

## Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)

### Minutes September 13, 2023

Meeting held at Centennial Park in Port Charlotte

#### Committee Members

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

#### Present

Theresa Murtha  
Valerie Colbert  
Clare Riggs  
Pat Spence  
Stephen Valdes

#### Not Present

Dianne Munson

**BOCC Liaison:** Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

#### Libraries & History Staff

Jennifer Zobelein, Joe Guerzo

#### Public Attendees

Gene Murtha

#### Roll Call

Theresa calls for roll call: All present except Dianne Munson

#### Approval of August Minutes

- Valerie calls to approve minutes, Pat seconds it. They are approved.

#### Update of 2<sup>nd</sup> set of changes on Ordinance

- Jennifer says that the county attorney informed her that the change of wording (“anyone with a passion for history”) would go before the board next month.

## **Application Process for New Point Comfort Marker**

- Clare asks Jennifer for an update on the New Point Comfort Marker.
- Jennifer answers, 'It's moving forward'. She has been in touch with the company and is filling out the form. She is getting billing information from Mr. Christman.
- There is no time frame. The price has gone up to \$3100.

## **Historical Marker Update**

- Theresa asks Jennifer for an update on the markers damaged by Hurricane Ian.
- Trinity Methodist Church repaired their own marker.
- Hotel Punta Gorda Marker is gone. She needs to get in touch with the city of Punta Gorda to decide to see what they want to do.
- Hickory Bluff was cleaved. Tablet is intact. Parks has it in their maintenance shed. She will ask Parks if it can be welded back together.
- Howard Homestead is on Bucky McQueen's property. She will drive by to see it because she's not sure if it can be welded.
- The only one that needs to be re-ordered is the Hotel Punta Gorda marker. She will look into if FEMA would pay for it, since it was storm damaged.

## **Member Input**

- Valerie expects a good crowd for the D.A.R. Cleanup Day on October 7.
- Theresa announces the annual Southern Supper will be on February 3, 2024. The theme will be the "Cracker Cowboys".
- Stephen Valdes says the Military Heritage Museum settled on a date for the Clay Shoot event. It will be in Sarasota next Veterans Day
- Stephen also asks who is in charge of the Liberty Tree in Gilchrist. Valerie says it's the D.A.R. She says it was a vet who was killed in Vietnam: Thomas Hart (M.I.A. 1973). It is actually a Freedom Tree, not a Liberty Tree.
- Commissioner Deutsch suggests making a Beirut Memorial like the one on the Riverwalk in Providence, RI, where 9 local servicemen perished.
- Discussion of hurricanes: Pat says they lost 1/3 of their town to Hurricane Ian. Jennifer says we will commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hurricane Charley.
- There was also a discussion of the non-participation of younger people in local historical groups.

## **Meeting adjourns**

- **Next meeting is Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 9am at Centennial Park**