

**Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)  
Meeting Minutes September 09, 2015**

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

**Committee Members**

Sue Blackwell (59/78)  
Emma-Lou Craig (8/11)  
Michael Haymans (33/61)  
Carol Leonard (6/6)  
Dianne Munson (12/19)  
Gene Murtha (5/5)  
Larry Peck(15/19)  
Scot Shively (71/74)  
Pat Spence(2/2)

**Present**

Carol Leonard  
Dianne Munson  
Gene Murtha  
Scot Shively  
Sue Blackwell  
Larry Peck  
Pat Spence

**Not Present**

Michael Haymans  
Emma-Lou Craig

**BoCC Liaison:**

Stephen R. Deutsch

**Guests**

Valerie Colbert, DAR Hickory Bluff Chapter

**Staff**

Jackie Anderson, Programs Assistant  
Lynn Harrell, Archives Assistant

**9:00 a.m. Call to Order, Roll Call – The August meeting minutes were approved, with corrections.**  
Emma-Lou Craig has an excused absence for September. Michael Haymans absent.

**Citizen input:** Valerie Colbert reported on the successful clean-up effort at Hickory Bluff cemetery in Charlotte Harbor, undertaken voluntarily by DAR & local Boy Scout troop. The boys ranged in age from 7 to 12 and did all the labor. They would now like to wash the perimeter fence to remove mold; Ms. Colbert will contact Public Works about using their portable water tank.

**Old Business** – HAC webpage now “live” on CC & Historical Center websites; CC website now interactive through phone app, citizens can report hazards, upload photos etc., directly to website. Pat Spence welcomed as newest HAC member, representing El Jobean area. .

**New Business** – Jackie Anderson leaving Historical Center, but plans to continue volunteering for docent programs. -- The Punta Gorda Army Airfield exhibit, a “Victory Florida” initiative, is pulling high numbers of visitors with favorable comments. The exhibit opened August 10 at MCRL and will remain until November 12. -- New procedures to streamline HAC meetings were introduced; member input will now follow adjournment of the meeting. Scot Shively urged members to send out flyers on events sponsored by their organizations early, by email, so that the info would be available to hand out at meetings. -- Shively also reported that the Punta Gorda HP Advisory Board recently resumed meeting; the resumption of joint meetings with the CC HAC is being considered, perhaps twice a year. A requisite would be to meet in City chambers for recording purposes. -- Sue Blackwell commented on the demolition of Two Brothers Cafe in Punta Gorda which had been condemned due to fire damage. The building was originally constructed c.1959 as the Tamiami Trailways bus terminal. -- Carol Leonard asked about holding joint meetings with the North Port historical advisory group that NP Commissioner Cheryl Cook is working to establish. Commissioner Cook will be contacted for a status update. – Shively asked HAC members to review the links on the HAC webpage to make sure the contact info for their organizations is correct. -- CC Commissioner Deutsch gave details on the interactive capabilities of the enhanced County webpage.

**Historical Development/Reviews** – released with caution (disturbing earth, unanticipated findings)

210 Spaniards Rd, Placida; above ground tank & underground gas line, in historical buffer  
4400 North Shore Dr; Port Charlotte; residential slab, in historical buffer

8160 Little Gasparilla Island; replace existing dock & stairs, in historical buffer  
445 Palmetto Dr, Port Charlotte; workshop addition, in historical buffer

Scot Shively noted that staff is compiling info on the Cleveland area, to be considered for historic district designation. An overview will be given at next HAC meeting. – A tour of the historic County stockade building has been postponed; a future visit will be coordinated with Public Works. – Informational pamphlets are being prepared by staff on topics such as “What is a Historic Review?” and “Unanticipated Discoveries” to explain the historical aspects of new development and building renovations.

### **History Programs –**

A Pirates Life For Me –September 19<sup>th</sup>, at Southwestern State College, about 50 tickets sold so far. Cookie House tours will resume in January.

Discussion ensued on innovative presentation styles, the importance of multimedia elements in programs, utilizing modern technology (such as QR codes) to provide electronic access to landmarks, site markers, etc., and boosting museum visitation by participating in modern recreational pastimes such as geocaching. There are about 150 geocaches in Charlotte County now. These options offer alternatives to docent-led tours, which are still the most popular. Period costuming of tour guides during public events also attracts more visitors.

**Archives & Collections** – An inventory with processing status on archived collections is underway at Englewood. A tally of collections and items accessioned, processed or utilized by staff was compiled; **more than 51 collections comprising over 3,600 items were handled during FY 2014-2015.** Newly accessioned collections are in process at the Historical Center. Cataloguing of object collections stored at the Historical Center has begun. More volunteers are sought for this ongoing project.

**Historical Markers** –The Hickory Bluff cemetery site marker installation is tentatively scheduled for late October because of a manufacturing delay. Discussion ensued on reasons for revised scheduling of proposed markers; these include availability of funding, depth of research needed, fabrication and delivery time frames, tie-ins with upcoming events, etc. Jackie Brown has nominated Charlotte County for two state markers which would be funded through FPAN and will give an update next month. More discussion on electronic technology for self-guided driving tours followed.

**Citizen Input** – Valerie Colbert asked about application and funding for the proposed Hickory Bluff Mound marker. Scot Shively said that was still in the works and more information would be forthcoming.

**Adjournment** – 9:55 AM

**Next HAC Meeting:-** 9 A.M., Wednesday, October 14, 2015, to be held at the Grace Street Annex, 514 East Grace Street, Punta Gorda FL, 33950

cc:

Commissioner Ken Doherty	Commissioner Tricia Duffy
Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch	Ray Sandrock, County Administrator
Commissioner Bill Truex,	Kelly Shoemaker, Deputy County Administrator
Commissioner Christopher Constance	Tommy Scott, Director, Community Svcs Dept.