

Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)

Minutes July 10, 2024

Meeting held at Centennial Park in Port Charlotte

Committee Members

Pat Spence

Dianne Munson

Theresa Murtha

Clare Riggs

Stephen Valdes

Katherine Adamo

Deborah Fitch

Present

Pat Spence

Dianne Munson

Theresa Murtha

Katherine Adamo

Not Present

Stephen Valdes

Clare Riggs

Deborah Fitch

BOCC Liaison

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

Libraries & History Staff

Neil Durrant, Joe Guerzo, Cal Keene

Public Attendees

Gene Murtha

Roll Call

Dianne does the roll call: Stephen, Clare, and Deborah are absent.

Approval of May Minutes

- Dianne calls for approval of May minutes. Pat approves and Theresa seconds it.
- Minutes are approved.

Welcoming newest member

- Katherine Adamo was a critical care nurse for over 20 years prior to retiring. She has been a member of the Hickory Bluff Chapter National Society of the Daughters of

the American Revolution (NSDAR) for over ten years. She is currently regent for her chapter. Her passion is gardening and genealogy.

Historic Markers Update

- Howard Homestead marker was installed
- Members expressed desire to raise more public awareness when markers will be restored or installed
- New Point marker has been installed. Rededication will be in January for the 100-year anniversary

Indian Spring Cemetery/Gilchrist marker

- This marker is still inaccessible due to Hurricane Ian. We are waiting on Public Work's approval to move forward. Another inquiry will be made to Public Works.

Update on demolition permit – 903 Lavilla Rd. Punta Gorda

- It's a 1926 house in bad shape located just outside the Punta Gorda city limits on east side of town.
- The damage is too extensive and it will have to be demolished. No date confirmed on that at this time.

Confirmed no meeting in August per member vote

- Next meeting will be in September

William R Gaines Jr Veterans Memorial Park

- Proposed marker for the birthday party coming up in a couple years
- Charlotte County Veteran's Council has authorized a marker for the Missing in Action
- We will be pouring concrete around the tower sometime this month. There was some concern regarding wind mitigation, but we are okay to move forward
- Due to inflation, we need to raise an additional million dollars
- We are having a major fundraiser for the park on August 30th. There will be food, refreshments, and live music. Tickets will go on sale soon. They will be tax deductible. More information will be sent closer to the day.

Citizen Input

- N/a

Member Input

- Commissioner Deutsch says that Kris Freeland, who owns the Nissan Dealership, has ancestors were some of the first settlers in this area. Katherine remarked that it would make a great article to write about.
- Commissioner Deutsch discussed the desire for a museum with monthly presentations or discussions. A letter was written to Frank last year expressing the desire for a museum. Dianne will inquire about an update on that letter.
- Jennifer is looking into the fire tower in El Jobean
- Dianne passed around an old list of proposed historical markers. Members will need to update the list and revisit the budget and guidelines for markers.

Meeting adjourns.

- **Next meeting is on September 11th, 2024, at 9am at Centennial Park**