

## February 6, 2024 PAST Board (Virtual) Meeting

Zoom meeting began with the following persons in attendance: Marie Prentice, Guy Prentice, Fred Gaske, Hank Kratt, Lonnie Mann, Jeff Mitchem, Haley Weltzien and Heather Young. Lee Yawn joined the meeting a few minutes late due to difficulties logging into Zoom (was unable to attend.)

Marie opened the meeting with an update on the Louis Tesar Scholarship. The scholarship announcement was sent to the FAS board members and to every Florida university that Marie could think of. So far, there have been no applicant responses. If no good candidates materialize by the closing date in May, it was recommended that the scholarship be offered again but in support of field school attendance.

The second topic to be discussed was led by Lonnie Mann who noted that the FSU-TMH construction site is in the vicinity of the Centerville Betton intersection, and that there is the possibility for archeological resources to be present in the area. Lonnie said that it will be brought up as a topic during the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting with the City of Tallahassee staff that Lonnie, Fred, and Guy are scheduled to attend.

The third topic to be discussed was the old Northwood Mall location. The meager archeological documentation indicates that this was once a significant site but it has likely been virtually destroyed. Heather, who has a view of the construction site from her house said that the demolition of the old mall didn't stop at ground level, but it was excavated several feet down. It is possible that some scant remnants may exist outside the fenced area.

The fourth topic to be discussed was the failure of the Riley House staff to follow up with the request for someone to monitor the installation of a new water line. It was presumed that when the Riley House staff approached the City Staff on the idea that it was shot down.

Next on the agenda was the pending meeting with the historical council in support of the Block-Sterns historical marker. Bob Holladay has asked Lonnie and Fred to attend to answer any questions regarding the historical background, but weren't going to have any part in answering or defending the proposed language, which contains very little of the original prepared by PAST. That will be the Parks and Rec's responsibility since they wrote it.

This was followed by a discussion regarding the historical marker concerning the First Christmas that had once been installed near Lake Jackson. A newspaper article written years ago by Gerald Endsley reported that the marker had been moved to the Governor Martin site after it was determined that there was evidence of DeSoto's winter encampment there. Marie was skeptical that the First Christmas historical monument was still located near the Martin House.

Next up on the agenda was participation in the TCC History Fair being held on March 23. Marie won't be able to participate because she will be representing BAR on that day at Mission San Luis. Lonnie could not commit because he had relatives arriving at around that time, but he wasn't sure exactly when. Guy, Fred, and Heather said they would be willing to staff the PAST table at the history fair, other events permitting. In preparation for that event, Marie will be making an inquiry with the Closeline Imprinted Apparel & Products company in Tallahassee to see about getting a new tablecloth with the PAST emblem on it.

Marie then asked Heather how the PAST membership tracking process was going. Heather indicated that she had difficulty with figuring out how PayPal receipts could be used to determine whether membership dues were up to date or not. Marie said she would work with Heather to get PayPal reports set up to help her track membership payments.

Next to be discussed was the potential that Guy and Marie might miss the May PAST meeting when Brent Weisman was scheduled to present because they would be returning from Texas on that date. Haley agreed to be the one to handle setting up and controlling access to the Zoom meeting for Brent's presentation. All that would be needed was for someone to bring their laptop to Goodwood to provide the means of presenting the talk to attendees.

Haley requested that pictures be taken at future meetings so they could be posted at the PAST website. Guy's photo's of the Gray Cottage roof boards was also requested.

This led to Guy summarizing where the dendrochronology analysis results stood. Guy mentioned that there was clearly something to be desired from the received results, perhaps largely due to the lack of a comparative data set from the Tallahassee area. Guy outlined his desire to try and get more reliable analysis, how it might be achieved by getting comparison samples from living trees in the Tallahassee area. Jeff suggested contacting Lee Newsom to see if she know someone with the means of providing more reliable dendro analysis.

The last topic of discussion was insurance renewal. PAST currently pays for liability insurance in the event a volunteer should be injured while participating in PAST sanctioned archeological projects. There is no insurance to cover possible lawsuits against the board members. The latter was deemed unnecessary by the board, and it was recommended to continue with the current insurance coverage.

#### Proposes Speakers for 2023-2024 Season

February – Jeff Shanks will present on Prospect Bluff

March (Florida Archaeology Month) -- Paulette McFadden has agreed to present on Washington Hall

April – Amy Socha

May -- Brent Weisman had volunteered to talk about Indian Key in May.

June – Chris Wilson will present on Maclay Gardens

September – join presentation by Marie and Kimberlyn of MFH on the original Tallahassee town square and related artifacts.

October – Guy will present on either Gray Cottage or R. A. Shine