

**Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)
Minutes July 13, 2022**

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
Theresa Murtha
Dianne Munson
Valerie Colbert

Not Present

Stephen Valdes

BOCC Liaison:

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

Guests

Libraries & History Staff

Jennifer Zoebelin
Pamela Bird

9:00 a.m. Roll Call:

Approval of May and June meeting minutes:

Vote to approve May and June minutes

- Election of new officers (Chair and Vice-Chair)
- September meeting at Port Charlotte Library
- Historic markers – evaluation of list proposed at June meeting
- Prioritize areas for tourism website

Theresa started the meeting with suggesting that they shouldn't wait for those that are late. The meeting should begin on time.

Roll Call: All present except Valerie Colbert

Minute approval: May and June Clare Riggs motion to approve, Theresa Murtha, 2nd. Dianne mentioned she had a correction, vote not completed.

Election of officers: Dianne suggested that officers remain as is. Everyone agreed. (Not voted on)

September meeting will be held at Port Charlotte location due to renovations at Mid-County.

Historic Markers: Theresa asked if everyone had a copy of the list, she handed some out. She also brought a copy of the old list from Kelly (2018). There are some additions she would like to add to the new list. 1st is the Mackle Brothers development; this this ties in with Port Charlotte 2. El Jobean

historic district. Unless anyone has objections, she would like to add this to the new list. 3. Cleveland historic district. Everyone agreed. 4. Placida railroad trestle 5. Baker school (academy) Theresa believes there is enough going on out there. 6. _____ family property (overgrown) nothing there. (Not adding to new list) 7. County Stockade- near South County Park (crossing out) 8. Tom Adams Bridge. (Scratching from list) 9. Charlotte Harbor historic district (part of the CRA) 2 markers that are there are the Hickory Bluff markers. Do those markers cover the history? Are they enough? There is more information that could be added to clarify Charlotte Harbor) 10. Port Charlotte Beach, (beach complex area) Stephen Deutsch mentioned that the building is going to be enlarged. General improvements will be made. Theresa suggested that when improvements are complete there should be a marker. 11. Hinckley House (thinks there is already a marker) 12. Punta Gorda Herald. (Empty lot now) Dianne mentioned that someone else has wanted to put a marker. Theresa will research but she wouldn't make it a priority. 13. Harry Golding property (should be for Punta Gorda to do) Theresa thinks that Charlotte County should invest in some of the Punta Gorda markers, but others should be done by the city. 13. Water signs (do we want to deal with any of these); Commissioner Deutsch mentioned that maybe they should consult the Coast Guard Auxiliary and maybe they would be interested in markers. Theresa suggested there should be one by Cattle Dock and possibly Myakka. Theresa then went on to suggest a point system to score for priority. Clare suggested starting with a top 3. Everyone agreed that is a good place to start. Clare wants PC Beach, El Jobean historic, and Cleveland. Valarie also agreed with those 3, and so did Dianne. Theresa mentioned that the signs should be where people can see them if that influences their choices. Pat also agreed with those 3 and added that the property owners should be approached for permission and possible funding. Valarie agreed with that. Theresa agreed with the 3 also. Theresa then mentioned that because of the construction maybe the Charlotte Harbor marker should wait, and they should choose something to replace that one. She suggested Chadwick Beach (Manasota Key). Everyone agreed with that choice. So, the top 3 will be 1. Chadwick Beach 2. El Jobean Historic District, and Cleveland. Theresa then went on to ask about the county funding 3 Markers per year and Jennifer said that is not correct. So, Theresa then stated they would have to go to the Commissioners and ask for funding. Commissioner Deutsch suggested that the money could be raised through the local community. Theresa disagrees. She thinks that the County should pay and asking the community is a waste of time. Commissioner Deutsch also asked if Tourism can or might be willing to contribute funding also. He will look into it. Jennifer explained that the line item that had been created in the past was to store the money from fundraising, it was not a budget line. Pat also suggested asking for donations. Theresa disagrees and says that this project needs to be started right now and there is no reason why the County can't provide the funding. She says they are talking about public land. Clare also suggested that the community will help and contribute. Theresa believes this process takes too long. Theresa says that she wants to proceed with this right now. Commissioner Deutsch suggested that the group can approach the board and ask for the funding, and he would also suggest at that time, to ask if tourism can provide the funding from their budget. Theresa motioned that the group go to the board for \$7500 to cover the 3 markers. Clare 2nd. All in favor none opposed. Clare wanted to discuss the tourism website. Theresa wants to know the process to go to the board. Commissioner Deutsch suggested starting with a letter. Theresa will draft something with assistance from Dianne and Clare offered to help also. Jennifer will send the applications, so they can be filled out and reviewed. It is a

lengthy process and the company that provides the markers would be unable to produce 3 in a years' time. Theresa wants to overlap the process to help it move more quickly. Jennifer also reminded the group that the markers have to or should be on county property and the locations also have to be approved by Public Works. Theresa wants all 3 applications sent to her. Verbiage for the signs must be voted on at the meeting. There is no communication/discussion or collaboration allowed outside the meetings per Sunshine Law. Jennifer reminded the group that the meetings are public and even though the public rarely attends, details need to be discussed in the meetings. Theresa stated that the process is ridiculous and that it is not efficient. Clare motioned to return the tourism website discussion. She states that providing the information should be easy and she will work on compiling that and bring it to the next meeting. Dianne adjourned the meeting. Theresa asked Jennifer about displays at the library and Jennifer told her they are hoping for September.

Member Input: None

Public Input: None

Meeting Adjourned: 10:00 a.m.

Next HAC Meeting: - Wednesday, August 10th, 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.