

# CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1001 IDLEWILD AVENUE, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024 – 6:30 PM



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## MINUTES

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Call to Order 6:33 PM

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Charles Sohm, Secretary Lesley Davidson, Lynn Powers, Daniel Nichols.

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** None

**GUESTS:** None

Chairman to call on members of the audience wishing to address the Council on matters not on the Agenda.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Discussion of attendance for quorum. Four of nine members was deemed quorum by Chairman Charles Sohm. Dan Nichols made the motion for approval of CAC meeting minutes for November 2024. Lynn Powers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Discussion of applications for Steve Fiero and James Darling. Both are Green Cove Springs residents with a variety of interests. Lesley Davidson personally knows James Darling and spoke highly of his experience and added that Steve Fiero's master gardener experience matches interests of the CAC group and would be a welcome addition. Lynn Powers motioned to accept the new members. Daniel Nichols seconded the motion, and it passed.
2. Chairman Sohm explained that there could be no January CAC meeting unless a Vice Chairman was elected as he would not be present. Daniel Nichols volunteered, and his nomination was accepted. Secretary Lesley Davidson asked if we could entertain a vote after voting to extend elections to January. Chairman Sohm stated that we could vote on the absent Vice Chairman position. Daniel Nichols was elected Vice Chairman. His first duty will be chairing the January 2025 CAC meeting.
3. Jerry Casale tendered his resignation. Chairman Sohm praised Jerry for his involvement and his due diligence in every matter and understood that Jerry had an issue with the interpretation of the Sunshine rules and how they could get in the way of work. Secretary Lesley Davidson advised that Jerry Casale is very active in the community and is a part of the new Green Cove Springs Preservation Society. Jerry Casale will be missed.
4. Old business:
  - a. Lesley Davidson shared an update of the work completed at the Rivers House. She said that the contractor did not get new wood siding milled at local NE Florida mills to

match the original siding. Instead, it appears all of the original siding was removed and replaced with James Hardie cementitious lap siding. Lesley Davidson stated that this was a great product, however, the city council voted to restore the Rivers House rather than renovate. By removing the original siding and replacing it with new cementitious siding they have actually only renovated. Similarly, the original metal roof tiles, which are still being produced and are available, were removed and not replaced. A new standing seam metal roof was installed instead. Again, this is a great product and can last decades, but it is not “restoring” the Rivers House but merely renovating it. Lesley Davidson said she is not sure if the City Council was advised of these decisions, and she was not kept in the loop.

b. Lynn Powers suggested that we get an updated list of all current CAC members.

5. New Business

- a. Lesley Davidson asked if the topic of a new resident welcome information procedure be discussed in the greater CAC group. Once the Rookery and other developments start construction, many new residents will come to Green Cove Springs and they will not know the culture and history of Green Cove Springs. Chairman Sohm suggested that the CAC compile a list of what has already been done and see what else can be done. Daniel Nichols mentioned that a new resident information pack could be given with utility registration. Lesley Davidson informed CAC members of an idea Van Royal mentioned regarding plaques embedded into the sidewalk at locations where historic resorts or other historic locations were. A discussion of state or county historical markers resulted in Daniel Nichols asking what the status of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the Clay County Historic Preservation Board said that the city of Green Cove Springs had to negotiate in order for historical markers to be placed in the city, especially on city properties. Lesley Davidson said she completed an application for the historic 1880 Judge Thomas Judson Rivers House and presented it to Mayor Connie Butler in 2023, but no action has been taken. She will be completing an additional application and possibly donating (and seeking donations) for the sign. Daniel Nichols said that if the Friends of the Rivers House completes their 501(c)(3) (or 501(c)(6)) then they could make the donation. Lesley Davidson said that the Friends of the Rivers House has to get feedback and buy-in from the city.
- b. Daniel Nichols asked if we could get staff interviews for newer CAC members sometime next year.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

  
Lesley J. Davidson, PE, Secretary, CAC

  
~~Charles Sohm, Chairman, CAC~~

Daniel Nichols, Vice Chairman