

**Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)
Minutes September 8, 2021**

Meeting held at the Mid County Regional Library, Meeting Room A/B.

Committee Members

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

Present

Dianne Munson
Pat Spence
Clare Riggs
Theresa Murtha
Stephen Valdes

Not Present

Deborah Blair
Valerie Colbert

BOCC Liaison:

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

Guests

None

Libraries & History Staff

Jennifer Zoebelen

9:00 a.m. Call to Order, Roll Call – None; 2 absentees not recognized

Approval of June & July meeting minutes:

Dianne Munson asked everyone to review the minutes and share any changes they wanted made, and after no comments, Dianne said the minutes would be accepted as is. Jennifer mentioned that after the minutes are accepted, they would be posted on the website. Dianne asked that the term dates be removed from the member list.

Agenda Items:

REVIEW/Comment of Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan (Library & History Sections):

Jennifer started with basic info about the comprehensive plan and that different departments have been asked to review and make changes as necessary, since the last update was 10 years ago. This process is required by law, and there will be upcoming public meetings where the board will present proposed changes and the public will have the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed changes. The current plan is available on the website, and as soon as dates for the meetings are scheduled, HAC members will be informed.

At this time Dianne mentioned roll call and that usually people go around the table and introduce themselves and asked the board members to each state their name.

Discuss Future Field Trip as voted on at June meeting—Time/Date/Location(s):

Dianne mentioned the Liberty Tree dedication on October 9, 2021. Commissioner Deutsch added that he had a flyer for the event and asked if they could be posted. Discussion followed regarding whether this meeting could/would replace the scheduled meeting on October 13, and how members wanted to get to the Liberty Tree dedication (drive together or separately). Theresa raised the question of why the regular meeting would not go ahead, and Jennifer stated that members would have to vote to change the meeting. Claire proposed to keep the scheduled meeting on October 13 (since she would not be able to attend the Liberty Tree dedication), which was seconded by Theresa and agreed to by Stephen. Dianne agreed that if there was

material to discuss, regular meeting could remain. During this discussion, there was also brief mention by Commissioner Deutsch and Dianne about reports on housing demolitions, and Jennifer responded that none had come through.

Remaining Meeting Schedule for 2021: October 13, November 10, December 8: Dianne confirmed November meeting, and informed the group that no meeting would be held in December due to the holiday. Theresa questioned this, since the meeting is scheduled for early in the month; other members agreed. Theresa suggested moving on to talk about what HAC can do beyond historic markers.

New Business: Theresa began by stating that HAC members represent various historical groups and thus they could come together and use HAC as forum for leadership of historical organizations throughout the county. This would take the HAC beyond traditional dedication of historic markers. Commissioner Deutsch added that HAC had been proactive in the past and involved in providing recommendations regarding history related events and activities and could thus make suggestions beyond historic markers. He also emphasized the value of committees and the input they provide because they bring attention to topics that might otherwise get overlooked (water markers, cemeteries).

Brief discussion regarding HAC membership – impact of COVID, departure due to lack of items to discuss. Pat brought up the Centennial Picnic and the lack of advertising as a historical event. This segued to discussion by Theresa on how HAC can promote events, with Commissioner Deutsch stating that HAC was instrumental in creating Englewood Archives and that the group was more proactive in the past. He also stated that he spoke to Frank Desguin on joining the HAC but is unable to since he and Dianne are both members of the CCHCS. Theresa asked when that rule came about, and Jennifer stated that it was built into the ordinance. It was suggested by Commissioner Deutsch that Frank could join as a member of a different organization and Theresa mentioned that she knew someone who might work as well; this discussion continued to determine how to get these individuals on the committee and what other organizations might be represented.

Discussion then shifted back to what HAC can do beyond markers: making the county money or saving the county money (Stephen); obligation to teach local history to young people not just tourists (Commissioner Deutsch); historical tourism and education (Theresa); ghost tours or other events that combine history with learning (Clare). Question asked by Theresa regarding for-profit business participation in HAC, and Jennifer stated she would check and get back to committee. Theresa asked about comprehensive list or calendar of historical events in the county; Commissioner Deutsch responded that he did not think there was a list, mentioning that the 9/11 event had been cancelled, and Theresa continued by asking how to get such information to the public and those new to Florida. Claire stated that she would talk to Sean (Visitors' Bureau), and members discussed the possibility of him attending an HAC meeting to learn more.

There was also discussion regarding two plaques dedicated to those from Charlotte County who died in wartime. Theresa thought one was at the event center and one was in Laishley Park; Clare stated that she believed the plaque at the event center was moved to a location in Englewood. Commissioner Deutsch stated that City of Punta Gorda would have more

information. Stephen added that he has been working on the military history of Florida and would like to find a permanent place for the plaques.

Final discussions included the county logo/design, the El Jobean historical picnic, and teaching children about veterans; this last point led to brief conversation by Commissioner Deutsch regarding various Veterans' Day parades. Theresa put forward agenda items for the October meeting, with some follow-up on the plaques and a suggestion by Clare for discussion on the field trip to various county historic sites at the October meeting. Final items included the helicopter at the Military Museum, Sean's inclusion in a future HAC meeting and the final L&H centennial event (old-fashioned picnic in Englewood).

Public Input: None

Adjournment - None.

Next HAC Meeting: - Wednesday, October 13, 9a.m. at Mid County Regional Library, 2050 Forrest Nelson Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL.

cc:
Commissioner Ken Doherty
Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch
Commissioner Bill Truex
Commissioner Christopher Constance
Commissioner Joseph Tiseo
Hector Flores, County Administrator
Emily Lewis, Deputy County Administrator
Tommy Scott, Director, Community Svcs Dept.