

## Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)

### Minutes March 8, 2023

Meeting held at the Port Charlotte Library, Large Meeting Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

#### Committee Members

Dianne Munson

Theresa Murtha

Pat Spence

Valerie Colbert

Clare Riggs

Stephen Valdes

**BOCC Liaison:** not present

#### Present

Dianne Munson

Valerie Colbert

Pat Spence

Clare Riggs

Stephen Valdes

#### Not Present

Theresa Murtha

#### Libraries & History Staff

Jennifer Zobebelein, Joe Guerzo

#### 9:00 a.m.

Valerie asks if anyone is interested in joining HAC. Stephen suggests Charlie Noble

Dianne calls meeting into order

#### Roll Call

Roll call: All present except Theresa Murtha

#### Approval of January Minutes

Minute Approval: Pat motions to accept, Valerie seconds it.

#### Tourism Website

Claire discusses the BCB website. She would like a link to the CC Libraries & History site.

That's the first step. Then we would add content to the BCB website. Dianne thanks her.

## **Permit on 2021 Mark Avenue**

- Jennifer says a woman reached out to planning because she wants to overhaul the house.
- Her research found the house (circa 1930's) has been worked on 3 times and there's no historical integrity. So, she is given the green light for her to proceed.
- Claire asks for location. Jennifer says it is in the Solana area. It was on 2008 Historical Survey, but it isn't now because of the loss of historical integrity.

## **Debris Dumpsites**

- Jennifer has been working with Public Works to insure sites have no historic value

## **Historic Tourism**

- Dianne mentions her idea of a possibly putting together a task force to deal with historic tourism.

## **Calostimucu Statue**

- Stephen calls it a hidden and forgotten art treasure. The Royal Order of Ponce de Leon Conquistadors and Military Heritage Museum want to do something to get more recognition for it.
- Wants to get it in the newspaper. Ed Scott and Linda Gillis are his contacts.
- Valerie mentions a guy named Bob who was trying to get a group to refurbish it. Stephen says the Conquistadors are going to do that. He says it feels hollow.
- Asks for suggestions for awareness, Dianne mentions Mike Haymans' radio show.
- Valerie says it's on Freeman House property. Jennifer thinks someone is set to work on the house, but not the statue. It lost National Register status when it was moved a second time. It's trying to get it back for architectural purposes.
- Claire says maybe Carmelo's Restaurant can help promote it (i.e. on menu).
- Steve wants to put a marker there next year on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Jennifer will send an application, but if on city property, she recommends dialogue with city of Punta Gorda. Dianne suggests contacting Bill Driver, who is on the City Council.
- Steve reads excerpt on history of statue. It had to be turned to avoid offending.
- Dianne asks about grants. Claire suggests contacting Justin Brand at Community Foundation.

## **Council Member Updates:**

**Dianne:** Hibiscus Festival first weekend in May. Passes out drink cards and explains the event. It's in Gilchrist Park. Valerie mentions that Goulding was a hybrid specialist.

**Valerie:** D.A.R. has park tower event ground breaking on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 10am in Gaines Park. Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Day on the 29<sup>th</sup> at Military Heritage Museum.

**Stephen:** Helicopter at Military Heritage Museum had paint job damaged during Hurricane Ian. NAPA auto parts painted the entire helicopter. They also got Wally's garage to work on the van and the military truck they have.

**Claire:** Has been very busy at the Event Center. Gives kudos to Military Heritage Museum. Her father, a Vietnam vet, visited in December and was very impressed with the museum.

**Pat:** El Jobean is still in the process of repairing. They were damaged by Ian as much as the local beaches. She thinks there are going to be a lot of empty lots around because a lot of folks let their property go back to the insurance companies.

### **A question about money and markers**

Dianne asks Jennifer if the group has any money. She answers no. She asked because Kelly Gaylord told her she still had a lot of money. Jennifer explains that there is no budget for the HAC. Valerie mentions that they are given funds for 3 markers a year. Jennifer says she has someone in Englewood who is working on a Lampp House marker. The woman is paying for the marker. Steve asks about the cost of a marker. It is around \$2,000. Jennifer mentions that they come in different sizes, which would affect the cost.

**Dianne adjourns meeting.**

**Next meeting on Wednesday, April 12 at Port Charlotte Library**