

## Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)

### Minutes September 14, 2022

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

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
Dianne Munson	Dianne Munson	Clare Riggs
Theresa Murtha	Theresa Murtha	
Pat Spence	Pat Spence	
Valerie Colbert	Valerie Colbert	
Clare Riggs	Stephen Valdes	
Stephen Valdes		

#### **BOCC Liaison:**

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

#### **Libraries & History Staff**

Jennifer Zobelein

#### **9:00 a.m. Roll Call**

#### **Approval of July Minutes**

Roll call: All present except Clare Riggs

Minute Approval: Dianne mentions they are approved

#### **Gilchrist Marker**

Diane asks for an update on the marker. Jennifer says there is no update. She informs her that it is a Public Works Department issue. Theresa expresses the historical importance of the parks. Steve suggests that HAC take it up as a project to get it cleaned up. He mentions getting groups like the girl scouts, boy scouts and cub scouts to help

out on a Saturday morning. Dianne mentions knowing Harvey from Keep Charlotte Beautiful, and that maybe he can help. Steve asks about the cost of the cleanup. Jennifer tells him they need an update from Public Works. She agrees to get an update. Dianne says she doesn't want to wait a month and requests to be informed via e-mail.

### **Markers**

Theresa says she is working on a marker, and she asks for a sub-committee for help. She suggests a "mini-meeting". She was told a Historian has to do it. She says she has had problems with questions 6 and 7 on the form and recites one of the questions, 'Describe the physical condition of the resource.' Jennifer offers to help, and Jennifer gives her an example. Jennifer tells her that the question is asking her for a historical review and background of the resource, and to give a historical narrative. They discuss the next question, which asks for the historical significance of the resource. Theresa says she has ideas of where the marker should be but isn't sure if they are allowed to be there or not. Jennifer explains that they can make a proposal and that the departments involved, such as Public Work and History Services, would have to get together to make a decision on location. Steve says that they could probably send someone out to meet her at the location. Jennifer tells them that a meeting wouldn't happen until it has been submitted and approved. Theresa asks if she can leave it blank. Jennifer says it's okay to leave it blank. Theresa will do that when applying. Steve says after she writes the text for the marker, it should be brought to a HAC meeting for tweaking. Theresa would rather send it out to them via e-mail and have the others do the tweaking between meetings. Steve says he was just saying how it was done in the past. She wants people to look at it before there is a meeting. Jennifer explains on the topic of sub-meeting: there are no sub-meetings. It has to be done during HAC meeting. Some people can leave before they talk about the subject, but the meeting cannot be officially adjourned. Theresa says she is going to send Jennifer the application with items 6 and 7, blank. Jennifer says typically the applicant does that. Theresa answers that typically, the Historian does it.

### **Babcock Development**

Dianne brings up the topic of Babcock Development. Steve asks if this is on the topic of a marker. Theresa is not sure specifically why Babcock is on the agenda list. Steve says if they want to put out a marker, there's a lot of historical significance in that area. He warns that there are a lot of alligators there and that the biggest problem would be the location of the marker. He suggests somewhere near the town center and others agree. Valerie says that having a historical marker will give the residents a sense of connection to both Babcock and their part of Florida. Steve says it is good for their comfort level in the community. On the topic of money, he thinks that Babcock would help with the

costs and would enjoy the publicity, possibly through a photo-op or CCTV. They discuss the history of Babcock Ranch. Pat says it will be hard to decide what to put on the marker. Commissioner Deutsch remarks that it is mostly an economic history. Valerie says maybe it should focus on the ranch.

### **Status of the Bunk House**

Theresa inquires about the status of the Bunk House. Jennifer says they are in the process of getting an updated survey done to determine the structural stability of the structure. It has not been surveyed since 2017, when a plan was put together for renovation. This is the first step: to determine if the building is stable and if it is able to support any renovation. She says if it is, then we can proceed. Also, the issue is money. Steve asks if there were structural issues in the past. Jennifer answers yes and mentions that there was new framing put inside to hold it up. If it was removed, it would probably collapse. Theresa asks what the timeline would be. Jennifer states that it is a long-term project and that the issue is funding. Theresa would like a target date. Steve says that if the HAC becomes more proactive, there will be a greater response from the Commission. Theresa asks if that should be a letter to the Commission. Steve says we should agree on what we are doing first and be an active cohesive committee. Valerie suggests a letter from Dianne as a good start. Dianne says she can bring it to the next meeting. Steve starts a discussion about the Bunk House and its significance. Theresa mentions it as a possible tourist attraction. Steve says the county already made that determination. Theresa says they need to be reminded of its historical significance.

### **The July List**

Steve says they should be thinking about a historical marker for the Cultural Center. Valerie asks him if he's raising the point that the Cultural Center deserves a marker. She agrees but brings up that they made a list at the July meeting of what to prioritize. Theresa suggests that the list should be made as a target, but if we want add-ons, or to re-prioritize, that's fine. Steve talks about the history of the Cultural Center and how there was nothing to do here before and adds an anecdote. Theresa reads the list they put together in July: 1) Chadwick Beach 2) El Jobean Historic District 3) Cleveland. Pat tells about the history in El Jobean. Theresa asks if she can put the list together, with add-ons. Pat agrees to be head of the El Jobean project (#2) and to work with Jennifer on it. Theresa will work on Chadwick and Cleveland (#1 & #3). Theresa reads off the add-ons: The Mackle Brothers Development, Placida Railroad Trestle, , Tom Adams Bridge, Baker School Academy, County Stockade, Charlotte Harbor District, PC Beach, Hinckley House, PG Herald, Harry Goulding Property, and then adds the Cultural Center.

## **Upcoming Events**

In the last meeting, Clare motioned to return to the Tourism website discussion. She was going to compile the information to bring to the next meeting.

Valerie speaks of Constitution Week, September 17-24. The D.A.R. chapter has put up displays in the Port Charlotte schools. They hand out pamphlets, copies of Patrick Henry's speech, flag codes, etc. She also mentions an October Cemetery clean up event at Hickory Bluff on October 22, 8:30-10am. They are trying to get Boy Scouts to help. Theresa asks what they do, and Valerie explains they gather debris, recyclables and trash and use D2 to clean head stones. Wear jackets if you come. Keep Charlotte Beautiful is very supportive. Steve suggests reaching out to Brian Gleason to get something on CCTV. Boy Scouts get credit for Community Service or Merit Badges.

Steve says they have something planned for the Gold Star Mothers after the Veterans Day parade, the Saturday before Veterans Day. They are placing a Blue Star Memorial on the sidewalk.

Pat is planning on having a free Veterans Luncheon. Steve suggests going to the Veterans Council meeting to coordinate all the Veterans Day events in the area. He thinks the meeting is the last or the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at the American Legion Post 110 on Harbor Boulevard.

Theresa says they are having the annual Southern Supper on November 19<sup>th</sup>, where they induct members into the Punta Gorda History Hall of Fame. This year's theme will be the 1950's, so dress accordingly for the event.

Steve announces that the Military Heritage Museum will have their first annual Battle of Britain Day commemoration on September 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be darts and pints of British beer as well as German brats and sauerkraut.

## **Next month's agenda**

Theresa mentions topics for the next HAC meeting: Claire's Tourism project, the marker prioritization, finalization on the Chadwick Beach marker.

Meeting is adjourned after 57 minutes, 15 seconds.