



Meeting Minutes - Draft
Historical Preservation Committee

Thursday, February 5, 2026

9:00 AM

MacKenzie Hall - 800 Dunlop Road

SUPPLEMENT 1 AS OF 02/2/26: ADDED INFORMATION UNDER NEW BUSINESS ITEM 6(a.); UPDATED ATTACHMENTS UNDER NEW BUSINESS ITEMS 6(b.i), 6(b.ii) & 6(b.ii). RENUMBERED NEW BUSINESS ITEMS 6(a.) & 6(b.).

SUPPLEMENT 2 AS OF 02/3/26: ADDED AGENDA ITEM 6. RENUMBERED ORDER OF AGENDA.

1. Call to Order

The meeting convened at 9:08 A.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gleason led the pledge of allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present: 1 - Committee Member Yvonne Hill

a. Motion to excuse absent member(s):

Committee Member Alfino moved, seconded by Vice Chair Norton to excuse absent Committee Member Jurgens. The motion carried.

Absent: 1 - Committeemember Mary Jurgens

4. Consent Agenda

a. Adoption of the November 6, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Alfino moved, seconded by Committee Member Hill to adopt the November 6, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Excused: 1 - Committeemember Mary Jurgens

5. Public Comment

Richard Birney addressed the committee regarding the Sanibel pier restoration efforts. Mr. Birney stated that he has been meeting with and speaking to members of the community while working on the pier project. He emphasized that the pier has long significant assets to the island, noting that there has

historically always been a pier at this location. He discussed the importance of the pier to the community, including fishermen, families, and visitors, and noted that it has been one of Sanibel's largest tourist attractions. While acknowledging that the pier has always been treated as a focal point, Mr. Birney described it as an essential and defining element of the beach. He stated that a key goal of the project is to better understand incorporate the historical significance of the pier into the restoration.

Chair Gleason noted that Mr. Birney has met with Betty Anholt and highlighted additional historical importance of the pier, including its role in access to the lighthouse and its use as a docking station for the Coast Guard to maintain navigation channels and markers back when. Chair Gleason commended Mr. Birney for taking on the restoration project.

Vice Chair Norton commented that Mr. Birney previously gave a presentation to the Rotary Club, which was well received. Vice Chair Norton noted that the pier restoration is being approached with a focus on resiliency and historical context, while also recognizing that federal guidelines may impose certain limitations. Vice Chair Norton suggested that a presentation may be beneficial for the committee at a future meeting.

The committee inquired about shading at the pier. Mr. Birney responded by explaining that shading would be addressed through the phased approach to the pier rebuild.

6. Historical Museum and Village Executive Report (SUPPLEMENT 2)

Ginny Darby, a board member from the Historical Museum and Village provided a quarterly report of the Historical Museum and Village.

Ms. Darby spoke to the previous executive director, Pam Miner's last day was January 24, 2026. Staff, board members, and volunteers are handling operations and programming. The Historical Museum and Village are currently searching for an interim director. The board needs to address issue of employee retention and overall operation. Ms. Darby continued to speak to current employees.

Annual meeting will be held on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 10 A.M. Tracey Tenney is the current president but her board tenure expires in March.

An update to attendance was provided as follows:

- October 2025 was 157
 - November 2025 was 284
 - December 2025 was 365
- Total regular walk in attendance was 806

Attendance for Tour Groups was as follows:

- December 2025 was 2 tours with a total of 55 attendees

- January 2026 was 2 tours with a total of 55 attendees
- February 2026 currently 2 tours scheduled.

Ms. Darby spoke to volunteers at the Historical Museum and Village. As well as upcoming and past programs.

- Stories from the Sanibel Cemetery, Twilight Talk at Shore Haven, November 18, 2025
- Remembering the Lighthouse, Twilight Talk at Shore Haven, December 16, 2025
- Rutland Mule Matter Revisited, Twilight Talk at Shore Haven, January 20, 2026
- Sanibel's Story - Betty Anholt, Volunteer Update at Shore Haven, December 18, 2025
- Bailey Daughters/Fathers, Volunteer Update, at Sanibel Library, January 12, 2026
- Three Generations of Gavin Family, Volunteer Update, at Shore Haven, February 9, 2026
- History of Hurricanes on Sanibel, at Big Arts, November 8, 2025
- Esperanza Woodring Story, Big Arts, February 11, 2026
- Storm Stories: Hurricane Ian, Big Arts, April 16, 2026
- Storm Stories: Hurricane Ian, Tribby Center, November 17, 2025
- Stories from the Sanibel Cemetery, Shell Point, December 15, 2025
- Sanibel's Story - Betty Anholt, Recreation Center, January 22, 2026.

Ms. Darby spoke to facility updates, Sanibel's Story Voices and Images from Calusa to Incorporate by Betty Anholt, and adding additional storyboards,

Ms. Darby spoke to the Historical Museum and Village going through a rocky patch and has a meeting coming up with a consulting group based out of Naples to assist with Day to Day operations that is needed.

Chair Gleason spoke to Ms. Darby's responsibility on the board.

Discussion ensued regarding story boards at the Village and at the Lighthouse.

7. New Business

a. 2025 Annual Report (SUPPLEMENT 1)

Principal Planner Kim Ruiz stated that the document provided to the committee is a draft and that the committee comments are welcome. Ms. Ruiz reviewed how the Annual Report is documented and organized and provided background information on the formation of the Annual Report

Vice Chair Norton moved, seconded by Committee Member Alfino to adopt the drafted 2025 Annual Report. The motion carried.

Excused: 1 - Committeemember Mary Jurgens

b. Applications for Historic Structures and Sites to be added to the Local Register

During a slower period around the holidays, Principal Planner Kim Ruiz reviewed structures that need to be included in the historic preservation application process for the local registry and explained the reasoning for bringing these structures forward. Ms. Ruiz outlined what is required to be included in the application and provided additional background information and guidance.

Ms. Ruiz requested that the committee members consider whether they would be willing to take responsibility for reviewing or assisting with a few of the identified structures. At this time, the discussion was informational only. Ms. Ruiz noted that the application will need to be added to the online portal.

Ms. Ruiz explained that several of the structures are located on city-owned land. She reviewed the significance of being listed on the local register and discussed the level of protection it provides.

Discussion ensued regarding the information currently included in the applications. The committee discussed pioneers associated with the cemeteries and noted that a previous Historic Preservation Committee had conducted cleanup efforts at the cemeteries. It was noted that the City currently maintains the structures.

Vice Chair Norton volunteered to take photographs of the Sanibel Cemetery.

Discussion ensued regarding conditions of the cemeteries pre Hurricane Ian and post Hurricane Ian. Discussion continued regarding whether the sites should remain low profile or whether attention should be drawn to it.

Further discussion ensued regarding graves, available photos of the Sanibel Cemetery, and the presence and markers.

The committee also discussed the Sanibel Lighthouse, noting that it is listed on the National registry. It was discussed that placement on the local registry provides additional protections for structures. Ms. Ruiz noted that the next update regarding the Lighthouse is anticipated in April.

Ms. Ruiz reviewed the requirements for maintaining the Lighthouse status on the national registry and discussed its current condition. She also spoke to the architectural importance of the Lighthouse and provided background material supporting the recommendation for the structure's designation as a historic site.

- i. Sanibel Lighthouse (SUPPLEMENT 1)
- ii. Sanibel Cemetery (SUPPLEMENT 1)
- iii. Wulfert Cemetery (SUPPLEMENT 1)

8. Reports

a. Planning Department Liaison Report

There was no further liaison report at this time.

The committee inquired about an update on the Cooper Homestead. Principal Planner Kim Ruiz stated that there is no further update on the Cooper Homestead at this time.

Ms. Ruiz shared observations of the structure following Hurricane Ian. The committee asked whether the structure would be demolished. Ms. Ruiz stated that there are no applications for demolition or permits on file at this time.

b. Chairpersons Report

Chair Gleason reported that, as noted at the previous meeting, the School House for Colored Children remains for sale. Chair Gleason stated that she has spoke with the previous owners and provided a brief overview of the historical background of the structure.

Chair Gleason noted that some properties are not currently listed as historic sites that should be.

Discussion ensued regarding certain historic structures that are currently for sale.

Chair Gleason reported that erosion at the Sanibel Lighthouse has not been significant during the winter months. She noted that the temporary fence have been removed to allow for advertising video. However, a permanent fence will still be installed.

Chair Gleason spoke to a presentation provided by the Bailey family.

Chair Gleason also shared information of upcoming talks and presentations at the Historical Museum and Village, including presentations for staff and the board.

c. Committee Member Report

Discussion ensued regarding Black History Month Events.

Discussion continued regarding repairs and changes to the School for Colored Children. It was clarified that the school remains listed on both the National Register and the Local Register. It was noted that this meeting marked Committee Member Hills' final meeting.

Committee Member Alfino provided an update on the Bailey's photographs, including efforts to transfer the photos to an external hard drive for delivery to the Library. Committee Member Alfino also referenced review of the Historic Section of the Sanibel Plan, noting that the plan requires updates to reflect changes that have occurred over the years.

Principal Planner Kim Ruiz stated that the document itself is in the process of being updated and that the consultants have been provided with the updated list.

9. Next Meeting Date

- a. Thursday, May 7, 2026 at MacKenzie Hall

10. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

11. Adjournment

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:16 A.M.