

Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)

Minutes July 12, 2023

Meeting held at Centennial Park in Port Charlotte

Committee Members

Valerie Colbert

Dianne Munson

Theresa Murtha

Claire Riggs

Pat Spence

Stephen Valdes

Present

Dianne Munson

Theresa Murtha

Claire Riggs

Pat Spence

Valerie Colbert

Not Present

Stephen Valdes

BOCC Liaison: Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

Libraries & History Staff

Jennifer Zobebelein, Joe Guerzo

Public Attendees

Gene Murtha

Roll Call

Dianne calls for roll call: All present except Stephen Valdes

Approval of June Minutes

- As they review the June Minutes, Theresa asks about the ordinance revision. Jennifer answers that it was put before the board yesterday, and there will be a public meeting on August 1st at Murdock. After the meeting, there will be a vote to approve. Commissioner Deutsch recommends coming up with suggestions and

sending representatives from HAC, and explains the process and that they will be allowed to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting.

- Theresa wants line struck from last meeting: "Stephen disagrees..." It is removed.

Minutes approved

- Jennifer lets the HAC know that they can tell her what to put on the next meeting agenda either after the current meeting or via e-mail up to a week prior to the next meeting.

Discussion of Ordinance Revisions

- Commissioner Deutsch suggests discussing what changes they want to make, and who should make the presentation during the public comment on August 1.
- Dianne reviews last meeting and the decision to have a smaller number of members and just a "simple majority" present at meetings.
- Commissioner Deutsch suggests printing about 6 copies of the list of the changes they want addressed and giving the list to the commissioners and the clerk.
- Theresa asks about the "6 members from historical organizations" section. Because the verbiage is confusing, Jennifer clarifies that it means 6 members are appointed by the historical organization that they represent and that all members of the HAC have to be approved by the Board.
- Theresa asks if there are any changes they want to make in regards to at-large members. Pat mentions there is no longer a group in El Jobean, so she will be an at-large member.
- The group requests copies of the ordinance, Jennifer prints them out for them.
- Theresa has concerns that if only 3 people are present at a meeting, 2 people could make a final decision. She wonders if the commissioners would find that objectionable. Commissioner Deutsch says he's not sure.
- Commissioner Deutsch mentions another item on the agenda about an agreement with Punta Gorda that they will alternate the Veterans Day parade with Charlotte County every other year. There are questions about the costs and who will cover them.
- Commissioner Deutsch says if you show up at 9:10am at the August 1 meeting, you will have 2 chances to speak.
- Theresa asks if they want to change something in regards to at-large members. She asks if we want to make it 5-4 instead of 6-3 (group members / at-large).

Roundtable Discussion

- Theresa's group will have a program on Hurricane History at the end of July.
- Valerie announces a Constitution Week luncheon on September 16 through the Charlotte Bay Chapter of D.A.R. They are also going out to the schools and giving out constitution booklets to every 5th grader in the county.
- Claire says her staff's monthly newsletter now includes something about Punta Gorda history, like the mural of the hotel that once stood at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center. They are also doing virtual tours on their new website.
- Jennifer asks if they can vote on the 6-3 vs. 5-4 issue, changing 6 historical groups to 5 and changing 3 at-large bids to 4, as well as adding the statement "a general passion for history".
- Claire motions to vote, Theresa seconds the motion. The vote on the issue passes and the change is made.

Meeting adjourns

Next meeting is Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 9am at Centennial Park