

**Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)
Meeting Minutes April 8TH, 2015**

Meeting held at the Charlotte County Historical Center at Grace Street Annex

Committee Members

Sue Blackwell (56/73)
Michael Haymans (30/56)
Scot Shively (66/69)
Larry Peck(10/14)
Dianne Munson (8/14)
Emma-Lou Craig (5/6)
Carol Leonard(2/2)

Present

Scot Shively
Emma Lou-Craig
Sue Blackwell
Carol Leonard

Not Present

Larry Peck
Dianne Munson
Michael Haymans

Staff

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch
Lanette Hart, Acting Manager Libraries
Jackie Brown, Historian
Crystal Diff, Programs Coordinator
Jackie Anderson, Program Assistant
Lynn Harrell, Program Assistant - Archives

Guests

Commissioner Cheryl Cook, North Port

9:06 a.m. Call to Order, Roll Call

Old Business – Marker for the Southland Trail Cemetery has been ordered

HAC Appointments and Terms of Office – Currently the HAC has one applicant for the vacant at Large position. The El Jobean Community League (EJCL) vacant position is currently vacant however EJCL member, Bev Cisco and Commissioner Deutsch are working on getting Jim Marshal to return to the HAC to represent the League.

New Business – Discussed a historical plaque program that could mark buildings throughout the County that would qualify as historic. The plaques would be sold to the building's owner as a fundraiser. As an example the Dairy Queen in Port Charlotte has been owned and operated by the same family since 1962, and is 53 years old. Also a public workshop was discussed to inform the public on the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) program and how to list a property on the Florida Master Site list. A property needs to be at least 50 years or older to be listed.

Southland Cemetery Historical Marker- The dedication ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 15th, 2015 at 10:00am. Due to the austere location of the cemetery, maps will be sent out to invitees.

Fundraising – HAC Bunkhouse t-shirts will be sold at upcoming programs. Seven Bunkhouse t-shirts were sold during the past three scheduled Cookie House Tours.

Historic Surveys – 4676 Church St, Charlotte Harbor, demo 2 trailers/shed, **Released**

- 1630 Mc Call Rd, Englewood, demo shed, **Released**
- 5505 Riverside Dr., Punta Gorda, reroof, **Released**
- 1960 Florida Ave, Englewood, demo mobile home, **Released**
- 2690 N. Beach Rd., Englewood Beach, construction 5 unit condo, **Released**
- Sale of County-owned parcels in East County near Mercer Cemetery, Agricultural use; given normal unexpected findings info, **Released**

Historical Staff report- The Cookie House Tours were a success, over 420 visitors attended. The tours included a private home school group and led to a requested lecture for the Rotonda Women's Club. The Tales of Indian Spring Cemetery Tour was also a success; over 140 visitors toured the cemetery. On May 8th Victory Florida (a Viva Florida 500 event) will kick off commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Crystal is developing events and exhibits will be designed for the week of August 10th

through the 14th. The historical marker for the Punta Gorda Airfield, once approved by the HAC would be dedicated on August 14th as the Victory Florida wrap-up event. The marker is being paid for by a private sponsor. The text for the marker will have to go to the committee in June for approval.

Long Range Plan – The Historical Center is working on their Long Range Plan for the Center's future. Plans include planning for a new museum to be opened in 2-3 years. The location of the future museum has not been decided. Public Workshops will be held in May and Focus groups will be held in June. Michael Haymans has been asked to be the facilitator of the Public Workshops. They will be held at the Mid County Regional Library, Englewood Charlotte Library, and Port Charlotte Library.

History Programs & Exhibits- Historical Center's upcoming event, "Shakespeare in the Park" will be held at Bayshore Live Oak Park, Friday, April 24th, from 5:30-7:30pm. There will be a costume contest with prizes and patrons are more than welcome to do a reading of their favorite sonnet, monologue, or poetry inspired by Shakespeare's writing and come in costume. Jackie Anderson and Crystal Diff will be in costume and performing a scene from "Macbeth".

Archives and "Friends of the Englewood Archives" – A regular schedule for archiving work has been developed post the Center's move to Grace Street. A large collection of local newspapers are being inventoried at Grace Street for processing.

Preservation project updates

Cookie House- Now that the project is complete, the process of nominating the structure to be added to the National Register is underway.

Bunkhouse- To be submitted for 2016/2017 state grant cycle. Submission Sept. 2015

Mercer Cemetery- Added to the 2016 & 2017 Budget cycle (if approved). The project will require a RPA to conduct the preliminary survey.

Dock in front of CCHC – The site was added to 2016 & 2017 budget cycle for a RPA (preferably one with a specialty in underwater research) to conduct the preliminary survey.

Historical Center update

Citizen Input – Commissioner Cook will send grant information to Jackie Brown and Crystal Diff about Wayfinding projects for self guided cemetery tours, historical markers, historical sites, etc.

Member Input and Announcements –

- **Sue Blackwell** – Punta Gorda's Historical Society has been busy with the Historic Home Tours.
- **Emma-Lou Craig** – Discussed an idea to develop a list of notable people and events that have ties to Charlotte County. A cemetery tour of celebrities that are buried in Charlotte County could be developed.
- **Scot Shively** - Emancipation Day at the Blanchard House Museum will be May 23rd 10-3pm. A group of United States Colored Troops (USCT) re-enactors will be participating at the event.
- **Carol Leonard** - Friends of the Englewood archives have a newsletter coming out with the Committee and members for the joint county meeting with Charlotte and Sarasota County on April 17th.

Adjournment – 10:44 am

Next HAC Meeting:

HAC monthly meeting- 9 A.M., Wednesday, May 13th, 2015 meeting will be held at the Grace Street Annex, 514 East Grace Street, Punta Gorda FL, 33950

cc:

Commissioner Ken Doherty

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

Commissioner Bill Truex,

Commissioner Christopher Constance

Commissioner Tricia Duffy

Ray Sandrock, County Administrator

Kelly Shoemaker, Deputy County Administrator

Tommy Scott, Director, Community Svcs Dept.