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HISTORIC PRESERVATION ELEMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

Cultural resources are the tangible and visible remains of past human habitation, occupation, and use of the land. They may be buildings, historic and prehistoric sites, districts (groups of buildings and/or physical alterations of the native landscape), and other manifestations of material culture. Whether singularly or collectively, cultural resources provide a sense of place, engender a deeper awareness of the vast richness of the past, and serve as an opportunity to foster greater awareness of human history. In many cases they are evident in the built/physical environment, and as such, establish continuity with the past, as well as other diverse yet intangible characteristics such as notions of heritage, and specific responses to environmental conditions and changes. When examined contextually over a larger defined geographic area, the unique characteristics of a given place help to set it apart from other areas and contribute to local identity. Cultural resources are finite, non-renewable, and comprise a part of the prehistoric and historic record for which there is often no written history. Continued identification, evaluation, and interpretation of cultural resources contribute to increasing the knowledge potential about Palm Beach County.

The preservation of historically significant properties, that is those cultural resources designated by a local, state or national government as having significance on archaeological, architectural or historical grounds, has been determined to have considerable value in economic, cultural, scientific, educational and other terms. It has been demonstrated that historic preservation enhances the quality of life of Floridians through economic and cultural contributions to an improved sense of place. However, the preservation of cultural resources should be balanced and contribute to the desire to preserve the legacy of the past with the overall economic well-being of the County. There are significant economic benefits generated by historic preservation activities as both heritage tourism and the rehabilitation of historic properties in Florida are a multi-billion dollar business.

A. Purpose

The fundamental purpose of the Historic Preservation Element is to identify and protect the archaeological and historic resources within unincorporated Palm Beach County from adverse impacts and to promote public awareness of the benefits of preserving such resources.

B. Assessment and Conclusions

Since the adoption of this optional element in 1989, the County has put in place a number of mechanisms to help ensure that cultural resources are protected. A process has been created to locally designate significant historic sites and structures, and to ensure that historic and archaeological resources are identified and protected in the development or redevelopment process. The Historic Resources Review Board (HRRB) provides community oversight for these processes, as well as to assist in education efforts about the value of cultural resources. In 1995, the County achieved its goal of becoming a Certified Local Government (CLG), and is one of sixty such CLGs in the State of Florida (as of March, 2012). Since 1999, the last time this element was updated, a number of research tasks have been completed. Provisions are in

place to nominate sites for the National Register, as well as to prepare Florida Master Site File (FMSF) listings. These items are implemented through land development regulations and other means, the focus of the element shifts to maintaining these processes and to evaluate and pursue appropriate new opportunities. Among these are the opportunity to use advancing technologies to assist in the mapping and tracking of designated and potential sites, the opportunity to enhance tourism, and specifically heritage tourism, through the interpretation, reuse and restoration of historic sites, and the opportunity to work collaboratively with other County departments and other entities to ensure the preservation of historic resources.

In 2005, the County completed the restoration of the original County Courthouse, returning it to its 1916 appearance and configuration. That same year, the County hired a County Archaeologist/ Historic Preservation Officer as the first full-time professional staff member tasked with performing the day-to-day functions related to historic preservation and other associated activities. Subsequently, the County investigated Lake Okeechobee and the Glades area during a time of extreme drought and low water levels. The resultant investigations yielded an abundance of new information regarding both prehistoric and historic Glades settlement and lifeways, significantly expanding awareness and knowledge about the importance of the Lake region. The County celebrated its centennial in 2009, with the restored 1916 Courthouse featuring prominently in the year's festivities, and its re-use as the home of the Palm Beach County Historical Society's museum. As Palm Beach County enters its second century of existence, it will continue to meet the challenges of preserving its past, and continue to find relevance, value, and purpose for its existing places, as it actively plans for its future.

Unless otherwise indicated, the Palm Beach County Planning Zoning and Building Department is responsible for implementation of the Goal, Objectives, and Policies of this Element.

C. County Register of Historic Places

The following historic sites and districts have been designated by the Board of County Commissioners as of August, 1999:

1. The Tindall House Historic Site, Jupiter, Florida. (November 18, 1997; R-1997-2052)
2. The Cabana Club Porte Cochere Historic Site, Boca Raton, Florida. (November 18, 1997; R-1997-2053)
3. The Camino Real and Camino Real Bridge Historic District, Boca Raton, Florida. (November 18, 1997; R-1997-2054)
4. The Riverbend Regional Park Historic District, Jupiter Farms, Florida. (April 20, 1999; R-1999-684)
5. Old Indiantown Road Grade, Jupiter Farms, Florida. (August 17, 2004; R-2004-1785)
6. 1916 Palm Beach County Courthouse, West Palm Beach, Florida. (September 27, 2005; R-2005-1930)
7. Wenger House, near Delray Beach, Florida. (May 16, 2006; R-2006-0898)
8. Dubois Park Historic District, Jupiter Inlet, Florida. (October 17, 2006; R-2006-2312)
9. Dubois Park Historic District Expansion (Kindt Estate), Jupiter Inlet, Florida. (June 16, 2009; R-2009-1032)

II. GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GOAL: PROTECTION AND AWARENESS OF HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

It is the **GOAL** of Palm Beach County to recognize the importance of its historic and cultural resources; to locate, identify, evaluate, and to provide for the preservation and enhancement of the resources while expanding public awareness of the contribution these resources make to the County.

OBJECTIVE 1.1 Identify, Evaluate, and Document Historic and Cultural Resources

Palm Beach County shall provide for the ongoing identification, evaluation, and documentation of existing and potential historic and cultural resources.

Policy 1.1-a: The County shall continue to locate, identify and evaluate those sites, buildings, structures, objects and districts that are associated with the archeological, historical, engineering and cultural development of the unincorporated area of Palm Beach County.

Policy 1.1-b: The County shall continue to identify county-owned historic sites and structures and shall determine all sites' potential for heritage tourism development, including restoration and reuse, and historic markers.

Policy 1.1-c: The County shall continue to prepare Florida Master Site File (FMSF) listings for applicable structures and sites, and update the status of resources contained within the FMSF database, as well as including FMSF data by reference in the Map of Known Archaeological Sites and Archaeological Conservation Areas.

Policy 1.1-d: The County shall conduct surveys of resources, when possible, documenting the resource, evaluating its significance and preservation potential.

Policy 1.1-e: The County shall make efforts to locate historical and other records for potential value as a data source for use in identification and evaluation of resources. This may also include developing predictive models for the use of determining areas of higher probability or likelihood of containing archaeological resources.

Policy 1.1-f: The County shall continue to document structures 50 years of age or older that are to be demolished for safety reasons by the Building Official.

OBJECTIVE 1.2 Recognizing and Promoting Historic and Cultural Resources

Palm Beach County should continue to provide a means of formal recognition of significant historic and cultural resources through local and national registers, as well as through the use of historic markers.

Policy 1.2-a: The County shall continue to maintain and update the County Register of Historic Places.

Policy 1.2-b: The County may continue to encourage owners of historic and cultural resources eligible for the County Register and/or the National Register to pursue nomination, as well as providing technical assistance for such efforts.

Policy 1.2-c: The County shall continue to consider the impacts of undertakings on all properties listed in the FMSF, and that are eligible for, or listed in the County Register and/or National Register of Historic Places.

Policy 1.2-d: The County may continue to promote awareness of historic and cultural resources through continued use of the historic markers program administered by the Department of State.

OBJECTIVE 1.3 Preservation and Protection of Historic and Cultural Resources

Palm Beach County should conserve and extend the useful life of historic and cultural resources and properties, ensure their protection and/or rehabilitation of properties of significance, consistent with preserving their historic and/or archaeological value and character.

Policy 1.3-a: The County shall encourage the preservation, restoration, and or rehabilitation of historic buildings.

Policy 1.3-b: The County shall encourage the protection of archaeological sites from destruction in the absence of appropriate mitigation and analysis.

Policy 1.3-c: The County shall continue to review all applications for public and private development and redevelopment within its jurisdiction, and evaluate impacts to potential and identified historic and cultural resources in a timely and efficient manner through the development review processes.

Policy 1.3-d: The County may pursue the acquisition of historic and cultural resources when public ownership would provide a major public benefit to the citizens of Palm Beach County, when necessary financial resources can be secured, and when public ownership is a viable option.

Policy 1.3-e: The County may use historic buildings to accommodate public uses whenever feasible.

Policy 1.3-f: The Parks and Recreation Department and the Environmental Resources Management Department may incorporate trails, archaeological sites, and other pre-historic and historic landscape features into proposed public use facilities to the extent that such funding is available and can be reasonably accomplished without adversely impacting the historical, archaeological or cultural resource.

Policy 1.3-g: With regard to County-owned parcels containing known archaeological or historic sites, per the Archeological Overlay, the HRRB shall make recommendations on all transfers, sales, modifications and development; and the Facilities Development & Operation Department shall annually notify the HRRB of proposed transfers, sales, modification, and development of such sites.

Policy 1.3-h: The County shall continue to enforce the provisions of the ULDC which create the Historic Resources Review Board (HRRB), and protect archeological and historic resources, and the provisions of the Florida Building Code.

OBJECTIVE 1.4 Education and Awareness of Historic and Cultural Resources

The County should provide opportunities to educate and inform the public regarding the importance of cultural resources.

Policy 1.4-a: The County should continue to increase awareness and educate the public on the value and significance of local historic and cultural resources through the support from the media, presentations, conferences, seminars, special programs, and events.

Policy 1.4-b: The County should promote and increase awareness of historic resources and archaeological sites for heritage tourism purposes.

Policy 1.4-c: The County, in conjunction with other organizations and programs involved in heritage tourism should coordinate activities and promote heritage tourism as part of the County's economic development efforts.

Policy 1.4-d: The County shall encourage restoration and reuse of historic buildings and sites where such investments will provide for or contribute to heritage tourism development.

OBJECTIVE 1.5 Coordination of Awareness, Review, and Protection of Historic and Cultural Resources

The County shall continue to work with the state and other local governments to assist in identifying, evaluating, protecting and promoting historic and cultural resources.

Policy 1.5-a: The County shall maintain its Certified Local Government status.

Policy 1.5-b: The County shall continue to work cooperatively and in conjunction with the State Historic Preservation Office to achieve the goals set forth in the State Comprehensive Plan and the Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan.

Policy 1.5-c: The County should support efforts that encourage municipalities in developing and maintaining cultural resource preservation programs, and provide expertise where and when feasible.

Policy 1.5-d: The County should continue to establish, maintain, and strengthen partnerships with external agencies and local institutions, as well as local history, preservation, and archaeological organizations for implementing preservation and education objectives.

OBJECTIVE 1.6 Incentives for Historic and Cultural Resource Preservation

The County shall continue to pursue programs which provide incentives for the preservation of historic and cultural resources within the unincorporated County.

Policy 1.6-a: The County should continue to monitor and offer input on incentive programs offered at all levels of government.

Policy 1.6-b: The County should continue to investigate and pursue grant sources of funding for projects that rehabilitate or restore historic resources.

Policy 1.6-c: The County should investigate and pursue sources of funding for the interpretation and conservation of archaeological resources.

Policy 1.6-d: The County should continue to implement through the ULDC a mechanism for relief from property development regulations for historic and cultural resources listed in the County Register of Historic Places.

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Historic Preservation Element Amendment History

Round	Description	Adoption	OrdNum	Effective	Note*
89-1	Adopted	8/31/1989	1989-17	9/11/1989	
90-1	Stipulated Settlement Agreement Amendments to find Plan in compliance	9/18/1990	1990-32	10/4/1990	Settlement
97-1	EAR Re-write	9/22/1997	1997-32	12/3/1997	
99-1	Add list of designated historic sites in Element and on the Designated Historic Sites and Districts Map	8/17/1999	1999-32	10/14/1999	
12-2	To make general updates, revise the description for historic preservation & archeology functions, and revise the definition of Cultural Resources in the I&A.	10/29/2012	2012-32	12/9/2012	

* NIE means not in effect - not within element