



City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, FL 33957

Meeting Minutes - Draft Historical Preservation Committee

Thursday, May 7, 2026

9:00 AM

MacKenzie Hall - 800 Dunlop Road

1. Call To Order

The meeting convened at 9 A.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

City Attorney John Agnew led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present: 5 - Committee Member Deborah Gleason, Committee Member Patricia Norton, Committee Member Emilie Alfino, Committee Member Mary Jurgens and Committee Member Mary Bondurant

a. Motion to excuse absent member(s):

All members were present.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Adoption of the February 5, 2026, meeting minutes

City attorney John Agnew pointed out the only member that was marked present was Committee Member Hill.

Committee Member Norton moved, seconded by Committee Member Alfino to adopt the February 5, 2026, meeting minutes with the amendments to the roll call. The motion carried.

5. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

6. Historical Museum and Village Executive Report

Planner Kim Ruiz stated that she received notice from the Museum regarding their current internal restructuring and that the Executive Reports will resume in the future.

7. New Business

a. Introduction of new member, Mary Bondurant

City Attorney welcomed new Committee Member Bondurant.

Committee Member Bondurant provided a brief background about herself and expressed her excitement to serve on the Committee.

b. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

City Attorney John Agnew provided a brief overview of the process for electing the Chair and Vice Chair.

Committee Member Norton nominated Committee Member Gleason for Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Member Gleason nominated Committee Member Norton for Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Old Business

a. Draft National Register of Historic Places Registration form for the Sanibel Lighthouse

Planner Kim Ruiz provided an overview of the registration form for the Sanibel Lighthouse's inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. Ruiz discussed the history of the Lighthouse and the criteria that qualify the Lighthouse for listing on the National Register.

Ms. Ruiz explained that staff is seeking to submit the Lighthouse to the Florida Historical Registry and requested feedback from the Committee regarding the appropriateness of the documentation. The Committee expressed consensus and support for the information provided.

The Committee inquired about the minimum criteria required for inclusion on the National Register. Discussion ensued regarding the condition of the Lighthouse's leg structure and the recasting of damaged components as part of the restoration process.

b. i. Sanibel Lighthouse

Planner Kim Ruiz provided an overview of the documentation and explained that staff was seeking the Committee's recommendations and vote regarding submission to the registry.

Discussion ensued regarding the Wulfert Cemetery, including existing and potential future signage at the site.

The Committee suggested the possibility of quantifying the estimated number of individuals interred at the Wulfert Cemetery.

Discussion continued regarding the existence of additional burial plots and the potential for future identification of burial locations within the cemetery.

Committee Member Bondurant moved, seconded by Vice Chair Norton to adopt the application for the Sanibel Lighthouse to be submitted for the Historic Registry. The motion carried.

Review of nominations to the local historic register:

ii. Sanibel Cemetery

Committee Member Alfino moved, seconded by Committee Member Bondurant to adopt the application for the Sanibel Cemetery to be submitted for the Historic Registry. The motion carried.

iii. Wulfert Cemetery

Vice Chair Norton moved, seconded by Committee Member Alfino to adopt the application for the Wulfert Cemetery to be submitted for the Historic Registry. The motion carried.

9. Reports

a. Planning Department Liaison Report

Planner Kim Ruiz introduced new Deputy Planning Director Gabriel Quinntence. Mr. Quinntence expressed his appreciation for the Committee and his excitement to be involved.

Ms. Ruiz discussed the lighthouse bricks currently stored at the Recreation Center. She noted that Recreation Center Director Andrea Miller had identified several additional items recovered by Public Works that were also being stored at the Recreation Center. Ms. Ruiz informed the Committee that John McGrath had collected the items from the Recreation Center.

Discussion ensued regarding Recreation Center Director Andrea Miller's history with the island and her contributions to the City and the community.

Chair Gleason inquired about the sale of the School for Colored Children and asked Ms. Ruiz if there had been any updates regarding the property. Ms. Ruiz responded that the last information she received indicated the property was under contract.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed gas station near Bailey Road. Ms. Ruiz discussed the conditional use permit applications that had been submitted and the associated renderings.

Committee Member Bondurant confirmed that the sale of the School for Colored Children was finalized on March 26. Ms. Ruiz provided additional information regarding the buyers.

The Committee inquired about the Cooper Homestead. Ms. Ruiz stated that she had not received any updates but noted that the property is flagged within the City's system should a Certificate of Appropriateness application or permits be submitted.

Chair Gleason provided a brief history of the Cooper Homestead.

b. Chairpersons' Report

Chair Gleason welcomed Committee Member Bondurant and provided an overview of the qualifications and responsibilities associated with serving on the Historic Preservation Committee.

Chair Gleason discussed the Museum's ongoing restructuring. Discussion ensued regarding the Rutland House and its significance to the Museum. Chair Gleason encouraged Committee members to remain aware of opportunities to identify property or land where additional historic structures could potentially be relocated, noting that the Museum currently lacks available space for additional structures.

Discussion ensued regarding the relocation of historic structures from one property to another. The Committee inquired about the requirements and potential for variances. Ms. Ruiz explained that each proposal would be evaluated based on the specific circumstances and site conditions, and that the Planning Department would conduct further review as necessary.

Chair Gleason reminded the Committee of Island Night scheduled for the following day and spoke about Sam Bailey's appreciation for the event.

Chair Gleason discussed the fishing pier at the Lighthouse and the citizen group currently working with a staff liaison regarding the site. Chair Gleason suggested the possibility of installing a plaque recognizing the historical significance of the pier.

Ms. Ruiz discussed the Heritage Trail program and reviewed the criteria for interpretive signage. She stated that staff would review whether the fishing pier meets the criteria and bring the discussion back to the Committee at its August meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the historical significance of the fishing pier. Ms. Ruiz also discussed limitations regarding the addition of artifacts and structures to the Museum.

Chair Gleason encouraged members to explore the island's historic sites and

expressed appreciation for organizations such as SCCF for its stewardship of the Bailey Homestead and the Community House for preserving the historic character of its structure.

Vice Chair Norton recommended several publications related to the history of Sanibel and Captiva, including:

- The Seashell Islands by Elinor Dommer
- The Unknown Story of Sanibel and Captiva by Florence Fritz
- Sanibel Story and Images by Betty Anholt
- Once Upon an Island Known as Sanibel by Betty Anholt and Charles LeBuff
- The Best of Sanibel and Captiva Restaurants and Recipes

Committee Member Jurgens recommended the book A Land Remembered.

The Committee also expressed appreciation for the Sanibel Public Library and its digital imaging efforts.

c. Committee Members Report

Committee Member Alfino provided comments regarding the Museum and Village's Interim Director and discussed the future of the Museum.

10. Next Meeting Date

Thursday, August 6, 2026 at MacKenzie Hall

11. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

12. Adjournment

With there being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:07 A.M