

Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)

Minutes March 13, 2024

Meeting held at Centennial Park in Port Charlotte

Committee Members	Present	Not Present
Pat Spence	Pat Spence	
Dianne Munson	Dianne Munson	
Theresa Murtha	Theresa Murtha	
Clare Riggs	Clare Riggs	
Stephen Valdes	Stephen Valdes	

BOCC Liaison: Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

Libraries & History Staff

Jennifer Zoebelin, Joe Guerso

Public Attendees

Gene Murtha

Roll Call

Theresa calls for roll call: Everyone is present.

Approval of February Minutes

- Theresa asks about the motion for the recommendations on the Cultural Center. Jennifer says they voted on the motion in January, but she couldn't write the letter. She says she can show them the motion in the minutes. She says she can send them to Jeanette as soon as she gets back.
- If they want to include a letter, it has to come from the HAC, not Jennifer.
- Minutes are approved.

New Point Comfort Marker Update

- Jennifer says, according to the website, it's in the finishing stages of manufacturing.

- Dianne asks the cost. Jennifer says it's \$3500 and it's paid for.
- Theresa asks about markers on buildings. Commissioner Deutsch mentions the National Registry of Historic Buildings. The building she is citing is at Marion and 41, where Gussie Baker once lived. She says the building dates back to 1887. Jennifer says the city would have to pursue that.

Citizen Input: None

Member Input

- Theresa mentions the Giving Challenge on April 9 & 10.
- Clare visited Sunseeker for the Event Center. She noticed and admired the history plaques along the water.
- Stephen Valdes says Military Heritage Museum has a new contract with the tourist ship that comes in once or twice a week. They also need volunteers who are tech savvy. Pat suggests using teen volunteers.
- Commissioner Deutsch says they had a meeting on the **Cultural Center** yesterday. After Hurricane Ian, it was determined by professionals that it had to come down.
- He says there is sentiment among the Commissioners to have a local history section in the new cultural center and now is the time to discuss it and get ideas together.
- He also tells of the discovery of the flagpole where the Beirut bombing occurred in 1983 and its placement at the U.S. Embassy. Now it's coming to Charlotte County.
- Dianne says that Post 103 is having a Tank Dedication on March 17th.
- Commissioner Deutsch talks flag etiquette: U.S. Flag should always be highest one.

Cultural Center: They return to the topic. Commissioner Deutsch says HAC should gather ideas.

- Theresa asks if we can just use Frank Desguin's document/letter as a pathway. She calls for a vote on whether the members agree with it.
- Jennifer suggests emailing it out to the HAC and then voting on it at next meeting.
- Instead, Theresa calls for a vote now on the statement: "We as a committee support the inclusion of a history museum within the new cultural center".
- Theresa calls for a vote on it. Clare seconds it. The vote is unanimous in favor.

Pat calls for a vote to cancel April meeting. Clare seconds it. Vote is unanimous to cancel April.

Commissioner Deutsch says the D.A.R. recommended Catherine Adamo as new HAC member.

Gene Murtha asks about the timetable of construction of the new Cultural Center.

Commissioner Deutsch answers they can probably start construction in 3 years.

Meeting adjourns

- **Next meeting is on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 9am at Centennial Park**