

March 5, 2024 PAST Board (Virtual) Meeting

Zoom meeting began with the following persons in attendance: Marie Prentice, Guy Prentice, Fred Gaske, Hank Kratt, and Jeff Mitchem. Lonnie Mann, Haley Weltzien, Heather Young and Lee Yawn were not in attendance.

Marie opened the meeting by requesting a summary of the meeting that was held with city staff to discuss the developments at the old Northwood Mall location that was attended by Fred, Lonnie, and Guy. Guy presented a quick summary, mentioning that most of the discussion centered on the possibility that although the city had considered the site's archaeological resources destroyed by prior construction, there was the possibility that there were intact archaeological deposits buried beneath the fill that was hauled in to level the site. The discussion then turned to how to determine if buried intact deposits were present. It was noted that it was possible that corings taken to evaluate the site for construction, if they exist, could reveal the presence of buried A-horizons. It was also suggested that a power auger could be used to test for buried deposits. With regard to the latter, Guy offered to volunteer his services to help identify the presence of buried archeological deposits if the decision was made to carry on the work. Once again the City staff in attendance voiced appreciation for our concerns, but nothing concrete was offered as a result.

The second topic to be discussed was led by Fred Gaske, which was an update on the Block-Sterns historical marker. Fred related how he, Lonnie and Bob Holladay and a representative of the Miccosukee tribe were in attendance at the historical review meeting where the proposed text for the marker was discussed by the review board. At the meeting it was learned that the revised (saccharine) version that had been proposed by the Parks and Recreation staff had been greatly toned down, but still wasn't the straight forward text that Lonnie had originally developed. During the meeting, the Miccosukee representative voiced his concern that the marker would attract looters. He also requested that the word "burial" be removed with regard to the mound so as not to attract looters.

This was followed by a discussion regarding PAST's representation at the TCC History Fair on Saturday, March 23. Marie indicated that Dave and Sally Pontis agreed to do the afternoon shift along with Lonnie if he was available if Fred and Guy would do the morning shift. Fred and Guy agreed to that schedule.

Marie then listed off the events that were planned by DHR for Florida archeology month. These included the "Signature Event" that was to occur on March 23 at Mission San Luis, which Marie would be participating in. Also mentioned was Grove Day, which would be held Saturday, March 9, where Marie would also be in attendance (weather permitting) and the guided tour of the Grove that Dr. Sam Wilford would be giving at the Grove on Saturday, March 30 entitled *Archaeology, Games and Play*.

Next to be discussed was Guy's recent efforts to develop content on Richard A. Shine for Marcus Curtis' *History in Your Hands* website in conjunction with the 200th anniversary of the founding of Tallahassee as the Florida state capitol. To familiarize Jeff as to who Shine was, Guy presented a brief overview of what the man accomplished during the early days of the city.

The meeting ended after a quick discussion about future PAST meeting presenters. Proposed Speakers for the remainder of the 2023-2024 Season are:

March (Florida Archaeology Month) -- Paulette McFadden will present on Washington Hall

April – Amy Socha, BAR underwater archaeologist

May -- Brent Weisman will talk about Indian Key in May.

June – Chris Wilson will present on Maclay Gardens

September – There will be a joint presentation by Marie and Kimberlyn Elliot of MFH on the original Tallahassee town square and related artifacts.

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

November - Jeff Mitchem will talk about the history of Florida's State Archaeologists.

Sometime in the spring of 2025, Jerry Lee has agreed to give a presentation on the Apalachee midden feature they he has been excavating these past few months at Mission San Luis.