



CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA

The **Miami Springs Historic Preservation Board** met at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 in the City Hall Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

The following were present: Chair Sydney Garton
Vice Chair Jo Ellen Phillips
Yvonne Shonberger
Dr. James Watson

Absent: Charles M. Hill

Also Present: Council Liaison Michael Windrem
Deputy City Clerk Suzanne Hitaffer

2) Introduction of New Member

Dr. James Watson introduced himself to the Board members and briefly explained his education background and work experience.

3) Approval of Minutes: April 30, 2014 Regular Meeting

Minutes of the April 30, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

Board member Shonberger moved to approve and Chair Garton seconded the motion, which carried unanimously on voice vote.

4) Old Business:

- a. Report from Miami-Dade County Historic Preservation Chief Kathleen Kauffman

Vice Chair Phillips reported that she spoke with Kathleen Kauffman last month and she will not be attending the City Historic Preservation Board meetings. She offered her assistance if there is anything specific and said that the designation is in the hands of the City and not the County.

b. Discussion Regarding the Designation of the Miami Springs Elementary School

Chair Garton reported on her meeting with Principal Sally Hutchings and the information she acquired in electronic format that includes hundreds of photographs. Discussion ensued about how the files could be copied and shared with the other board members.

The Clerk of the Board informed the board members that she spoke with the City Attorney who advised her that the Board should contact the Miami-Dade County School Board to see if they would authorize the designation of the school.

Chair Garton stated that Principal Hutchings was going to contact her Director about the designation.

Board member Shonberger said that it would be a "special designation" that has no restrictions and she thought that approval was received from the County Historic Preservation Chief Kathleen Kauffman.

Vice Chair Phillips clarified that approval must come from the School Board and not the County Historic Preservation Chief.

Board member Watson suggested that the School Board could sign an agreement or letter stating that they support the designation.

Chair Garton will contact Principal Hutchings about the school photographs and ask her if she contacted the Region Director.

Board member Watson volunteered to research the Work in Progress Administration (WPA) files since their architects built approximately 288 schools in Florida. He will also meet with Principal Hutchings.

5) New Business:

a. Consideration of Local Historic Designation of the General Geiger Memorial on Curtiss Parkway

Board member Shonberger submitted a draft Local Designation Report for the Roy S. Geiger/First Marine Aviation Force monument (attached for the record). She explained the history of the monument and her research of the site. She indicated that the property in the Curtiss Parkway median where the monument is located is owned by the City of Miami.

Board member Shonberger moved to accept the Local Designation Report, subject to approval by the City of Miami, and any changes or additions submitted to the Clerk. Board member Watson seconded the motion.

To answer Board member Shonberger's question, Board member Phillips said that as a member of the Miami-Dade County Historic Preservation Board for 10 years, the only site she recalls being designated that is not a structure is the Lemon City Cemetery.

The motion was carried 4-0 on voice vote.

b. Pioneer Resident Nominations

There were no nominations made at this time.

c. Curtiss Mansion Report

Board member Phillips reported that event bookings are much higher than last year. She informed the Board of CMI's proposed meeting with the CEO of History Miami, which is a Smithsonian affiliate, and their request for approval to host future History Miami exhibits at the Mansion. She reported on various activities and events planned for the future.

6) Reports from Board Members

Board member Shonberger thanked former Councilwoman Helen Gannon for donating the original Warranty Deed for the First Presbyterian Church of Miami Springs to the Miami Springs Historical Museum.

Chair Garton asked the Clerk of the Board to provide a list of the designated properties to Board member Watson and to post the information on the City website.

Board member Watson reported that he attended the Sea Level Rise and Historic Places seminar that was sponsored by Dade Heritage Trust.

7) Information/Reports from Board Liaison from City Council

Council Liaison Windrem reported that Council is going through the budget process and they agreed to support CMI and the Miami Springs Historical Society.

The Board asked Councilman Windrem to request funds to purchase designation plaques for Miami Springs Elementary School, the H. O. Goodlett House and the Geiger Memorial monument.

The Clerk advised the Board that the estimated cost for the Goodlett House plaque was \$385.00 and the larger plaque, similar to the one at the Golf Course, was approximately \$1,000.00.

Councilman Windrem stated that an easy way to store and review historic photographs would be to use "cloud space".

8) Preparation of Agenda for the Next Board Meeting


The agenda for the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 19th will include the Geiger Memorial public hearing, designation of Miami Springs Elementary and reports.

By consensus, the Board members **approved** 6:30 p.m. as the starting time for future meetings.

9) **Adjourn**

There was no further business to discuss and the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Suzanne Hitaffer
Clerk of the Board

Adopted by the Board on
this 28th day of January, 2015.

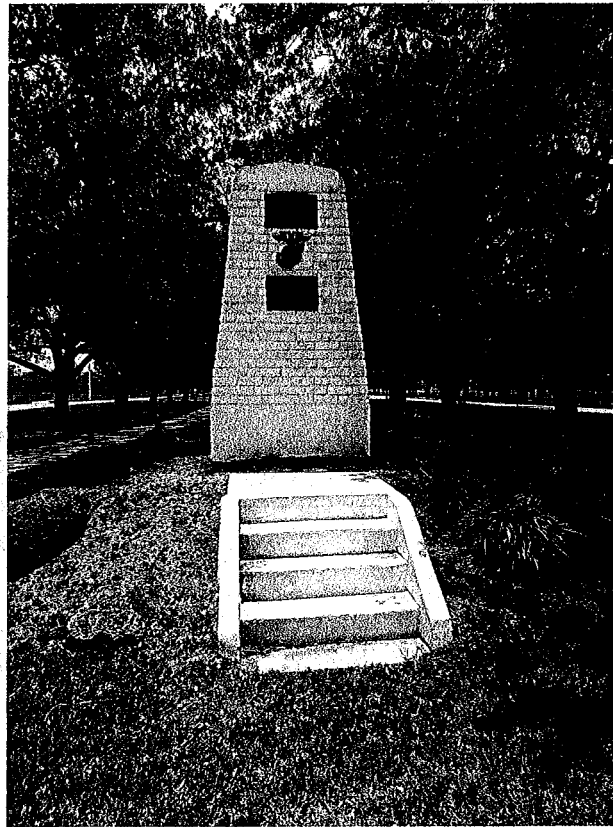
Sydney Garton, Chair

Words ~~stricken through~~ have been deleted. Underscored words represent changes. All other words remain unchanged.

The comments, discussions, recommendations and proposed actions of City Citizen Advisory Boards do not constitute the policy, position, or prospective action of the City, which may only be established and authorized by an appropriate vote or other action of the City Council.

LOCAL DESIGNATION REPORT

SITE: Roy S. Geiger / First Marine Aviation Force Monument



**CITY OF MIAMI SPRINGS, FLORIDA
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD
2014**

PREPARED BY: Miami Springs Historic Preservation Board

DESIGNATION/RESOLUTION #2014-2

PROPERTY: Monument

LOCATION/ADDRESS: South side of Deer Run centered on median of Curtiss Parkway

PROPERTY OWNERS: City of Miami

ZONING: N/A, Median of Roadway not zoned

TAX FOLIO NUMBER: N/A

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: N/A

STRUCTURES: 4 sided white painted brick trapezoidal Monument, 20 ft. h x 4 ft. w at base tapering to 3 ft. at rounded top.

YEAR BUILT: 1948

RATINGS OF AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

(Based on a scale of 1-3
With 3 being the highest rating)

 4 HISTORY
 1 ARCHITECTURE
 0 ARCHEOLOGY

IMPACTS:

CHANGES IN THE EXTERIOR OF THE STRUCTURE THAT REQUIRE A BUILDING PERMIT WILL REQUIRE A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

SIGNIFICANCE OF SITE

Monument commemorates Marine Corp history that occurred locally on land that would become Miami Springs and surrounding areas. The Marine Corp had seven pilots that were Navy trained. They choose Captain Roy S. Geiger (Marine Pilot #5) to start their first Marine pilot training school. Its' graduates would comprise the First Marine Aviation Force that was deployed to France to fight in WWI.

Glenn H. Curtiss offered the Marine Corp his 50 acre flying school located aside the Miami River for \$1/year for the duration of WWI. In 1918 – Captain Roy S. Geiger, USMC, seeking a base for the 1st Aviation Force moved his command to the small airstrip on the edge of the Everglades on the Miami River south (now South River Drive) between 33rd and 35th Ave.

Geiger took charge of all the arrangements from commissioning the instructors in the reserves and requisitioned the school's Jennies. At Miami, the Marine Flying Field quickly became a bustling military complex of hangars, warehouses, machine shops, and gunnery and bombing ranges. This was the Marine's first airbase.

On April 1, Captain McIlvain's squadron arrived at the field from Lake Charles; the 1st Aviation Force was now consolidated at one location. Take-offs and landings were practiced on what would become Curtiss Parkway. Bombing and strafing were practiced where the Golf Course is today. 135 pilots that were trained here flew in France with the 1st Marine Aviation Force.

Later in his life, in WWII, General Roy S. Geiger was the first Marine to lead an Army Command, in the battle of Okinawa.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Given Miami's enthusiasm for the flying exhibitions, Mayor Sewell asked the Wright Brothers to establish a winter flight school in Miami; the Wright Brothers, reclusive by nature, declined, citing pressing other projects.

Once again, Sewell turned to Curtiss, on December 15, 1911. The City of Miami would provide a proper ground and pay \$1,000 for the development of a winter flying school. The school would remain open 6 to 12 weeks starting between December 20 and January 1 using aeroplanes and hydroplanes. There would be hydroplanes on bay every day and one day of racing with 2 or more machines in air at the same time.

Braddock's Pasture, a 30 acre tract just east of golf links could be obtained for \$100 and cleared for another \$100 for a total cost to city of \$1,200. Curtiss representatives were in the city looking over the site. The aviation school would be sponsored by the Merchants' Association with E. G. Sewell coordinating. In 1916 the U.S. Congress approved funding to establish military aviation schools throughout the country. Former Mayor E. G. Sewell led the campaign to have schools established in Miami. It was thought that a site near the everglades would be ideal for training with land-based planes, while hydro-planes could use Biscayne Bay. Early in May 1917 Curtiss' Flying School was moved to a permanent site, 50 acres just below the former lock on the Miami Canal near today's 33 Ave.

Glenn H. Curtiss was exploring every opportunity to promote flight and create a demand for aircraft. The Army and Navy had trained pilots. The Marine Corp did not. Curtiss saw an opportunity to do his patriotic duty while opening a new client stream; he offered to lease this school to the Marine Corp for \$1/year for the duration of WWI for the purpose of training their own pilots.

ARCHITECTURE

Monument architecture is appropriate in traditional Military style, consistent with its' original dedication date 1949. White painted brick is a background for 3 bronze plaques approx. 1 ft. h x 2 ft. w. The plaques are centered. The top plaque honors the First Marine Aviation Force, the center plaque is the Marine Corp. Emblem, the bottom plaque honors Captain Roy S. Geiger (General deceased). The memorial on Curtiss Parkway was erected in memory of First Marine Aviation Force by members of the First Marine Flying Force Veterans Association.

ARCHEOLOGY

N/A

STANDARDS FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

The standards will follow the general guidelines as recommended for historic properties as detailed in *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* as developed in 1922 and codified as 36CFR Part 68 in the July 12, 1995, *Federal Register* (Vol. 60, No.133).

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION

The Roy S Geiger/ First Marine Flying Force Memorial designation is based on the following criteria of Section 153.20 of the *City of Miami Springs Historic Preservation Ordinance* (153).

- (A)(1) *Are associated with distinctive elements of the cultural, social, political, economic, scientific, religious, prehistoric, and architectural history that have contributed to the pattern of history in the community, the county, South Florida, the state or the nation;*
- (A)(2) *Are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;*
- (A)(3) *Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, style, or method of construction or work of a master; or that possess high artistic value, or that represent a distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;*

DESIGNATION RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation is that the Historic Preservation Board of the City of Miami Springs designates the _____. The designation of the above property is based on architecture, historical and contextual significance.

DATE _____

Signature of Chairman or
Vice-Chairman of the
Miami Springs Preservation Board

BIBLIOGRAPHY (If applicable)

Carbonnel, Antolin – Glenn Curtiss' Aviation Sites Timeline, unpublished manuscript, circa 2000

Carbonnel, Antolin – Aviation in Miami: The First 100 years, Exhibit narrative History-Miami Museum, circa 2006

The Home News Weekly - Monument Marking First Marine Training Site to dedicated Nov.13., Nov 12,1948

Gabby, Donald C. "The Curtiss Flying School and U.S. Marines Flying Field"
South Florida History Magazine Summer 1991 P. 4-12

Internet search Roy S. Geiger