

I. ANY OTHER MATTERS

A. ARCOM's Request to Consider Demolitions

Mr. Bergman provided an overview of the issue, which would allow the Architectural Review Commission to defer demolition of any significant architecture to the Landmarks Preservation Commission for study and to defer the demolition until a review was provided. Mr. Bergman weighed in on Town Attorney Randolph's previous interpretation of this issue. This matter had been deferred several times; however, Town Council had accepted the new historical site survey in today's meeting. There were 819 new historical sites listed that had never been surveyed. There were 120 sites, and probably many more, that might be eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or might qualify as future Town landmark resources.

Mr. Bergman suggested increasing the number of buildings that were reviewed annually for possible designation of potential landmarked buildings. The budget was currently at \$50,000 a year for the study of landmarked buildings, which would cover 10 buildings per year, and Murphy Stillings stated that they could handle 25-30 homes a year.

Mayor Coniglio suggested looking at 20 properties a year to allow for community participation.

Council President Zeidman agreed with the Mayor.

Council President Pro Tem Lindsay suggested 24-25 homes a year and provided the reasoning that many of these assets were being lost quickly. She felt this was urgent and would take it to 30 per year to get it done more quickly.

Council Member Moore agreed with Council President Pro Tem Lindsay. Ms. Moore recalled that Amanda Skier, The Preservation Foundation, indicated in the past that they might be able to financially offset the costs of reviewing more homes. She thought that the path forward should move pretty quickly, and there were options for moving forward.

Council Member Crampton stated he was leaning more toward the Mayor's suggestion. He thought doubling the amount was moving fast and added that money and homes could be added in the future. He did not want a negative reaction, and questioned the connection between what they were discussing and ARCOM's demolition request.

Town Attorney Randolph advised he would answer Council Member Crampton's question. He was hearing that the Town Council was concurring with what three previous Town Councils had said, and were not going to amend the ARCOM ordinance to allow ARCOM to defer demolitions; rather, they were saying to Landmarks, start placing these items under consideration.

Council Member Crampton agreed, stating the Council could do this without Landmarks now that they had a valid list. He thought they should be careful in going about this, and felt the Mayor's approach was best at this point.

Council Member Araskog agreed with Council Member Moore and Council President Pro Tem Lindsay this was urgent. She thought 25-30 homes was a good amount. She also thought the issue of demolition at ARCOM was worth exploring.

Council Member Crampton was willing to go along with the Council consensus.

Council President Lindsay suggested adding another resource if necessary, to be able to process the homes identified in the historic site survey.

Council President Zeidman called for public comment.

Amanda Skier, Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, commented that losing 20% of historic homes drove home the urgency of using the survey list to get an idea for eligibility, and that number would determine budget increase, and they would help offset costs. She felt time was of the essence. She suggested property owners pause before demolition to see what could be gained by saving their home. She also suggested demolition plans be approved in coordination with new plans.

Council President Zeidman asked Ms. Skier to clarify her coordination suggestion. Ms. Skier provided further explanation on this holistic approach.

Council Member Moore asked Town Attorney Randolph to weigh in on the issue. Town Attorney Randolph provided his thoughts on the issue.

Council Member Araskog stated Ms. Skier was recommending this coordination for homes 50 years or older and limiting the time to 30 days. She thought the suggestion should be studied. Council Member Araskog asked Ms. Skier if she felt adding an additional consultant would be beneficial. Ms. Skier responded she felt the buildings could be moved quickly using other consultants to help.

Council Member Crampton thought the Town should proceed with caution.

Council President Pro Tem Lindsay thought the list of 128 homes should be studied and verified to see which homes were worth investigating, then deciding how to proceed.

Mayor Coniglio agreed with Council President Pro Tem Lindsay.

Council President Zeidman agreed with Council President Pro Tem Lindsay's suggestion. Council President Zeidman thought public education was also very important and that the program should be very powerful.

Council Member Araskog agreed that education was important to let people know the advantages of landmarking. She inquired if it was possible to hire an extra consultant to help with the review of the 128 homes.

Director Bergman stated staff needed to come up with an action list before talking about hiring extra consultants.

Ms. Van Onna discussed the workshops that had recently been held, which included real estate agents. She reported good attendance.

Council President Zeidman outlined the steps going forward: (1) Staff review list; (2) determine if more help was needed; (3) determine the number to be done in a year; (4) review with Council as information was developed.

Council Member Araskog asked to wait to decide on ARCOM's request. Council President agreed, stating there was no appetite by Council to move forward with this request, but Council understood why they made the request.

Ms. Skier thanked the Town Council for their dedication to Historic Preservation, and staff for their work on this matter. She commented there was precedent for landmarking several properties at once.