

Landmarks Preservation Commission - Annual Report 2018

The Commission held 12 regularly scheduled meetings in 2018, and had an average attendance rate of 92% with a total of 10 absences for the year (3 excused, and 7 unexcused).

The Commission reviewed 55 Certificates of Appropriateness, including C.O.A.'s for Lilly Pulitzer, the Everglades Club, the Four Arts Plaza, First National Bank (Wells Fargo), Royal Poinciana Plaza, Testa's eastern expansion, Duck's Nest, Memorial Fountain, and Bradley Park.

Eight (8) new properties were placed "under consideration" for landmarking by the Commission during 2018. The Commission was able to conduct eight new designation hearings prior to the end of the year. Five properties at – 137 Seaspray Avenue, 455 Australian Avenue, 138 Root Trail, 307 Brazilian Avenue, and 218 Seaspray Avenue – were landmarked according to the Town's program. Three properties – 130 Barton Avenue (amendment to designation to de-designate a portion of the site), 136 Dunbar Road, and 980 North Ocean Boulevard – were reviewed by the Commission, and found not to meet the designation criteria for landmarking, and were therefore not forwarded to Town Council.

The Commission conducted 22 informal reviews of zoning applications for recommendation to the Town Council.

On behalf of the Commission, staff conducted 124 approvals of minor projects and revisions, which was an 8.8% decrease from the previous year.

Staff conducted Member Orientation Meetings to review procedures and inform new members of ordinances, policies and procedural matters that they will encounter in future meetings.

Seven (7) tax abatement projects were reviewed by the Commission during the year. No tax abatements were concluded, ratified by the Town Council and forwarded to Palm Beach County and the Tax Appraiser's office for implementation; however, one tax abatement (330 Island Road) was removed per the request of the new property owner, and the property owner refunded the tax savings that he had previously received.

The Commission also actively worked on the following issues:

- 1) Participated in a discussion regarding the energy code and window tinting on historic structures, and how historic structures could be exempted from the energy code requirement;
- 2) Asked the Town Council to consider taking necessary steps to submit the Mizner Fountain and Memorial Park to the National Register of Historical Places; and
- 3) Continued with the completion of ethics training for new and older members as mandated by the Town and County.

Commissioners remain enthusiastic and engaged in their volunteer service to the Town, and look forward to the continued preservation of our heritage.