

7910 13th St.

Sebastian, FL. 32958

May 18, 2017

RECEIVED

MAY 19 2017

BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSION

Indian River County Commissioners
To Susan Adams
1801 2nd St.
Vero Beach, FL. 32960

Dear Ms. Adams,

As a full-time resident of Indian River County I am writing this letter because my family and I will be out-of-town on June 16th, the date scheduled for meeting with the Roseland residents.

My family and I reside in Roseland, and have lived here since 1996. We thoroughly enjoy all of the amenities offered here including the Roseland Community Center located on Bay Street. We are extremely concerned about the possibility of its closing.

Roseland Community Club has become a focal point of our community and we always look forward to attending various functions there. It is a typical "small-town" gathering place we all love. It sits on the water giving everyone a beautiful view of the area. People attend so many functions there: meetings, weddings, personal family gatherings, political events, discussions, etc., and so often just being able to sit and look at the water. It brings a peaceful atmosphere to all who go there.

To close this center would be a

(over)

Real tranquility. Just to walk there and relax and sit on the deck or in the park area is breathtaking. I hope you all will reconsider the closing of this wonderful place. It is so rare to have a peaceful place like this within a community. Again, I apologize for not being able to attend this meeting on June 16th.

We hope you will definitely reconsider this decision.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,
 Patricia Whitford
 (and the Whitford family)



ROSELAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 201
ROSELAND, FLORIDA 32957

May 17, 2017

Indian River County Board of County Commissioners:
Commissioner Adams
Commissioner Flescher
Commissioner Zorc
Commissioner O'Bryan
Commissioner Solari
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Dear Commissioners,

The Roseland Community Building is an important part of life in North Indian River County. This historical landmark has routinely helped thousands of residents throughout Roseland history; empowering, embracing, educating and economically benefiting them. Community meeting places provide a sense of belonging, social acceptance and personal growth, Roseland's community building is no different. This historical building has been home to numerous clubs, organizations, and activities throughout its almost *100 years* in existence. In just recent years the community building has been supporting many weekly activities including two different yoga and exercise classes, a meditation class, AA meetings and the Roseland Music Guild as well as being home to the monthly meetings of the Roseland Women's Club. Numerous special events also rent the facility. The community of Roseland is blessed to have this building and is thankful to the Roseland Women's Club to have built it and to have stood by it through maintaining their organization with good leadership and diligence.

The historical significance of this Indian River County Community Building can best be understood by the following list of minutes from the Roseland Women's Club. These minutes date back to 1921 and reveal valuable insight into early 20th century life. As one of the few remaining historical landmarks in Indian River County, the history of the Roseland Women's Club and of the Roseland Community Building is important to preserve.

1921 – November 14th. The Roseland Civic League was formed for the improvement of Roseland. Fee for membership \$1 with meetings once a month or on call, and held at homes of members. Money is used to clean streets starting at the depot going west.

1922 - February 8th. meeting voted to take in the men as associated members. It was voted to get in touch with the power company to see about electric light installation and to see what it would cost to have a phone installed to be located in the Post Office.

1923- March 1st, it was suggested to change the name of the organization from the Roseland Civic League to Roseland Women's Club.

Permission was received from Indian River County to construct a building on county land along the Sebastian River, which had been reserved for a park.

1927 – March, The Clubhouse building was started. The Underpinning came from the old bridge; many people donated time, money windows and screens. Lumber was purchased for \$256.57.

1928 - \$138.83 paid for further supplies. The building was painted green.

1929 – The building of the clubhouse was completed.

1942 – The underpinning of the clubhouse was examined and need repairing. A donation of \$10 was received for the repair. The underpinning of the Clubhouse was repaired, and that of the outhouse.

At each meeting the war news of the day was discussed with the members working on various Red Cross projects.

1949 – Roseland Women's Club started the area's first library at the clubhouse until the 1980's, when the North Indian River County Library was opened.

1949 – Roseland Women's Club paid in full \$258 for new dock built behind community building.

1953 – Roof repairs completed the remodeling of kitchen and building of the powder room will start.

1957 – February 7, a limit of \$2500 for the building addition was passed.

1959 – January 19th the Indian River County Commissioners requested that Roseland Women's Club be the designated custodians of the Roseland Community Building. This arrangement is still in effect today.

1996 – The building was renovated inside and out with A/C and heat added.

PRESENT DAY – We continue our philanthropies.

Roseland Women's Club has proven themselves to be excellent stewards and partners to Indian River County. Historical landmarks are a responsibility. Indian River County has the resources to support the Roseland Women's Club in its restoration of the building, and to support their efforts as grants and donations are acquired to help subsidize the endeavor.

The Roseland Community Association stands firm in its commitment to help the County and the Roseland Women's Club, in any way needed, to see this historical building once again become the cornerstone of North Indian River County's historical heritage.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Terry Cadle - President
Brad Baker- Secretary
Irene Bush- Treasurer
Fred Mensing- Board Member
Ellen Patterson- Board Member
Rick Patterson- Board Member
Lori Bray- Board Member
Jim Lowe- Board Member
Rita Lowe- Board Member
Roseland Community Association

Sebastian Property Owners Association
P.O. Box 780263
Sebastian, Florida, 32958

Commissioner Susan Adams
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960-3388

Dear Susan,

Our membership and board have been made aware of the plight of Roseland. our sister city, the Roseland Community Building and the Roseland Women's Club. As we strove to understand how this situation evolved we came upon the Historic Roseland Neighborhood Plan, in this study Staff wrote in the year 2003 "Through considerable interaction with the residents of Roseland, the County has prepared this neighborhood plan" (p. 4).

The following highlights of this plan is not an attempt to lay fault or blame only bring to light what is the Historic Roseland Neighborhood Plan and how your consideration of the Roseland Community Building may be enlightened.

Under RECREATION FACILITIES Staff stated "the Indian River County recreation department maintains five recreation facilities in the Roseland area: Helen Hanson Park; US 1 Roadside (Moore's Point); Roseland Community Center i.e. (Roseland Community Building); Dale Wimbrow Park; McDonald Campground (p. 24).

Under HOUSING / HOUSING CONDITIONS Staff stated the housing stock in Roseland is in fair to good condition. Only five substandard housing units in Roseland and no dilapidated homes requiring demolition were identified in the Roseland area. Therefore, the County does not need to take any major housing related action in the Roseland area, except to inform owners of the five identified substandard housing units of the County's rehabilitation program (p 32).

Staff stated under HISTORIC RESOURCES that Roseland, as one of Indian River county's oldest community has a very high proportion of historic properties (11.6 % of the unincorporated county's total) relative to its share of the unincorporated county's population (2,4%). Staff went on to state that to preserve them will serve to enhance the

quality of life in Roseland (p 33).

ROSELAND NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN GOAL

THE GOAL OF THE ROSELAND NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN IS TO MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE ROSELAND AREA, PRESERVE NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES, ENSURE COMPATABILITY OF LAND USES, PRESERVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD AS A SAFE COMMUNITY WITH WELL MAINTAINED HOUSING, AND TO ENSURE PROVISION OF ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE (P. 37).

We trust that once you inform yourself of the situation in Roseland you will be able to allow reasonable time for both the County and the Roseland Women's Club to attempt to secure necessary funds so that citizens for many more generation will enjoy what so many already have.

We thank you for your help and all you do.

Bruce Zimmerman

President

Buzz Hermann

Vice President

Mark Bondy

Secretary

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MAY 08 2017

BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSION

Holly Dill
11675 Roseland Rd.
Sebastian, FL 32958

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May 4, 2017

Susan Adams,
Indian River County Board of County Commissioners
1801 27th St.
Vero Beach, FL 32960

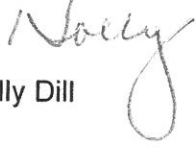
Dear Commissioner Adams:

It is disheartening to hear the news about the Roseland Community Building's questionable structural soundness. The building means so much to the residents of Roseland and the many groups and organizations that use it. In many ways it serves as the focal point of our historic, old Florida community.

It's my understanding that the County has determined that parts of the building make it no longer safe for occupancy. I know the Roseland Women's Club is working diligently to develop a plan to work cooperatively with the County on restoring the building. Thank you for your efforts in the plan. Roseland residents tend to be happy with our quaint surroundings and the Community Building serves as our rallying point for the character of our neighborhood.

I hope the Indian River County Commission will make every effort to save the Roseland Community Building. It may be small and it may be off the beaten path, but those characteristics do not diminish the building's importance to Roseland.

Thank you for the consideration,


Holly Dill



Friends of St. Sebastian River

P. O. Box 284 • Roseland, Florida 32957

www.fssr.org – info@fssr.org

May 4, 2017

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Board of County Commission
Indian River County
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960-3388

Dear Commissioners:

It has come to our attention that the Roseland Community Building is in need of structural repairs, and that the County has chosen not to support the maintenance of this facility any longer, for the community of Roseland.

The building embodies much history for the community of Roseland and its identity as a historic neighborhood in our county. It provides a gathering spot for the community along the shore of the St. Sebastian River, for the enjoyment of this resource. Without a facility available at this public location, some of the functionality and desirability of this community "park," as a destination, will be lost.

The nearby State of Florida historic marker gives a brief outline of some of Roseland's history, and specifically references the Community Building as part of the historic nature of the community.

We hope that you will give further consideration to the importance of the Community Building to the history and identity of the community of Roseland, and give your support to repairing the facility, to restore its integrity for use and enjoyment by the public.

Sincerely,

Tim Glover, President
Friends of St. Sebastian River

Sebastian Area Historical Society
1235 Main Street
Sebastian, FL 32958

May 1, 2017

IRC Board of County Commissioners
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL

Dear Commissioners,

It has come to our attention that a historically significant structure, Roseland Community Building. The importance of saving an historical structure, such as this, impacts not only the present but the future of all of us.

This building has structural, age and weather reparation issues that need to be addressed. The need for major repairs and restoration and its continued preservation of this building is of significant value to the community and surrounding area.

The Sebastian Area Historical Society is well aware of the need for preservation of this historical building and restoring its position as a central focus of Roseland as it was some 90 years ago.

The Sebastian Area Historical Society wholeheartedly supports saving this structure and the Roseland Women's Club's efforts to help make this happen.

Sincerely,

Kathy McDonald, President

Ecumenical Council Food Pantry
12962 Roseland Road
Roseland, FL 32957

Board of County Commissioners
Indian River County
1801 27th Street
Vero Beach, FL

April 28, 2017

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is to express our support of the project to restore the Roseland Community Building that is so important to this community and surrounding area.

The Roseland Women's Club gives monthly donations of non-perishable food items to our food pantry. They have also supported our efforts with a generous yearly monetary donation for many years, and we appreciate their effort.

This building has served numerous civic activities and celebrations for many years and hopefully will continue to do so in the future. The Roseland Community Building is in the very heart of Roseland and is a representation of the character of this community.

We ask that you do everything within your power to save this building. This will be a continuation of all that is good for a community of significance.

Thank you.

Grace M. Follitt
Food Pantry Director

To: The Roseland Women's Club

RE: The Historic Roseland Community Center

I attend a weekly yoga class at the Roseland Community Center. In addition, I have close friends who live in Roseland, so I pass by the Center frequently. If my income would allow it, I would be a part of the Roseland community with the beautiful St. Sebastian River flowing along its edge. I won't say I'm doomed to live on Easy Street in Sebastian, but an historic neighborhood like Roseland certainly adds much that's missing in the usual subdivisions and highway sprawl of this city.

The community center is an integral part of the character of Roseland. It says a lot to people who look at homes in the community and to people who visit those who live there. Because I attend class at the center, I am aware that it is closed for repairs. This, of course, is expected and it has to be done regularly to historic buildings, especially ones that are 100 years old and counting. It is important to keep the center as a usable space in addition to keeping its history and presence as a real center of the community. I am writing this letter to encourage our county to provide the funds to keep the center open, safe, and in good order for us who use it now and for those who will be using it as the center of the community during its 200th year.

I grew up in a community in west TN where the community center still stands and can't imagine the county not supplying the funds to keep it in good shape. All we have without our community centers is a group of houses on neighboring streets with schools and places of worship that divide the streets into different groups. And, all we have without our historic community centers are mainly metal or prefab buildings that offer a place to gather, but with nothing of character to add to the neighborhoods. I believe most of us would rather have a building like the Roseland Community Center on our street than a big, multi-purpose building like those that exist all over the country.

I hope this letter will help as you seek county funds to preserve an important building, not just for the Roseland Community, but for all of us in the county.

Hamilton Edwards

Sebastian, FL 32958

April 22, 2017

My mother, my brother and I moved to Roseland when I was five years old in December of 1959. My grandparents lived there then, as did many retired couples, and we lived for awhile with them in their house which was almost directly across the street from the Roseland Community Center until my grandfather built us our own small house on the lot behind his. He and my grandmother owned the adjoining lot to the center and my grandfather was part of the community which did upkeep there for the building and the lot and the dock. At that time, the center was used as a meeting place for the Woman's Club and the Garden Club, I believe. It was also used as a polling place and there may have been other organizations which met in the building including the Power Squadron which my grandfather was a member of. Many of the retirees had boats and used them for leisurely rides on the beautiful Sebastian River. I can also remember going to the center for parties, bridal showers and baby showers, decorated with local flowers and with food served which had been prepared in the kitchen there.

Things were quite different in those days. Although it shocks me now to find the very heart of Roseland, the part where the Community Center still stands, very much unchanged after almost sixty years, the surrounding area was mostly still wild. Sebastian had one grocery store and the elementary school, which I attended and where my mother taught. There was a gas station on the corner where the Publix shopping center now sits. Joy and Ralph Holtzclaw ran a tiny store which sold the most basic of necessities and lived in the back of the store. There was one restaurant in the entire area and it was attached to a motel. Melbourne and Vero were the "big" cities where one went if one needed anything out of the ordinary. There was hardly any TV reception then and few people had TV. Air conditioning was a rare luxury, and these retirees were strong and able people, spending their days growing citrus and other "exotic" (to them) plants, working on their houses, and sometimes going to the beach for picnics. Their lifestyle, in fact, was not that much different from that of the others who lived in Roseland then- fishermen and their families, electricians, carpenters, tradespeople. My best friend's father was a barber who had a shop in Wabasso.

Now of course, things are different but as I said, the very heart of Roseland remains much the same although many of the old houses have actually been restored and look better now than they did all those years ago! And I love coming back to visit, to walk down the still-sandy road by the river, to remember who lived where, where we played marbles and hopscotch, and to go by the old Community Center where I spent so many hours as a child with my friends, mostly on the dock where we fished for catfish with rubber worms or gummy balls of white bread or simply lying on the warm boards, imagining pirate ships coming down the river, and buried treasure, and gazing at the islands where surely Tarzan must live.

It was magical.

And so much of the magic of my imagination sprang from books I had read and where I had learned to love them came directly from that Community Center which in those days housed a tiny library which was run by one of the women's groups for the community. I doubt they had two hundred books there. Probably far fewer. But even Sebastian didn't have a library! It was only open as a library one night a week and I remember as if it were yesterday, walking the short block with my mother and my brother to check out books, following the beam of a flashlight through the darkness. There was only one children's bookcase and it wasn't long before I had devoured every book in it and soon, Mrs. Mockeridge, the woman who was usually there to check out our books, to stamp them with her date stamp, began to allow me to read "adult" books which she carefully chose and discussed with my mother before she allowed me to take them. I will always love her for that and I will always remember the excitement I would feel when I held a book in my hands that I'd never read before, it's weight and even smell a promise of a new world which I was about to enter.

So for me, that little building is the very heart of where my love for the written word began and the land around it, the river behind it, were all a part of the two things which have never failed me in my life which are words and nature. No matter how hard he tried, my grandfather never could quite tame the jungle of what grew and crept and slithered there in that lot on the river and what a gift for me and my friends that he couldn't! I remember we used to build rafts out of whatever we could find right there beside the dock and although we never actually launched one, the business of building them launched dreams of exploration and discovery, just as did the books inside the building.

That entire little place on earth seems somehow enchanted to me and every time I come back to visit, I always check to see if a certain pine tree which got struck by lightning still stands in its place beside the building. It does. I remember when it got struck and how that tree smoldered from its wounded trunk and then, how it healed and the tree still stood, still grew, as deeply scarred as it was. It still grows, it is still beautiful. It still offers shade and, for me at least, inspiration on how to live and even thrive after grave damage has been wrought. To me, it bears witness to the life of Roseland as it stands guard over the Community Center which also still stands, although I am sure that time has wounded it, too, it still offers a place for people to come together to meet and to join in community. It still, it would seem to me, has a place there in that community. It represents not merely a building meant for utilitarian purposes but also history.

The sweat and the care and the presence of so many generations of residents of Roseland are represented in those walls.

No. I do not live in Roseland anymore although I visit as often as I can, but it is, in many ways, my heart-home and I dream of it regularly and that little building is always there, one of the characters of those dreams. It represents so much to me that I can't even explain.

I am quite certain that I am not the only person who feels this way. I hope the county commission finds its way to help fund its repair and upkeep so that it can remain as what so few things in this world are today- a living, breathing, piece of history which continues to serve the community where it has served for so many years, fulfilling its purpose, gracing the village, fulfilling its small but important place in time and in space, a gift to so many over the years and hopefully, so many more to come.

Mary Moon
Lloyd, Florida

Susan Adams, Board Chair
Board of County Commissioners
Indian River County
Vero Beach, FL
April 20, 2017

Dear Madam Chair,

I am writing to support the Roseland Women's Club in their request for assistance in ensuring the continued use of the Roseland Community Center.

Community and a sense of place are essential to the healthy functioning our society. As we see our society fragment, with people relying increasingly on artificial "connectors" such as social media, maintaining real connection becomes more and more important.

The Roseland Women's Club is one of those real connectors. I had the great good fortune to address the Women's Club regarding SafeSpace and the services available through this sole provider of certified Domestic Violence services on the Treasure Coast. As always, the club provided financial assistance, within their modest capacity, for battered women. They also provided a large number of "hospitality kits" for our clients – filled with cosmetics, toiletries, and various other essentials. There were ones for adult women and teenagers. And ones for small children, filled with coloring books, stuffed animals, etc. – in short, the kinds of items that would help a child feel cared for and somewhat "settled" in these most trying circumstances. It was not only a thoughtful and generous gesture, but it evidenced a deep empathy for the needs of these people who often leave their batterers with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

The Women's Club has provided similarly generous outreach for over fifty community agencies including CareNet Crisis Pregnancy Center, the Ecumenical Council, the Marion Fell Fellsmere Library, the Florida Children's Home, the Florida Sheriffs Boys Ranch, the Hacienda Girls Ranch, the March of Dimes, IRC Meals on Wheels, the North County Library, Our Father's Table, Roseland Library, Roseland Methodist Church, Roseland Sunday School, the Roseland Volunteer Fire Department, the Samaritan Center, The Lord's Table, and The Source. This generosity and this tradition spread back well over ninety years.

It appears that the Community Center building is in need of significant and expensive repair. As might be expected, this older building has settled and has suffered insect intrusion and damage. It is to be commended that the County had chosen to deal with the differential settlement issue. I am hopeful that the County will also try to remediate the termite problem. Competitive bids, and perhaps a community-minded pest control company, might put the cost of these repairs in a reasonable range.

As I reflect on my visit to these generous women, I can so vividly remember the personal concern and connection they had with one another – inquiring about health, expressing concern and support over the loss of a loved one, planning to visit a fellow member in the hospital. These are the connections that make life worth living. And the connections that build a viable community rooted in a sense of place. I urge you to try to find some way to keep this local community intact and functioning. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Tom Manwaring

Roseland Christian Preschool

12962 Roseland Road
P.O. Box 157
Roseland, FL 32957



Growing in God's Love

Office: (772) 388-5004
Fax: (772) 589-3079
License #C15IR0041

April 19, 2017

To The Board of County Commissioners:

This letter is in support of Roseland Community Building located at 12973 83rd Avenue Sebastian. We are a private non-profit preschool located very near the community building. This facility was to be used as a safe place for us to take our students 110 and 13 staff in case of our building being evacuated. We do not have transportation for our preschoolers and needed a place where we could quickly go. We have yet to find another location that we would be able to safely and quickly evacuate to. We would ask that consideration be given to repairing this building if possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie Herrera".

Stephanie Herrera, Preschool Director

April 18, 2017

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regard to the Roseland Community Center. For the past eleven years I have been a winter resident on Bay Street, not far from the Center. I know that it is an integral part of the neighborhood and a very special place. I attend weekly yoga classes there that are enhanced by the charm of this Roseland landmark. There is something remarkable and unique about this 100 year old building. I have high hopes that it will be there for years to come!

Sincerely,

Linda Bottorff

12845 Bay St.

Roseland, Fl 32957

or

1801 S. Virginia Ave.

Mason City, IA 50401