

November 7, 2023 PAST Board (Virtual) Meeting

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

Marie opened the meeting with an update on the Louis Tesar Scholarship. A thank you letter has been sent to Dan and Phyllis Morse for their \$500 donation, but has yet to send one to Louis Tesar for his matching contribution. Marie confirmed that the previous scholarship was \$1000 so that amount will be offered with the next scholarship, the details of which have yet to be hammered out. The proposal that it be opened to all Florida universities was approved by the board as was the proposal that the recipient need to focus their study on some aspect of Florida archaeology.

The second topic to be discussed was the “Keri Post Day” public outreach event scheduled for January 11, 2024. Fred and Lonnie agreed to volunteer to mind a table. Marie will provide artifacts for display.

The third topic to be discussed was recent developments concerning the editorial revisions made to the Block-Sterns historical marker text by the Leon County Parks and Recreation department. As rewritten, this version of the text contains very little of the original prepared by PAST. The PAST board decided that none of the board members would attend the current version to the historical review board to address any issues that the review board may have. That should be the Parks and Rec’s responsibility.

Next up was Guy’s account of what transpired during the SHRUG GIS conference, which he attended as a guest panelist with Marcus Curtis. During the symposium that Marcus Curtis led, Guy was asked to discuss the work that PAST had performed at the Good Hope Cemetery. Guy was forthcoming in saying that the fieldwork had not been able to confirm the cemetery location and that other potential locations would be investigated following completion of a historic study currently underway. Guy also encouraged those in the audience to look into joining PAST.

Lonnie and Fred then discussed their participation in a roundtable discussion on Comprehensive Plan Land Use and Mobility Issues held by the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department. They related that most of the conversations were focused on natural resources and their destruction. Lonnie and Fred use the opportunity to once more call for the creation of a county archeologist. They felt that their input was positively received.

Lonnie and Fred also mentioned that they were still involved with the bicentennial celebration planning meetings with one last meeting to attend being held at WFSU

Jeff Mitchem and his role as FAS liaison was the next area of discussion. Jeff related that the new FAS journal guidelines had been softened by George Luhr so they were nearly as draconian as previously proposed. The main things focused on during the FAS meetings were the new journal guidelines and their ethics policy.

Jeff also related to the board that during the last PAST presentation he was joined in conversation with Jayur Mehta, who indicated he would reach out to FSU students to encourage them to attend future presentations. It is hoped that future presentation announcements will be sent out on AnthroNet. Currently, announcements are being sent to 300+ email addresses.

Marie then asked Heather how her new role as PAST membership director was going. She indicated that she had accessed the Excel membership list and added a new member.

Last to be discussed was the sequence of upcoming guest speakers for future PAST meetings. Below is the currently envisioned schedule for 2024:

January -- Amy Socha, BAR underwater archaeologist, recent FSU graduate and Jessi Halligan student

February -- Jeff Shanks has agreed to talk about Prospect Bluff

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

April -- Guy will present on either Gray Cottage or R. A. Shine

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

June – Chris Wilson will present on Maclay Gardens

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