

Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)

Minutes April 12, 2023

Meeting held at the Port Charlotte Library, Large Meeting Room, 2nd floor

Committee Members

Present

Not Present

Valerie Colbert

Dianne Munson

Valerie Colbert

Dianne Munson

Theresa Murtha

Theresa Murtha

Claire Riggs

Claire Riggs

Pat Spence

Pat Spence

Stephen Valdes

Stephen Valdes

BOCC Liaison: Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

Libraries & History Staff

Jennifer Zobebelein, Joe Guerzo

Meeting delayed until 9:15 a.m. due to Stephen Valdes arriving late

- Dianne says they discussed the Minutes prior to Stephen's arrival

Roll Call

Roll call: All present except Valerie Colbert

Approval of March Minutes

- Dianne wants to change the words "plenty of money" when describing what a previous board member had told her the budget. It turns out that the money mentioned was actually "marker money".

March Minutes approved

Tourism Website

- Dianne thanks Claire for her work on the website.
- Claire tells how to find the site: go to “things to do”, then to “arts & culture”, and then click on “Historical Markers” and it takes you to the county website
- Commissioner Deutsch brings up the county being a veteran-friendly county. We have nearly 30,000 veterans and former first responders. Economic Development realizes the value of this for making the county a good place to start a business. Mentions Military Heritage Museum, the Memorial Wall and Gaines Park and wants tourism to target appealing to veterans. Asks, “Is there a historical tie-in?”
- Stephen mentions he organized day trips to military sites: 11 locations as far north as Venice and as far south as Lee County (i.e. German POWs in Venice)
- Stephen tells Dianne that he will bring information on these trips.
- Stephen mentions there are 23 Canadian and British pilots buried in Arcadia

Historical Marker

- Dianne asks Jennifer for an update. She answers that the marker’s paperwork is finished. She’s meeting with them tomorrow and she’ll bring paperwork to the May meeting.
- Jennifer says the property is owned by the people doing this. They will also be purchasing the marker.

Discussion of May Meeting

- Dianne asks if it will be at Centennial Park. Jennifer confirms it is.
- Group realizes that 2 members can’t make the May meeting, so it is cancelled.
- Discussion turns to adding new members. Commissioner Deutsch asks if it specifies a number of members required. Jennifer says that as a group, they can submit that change, and then that change would go before the board. She says she will put it on the agenda for June meeting.
- Commissioner Deutsch would prefer a new member being from Englewood

Meeting Adjourned