

**Historic Preservation District Ordinance Working Group Process**

Monday, May 9, 2011 2:17 PM

**From:** "Hudson, Linda" <Linda.Hudson@talgov.com>  
**To:** "C/C Questions" <CCQexchange@talgov.com>  
**Cc:** "tallymark@rocketmail.com" <tallymark@rocketmail.com>, "Youmans, Laura" <YoumansL@leoncountyfl.gov>

Please see the following response to the below email sent from Mark Daniel to Commissioners Mustian and Miller. Lou Norvell, Assistant City Attorney who advises the Architectural Review Board (ARB), and I reviewed Mr. Daniel's May 5 article on the Historic Lafayette Park web site. We then reviewed Sec. 2-181, Tallahassee Land Development Code, which establishes the ARB. The ARB is required to have, among others, 2 members from the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation (TTHP) and 4 members who own property zoned as a historic preservation overlay zoning district. ARB membership is somewhat unique because the point is made explicitly in Sec. 2-181 that members shall have demonstrated special interest, experience, or knowledge in history, architecture, or related disciplines. It is true that Dr. Conner, the member Mr. Daniel questions, is a member of TTHP and the ARB, but she was appointed to the ARB by Leon County as an owner of historic property, not as a representative of TTHP.

Mr. Daniel implies in his article that it is improper for Dr. Conner to sit on the ARB because she is a 3<sup>rd</sup> TTHP member on the ARB. We do not agree with Mr. Daniel for the following reasons:

First, the Code does not limit the ARB to only 2 TTHP members;

Second, Dr. Conner is not a TTHP representative on the ARB, but rather represents historic property owners; and

Third, Dr. Conner's experience and background make her eminently qualified to serve on the ARB.

I spoke to Laura Youmans, Assistant County Attorney, since Dr. Conner is a Leon County appointee, who concurs in this opinion.

Please let me know if there are additional questions.

**Linda R. Hudson**

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**From:** Mark Daniel [mailto:tallymark@rocketmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 06, 2011 12:00 PM  
**To:** Mustian, Mark; Miller, Nancy  
**Cc:** Townsend, Jay  
**Subject:** LRTI-corruption--missing text added.

Commissioners...I forgot to add the text of the article...sorry. Here is a corrected version of the email:

I have posted the following article on my website, concerning the subterfuge undertaken by the City Attorney's office, concerning the LRTI committee set up for public input into the process of rewriting the historic designation procedures for neighborhoods. It is clear that the City Attorney does not expect the public to come up with any kind of reasonable process unless they stack the deck in their favor with a "hidden" contractor representative involved.

The website:

<http://historiclafayettepark.com/>

Also, commissioners, I have posted a letter to you which never received any acknowledgment...or action. Let me advise you that the City will not come out of this process looking good, if no corrective action is taken. There is obviously a profound issue with the City Attorney's office in the whole matter of Historic Preservation.

Thank you.

My article text follows. Visit the website for substantially more on this topic, including a detailed analysis of the utter incompetence of the TTHP director, Mr. Michael Wing.

Very truly yours,

Mark S. Daniel

**May 5, 2011**

**Deliberate Ethical Lapse on Part of City Attorney? A planned subterfuge? Deception tarnishes the LRTI committee!**

**Deception Further Tarnishes Architectural Review Board**

**A CALL FOR RESIGNATION**

**Private Property Rights At Risk**

In attachment #7, for the first meeting of the code-recommendation committee, the list of the committee members is provided.

Mr. Fred Gaske is listed as the representative for the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation. When a contractor for the city gets to have a representative sit in on code revisions which will ultimately benefit that contractor, it's a suspect situation.

(see: <http://www.tal.gov/planning/zoning/historic.cfm>)

When that same contractor, **Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation**, gets a **second** representative on the committee, and one which is a former **Chairman of the Board** of the contractor and is still serving as a board member, then we know the soup is contaminated and likely poisoned. This Board member of TTHP is on the committee as a member of "Myers Park HOA".

Somehow her overriding role as a contractor just sort of didn't get mentioned. This member, Valerie Jean Conner, is also playing another "undercover" role in our City's crooked Historic Preservation Process:

The Architectural Review Board membership is very specifically defined by code, and includes TWO members of the Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation. Ms. Valerie Jeanne Conner (see: <http://www.taltrust.org/meet-the-board>) is also

on the Architectural Review Board, NOT as a member of the TTHP, but as a member from "Property zoned HPO". Her membership on the ARB violates the code, and makes every decision of the Architectural Review Board a defective decision. A third member of the TTHP is a violation of the code.

This is wrong! It is a morally-corrupt, ethically-defective, city-damaging act perpetrated to further control the historic preservation process in the City of Tallahassee and Leon County. It is an act solely to benefit a radical advocate of Historic Preservation that dismisses private property rights as unimportant to their own goals. The negative consequences of this deliberate violation of the code for the Architectural Review Board harms every part of our city and specifically hurts the genuine historic preservation efforts of everyone else in the committee.

Ms. Valerie Jeanne Conner, is a board member of a contractor to the city, with no legal right to be on the Architectural Review Board in violation of the code. She is also on the code committee which was selected with ONE member of the TTHP in mind. The choice to hide an affiliation and be an undercover representative of the TTHP violates our governmental integrity. Ms. Conner needs to resign both positions with a public apology for the harm she is causing to the historic preservation community.

It is very obvious that the City Attorney's office has a heavy hand in this subterfuge. Mr. Jim English, Please clean up your department. We simply do not need any more dishonest shenanigans in historic preservation.

Further Reading on the ARB Ethical Problems:

<http://www.historiclafayettepark.com/archive-aug-6-09.html>

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