

**Mobile Historic Development Commission
Meeting Agenda
October 6, 2025
Richards-DAR House Museum
256 N Joachim Street
5:30 P.M.**

Call to Order

The meeting commenced at 5:30 p.m.

Present:

Jaime Betbeze, Jean Dodge, Peters Drey, Ann Forbes, Alison Henry, Joan Hoffman, John Ruzic, and Ivy Thompson

Absent:

Virginia Behlen, Virginia Edington, Jessica Fairly, Tim Maness, and Steven McNair

City Staff:

Kimberly Branch-Thomas, Bruce McGowin, Matthew Sanford, and Meredith Wilson

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved via a voice roll call vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Betbeze, on behalf of Treasurer Virginia Eddington, reported that the general account had received a deposit of \$450.00 for Banner & Shield application fees. The ending balance was \$1,900. The easement account was steady at \$28,005.

New Commissioners Introduced:

Alison Henry, president, introduced the new Commissioners in attendance – Ann Forbes and John Ruzic. Returning members introduced themselves.

Old Business

1. Update on Design Guidelines Project

Meredith Wilson reported that the Design Guidelines draft had been posted online for public review between September 19th and October 3rd. Ms. Wilson reported that there had been 5 comments from 4 individuals. One commenter stated that the new draft was a significant improvement over the first. This same commenter responded separately that the change limiting front yard fence heights to 3' was too restrictive. An anonymous comment stated that the draft had significant formatting issues. A fifth comment was not relevant to the Design Guidelines. Ms. Wilson explained that City Staff had also noted issues with the document formatting and that the City would be reviewing and editing the formatting to make it more attractive and user friendly.

2. Update on Banner and Shield

Ms. Henry reported that she and Mr. Maness had reviewed the applications for Banner and Shield and would present their recommendations to the full Commission at the November meeting for the final vote on award recipients. Ms. Henry noted that she was recommending 4 applications for denial based on condition issues.

3. Update on Pelican Girl Memorial

Ms. Henry reminded Commissioners to RSVP for the Pelican Girl monument unveiling if they intended to attend. Ms. Henry also stated that formal invitations would be sent to members of City administration, including the incoming mayor and members of the City Council.

There being no additional business, the meeting was concluded at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Meredith Wilson, Secretary