

**Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)
Minutes January 12, 2021**

Meeting held at the Mid County Regional Library, Meeting Room A/B.

Committee Members

Dianne Munson
Theresa Murtha
Pat Spence
Valerie Colbert
Clare Riggs
Stephen Valdes

Present

Pat Spence
Clare Riggs
Stephen Valdes
Dianne Munson
Theresa Murtha

Not Present

Valarie Colbert

BOCC Liaison:

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

Guests

Janette Knowlton, County Attorney

Libraries & History Staff

Jennifer Zoebelein
Tina Ranney

9:05 a.m. Roll Call Valarie Colbert not Present

Approval of December meeting minutes: Theresa motioned to approve minutes. Clare 2nd. All approved.

Agenda Items:

Janette Knowlton, review of HAC ordinance and meeting minutes.

Roles and responsibilities: The ordinance states that the HAC serves as an advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners. The ordinance provides that you can evaluate and recommend historical markers, provide input on historical programs and outreach efforts, reviewing construction projects of historical significance, raising funds for historic preservation. You can prepare recommendations to be sent to the Board of County Commissioners.

Minutes are the official record of this board's actions. You are required to include the type of meeting (regular, special, or emergency), the name of group, date, place, time of the meeting, officers that are present, the prior minute approval, any changes, all motions, the outcome, the name of the motion maker, committee reports, the name and subject of guest speaker and the time adjourned, should also include the date and time of the next meeting. How much of the discussion is recorded is up to the group. When you need to share the minutes with absent members or whoever wants to know, it might be beneficial to include a summary of discussions so that people know what was discussed at the meetings.

Questions and discussion about fundraising and construction permits on historic properties followed. Construction permits regarding historic properties would begin with Community Development and then, if needed, to Libraries and History; this has not happened in over a year. The group would be interested in seeing a list of properties, as this is how it used to be presented and discussed. The group has asked Jennifer to reach out to Community Development and ask someone to come to the meeting and explain how the process works.

Jennifer – review of Historic Marker Program resolution

The marker program was created right after the HAC was created; the idea was that it would recognize historic resources, and persons and events that are significant to Charlotte County in terms of archaeology and culture by placing plaques or markers at historical locations. Anything that would be proposed for a marker must 50 years old or older. There are also specifics regarding size of the markers and text. The markers are not meant to originate with the HAC. Recommendations and funding for markers would come from the community.

Discussion about funding markers including which ones the county has paid for followed. The role of Libraries and History is to review the content of the marker description.

Further discussion on changing the marker program rules ensued. Any changes that the committee wants to make would have to be drawn up and presented to the Board of County Commissioners for their approval. A copy of the ordinance will be sent to committee members for review and edit at the next meeting. Further discussion included QR codes on markers, what their content is, and where to find it, and how to get it on other markers.

Dianne asked for an update on archives and collections. Jennifer responded that they are going very well, and she recommended viewing the online collection. The digitization of the newspapers is an ongoing project; it will be a long process, but they will all eventually be available for online viewing.

Member Input:

Stephen Valdes mentioned his project of starting a military trail involving local historic military sites.

Theresa Murtha mentioned her southern supper on Saturday.

Pat Spence mentioned that there will be no more Community League.

Dianne Munson mentioned she had a meeting with Tommy Scott regarding the future of the HAC.

She would like to see a museum using the old Punta Gorda Library. Discussion about the old Punta Gorda Library building and its use followed. Commissioner Deutsch explained how and why the decisions were made regarding that building.

Public Input: None

Meeting Adjourned: 10:06 a.m.

Next HAC Meeting: - Wednesday, February 9th, 9a.m. at Mid County Regional Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL.

cc:
Commissioner Ken Doherty
Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch
Commissioner Bill Truex
Commissioner Christopher Constance
Commissioner Joseph Tiseo
Hector Flores, County Administrator
Emily Lewis, Deputy County Administrator
Tommy Scott, Director, Community Svcs Dept.