in the development of proposed and future land use plans.
- (5) Advise property owners and local governmental agencies concerning the proper protection, maintenance, enhancement and preservation of cultural resources.
- (6) Advise the City Commission concerning the effects of local governmental actions on cultural resources.
- (7) Conduct regular public meetings and call special meetings.
- (8) Otherwise further the objectives and purposes stated in the historic preservation and conservation regulations of this chapter, which can be found in Article IV, Division 5.
- (9) Report to the City Commission concerning the board's activities at least once a year.
- (10) Review and recommend sites, buildings, structures, objects, areas and districts, both public and private, for listing on the local register for historic places.
- (11) Approve or deny petitions for certificates of appropriateness required under Article IV, Division 5.
- (12) Notify the City Manager, who shall take appropriate action when it appears that there has not been compliance with the requirements of Article IV, Division 5.

The Historic Preservation Board also has review responsibilities related to tax exemptions for historic properties as authorized by Chapter 25 – Taxation, Article IV. Tax Exemption For Historic Properties, in the Code of Ordinances.

**B. What are the three most important things your board has done during calendar years 2019-2020?**

- (1) Review and issuance of certificates of appropriateness.
- (2) Met with the City Commission in joint workshops on April 8, 2019 and on October 28, 2020 to discuss issues and concerns related to historic preservation.
- (3) Expressed the need for changes to the landmark designation process after the demolition of the St. Michael's Episcopal Church. This attention to the urgent need for changes to the process led the board to recommend approval of the local landmark nomination for the placement of the Masonic Lodge #41 onto the Local Register of Historic Places.

**C. What are the three most important things your board is working on right now?**

- (1) Looking at short-term solutions that can be implemented without waiting for new staff members to be hired. This may have led to the active involvement of the HPB in the preservation of the historic Englert House and their efforts to save it from demolition.
- (2) The HPB has voted to support the nominations of the University Evangelical Lutheran Church Complex and the Old Mount Carmel Baptist Church to the National Register of Historic Places.
- (3) Review and issuance of certificates of appropriateness to ensure that renovations of historic properties and new construction proposals are consistent with historic preservation guidelines and that the historic character of the City's historic districts is maintained.

**D. What could the City Commission do to help your board better serve our neighbors?**

- (1) Adequately fund a position for a full-time historic preservation planner.
- (2) Appoint members to the Historic Preservation Board from some of the historic districts that have not been traditionally well represented on the board. This may involve expanding the pool of applicants for board positions.
- (3) Involve the HPB in the City Commission discussions about equitable development.
- (4) Continue annual funding of the HPB at levels that would allow for meeting and training opportunities relevant to the activities of the board.

**E. What else do you need the City Commission to know about your board?**

- (1) The HPB can play a role in the preservation of neighborhoods, including traditionally African-American areas, using historic preservation principles. The HPB is willing to work on these issues even though the neighborhoods may not be in a designated historic district (for example Seminary Lane).

- (2) The HPB can be a player in the promotion of tourism in the City by working to save and utilize historic properties.
- (3) The HPB is passionate about preserving the historic legacy of the City's built environment and will continue to work with the City Commission on improving the quality of life in the City.