

Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)

Minutes August 9, 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
Valerie Colbert
Claire Riggs
Pat Spence
Stephen Valdes

Not Present

Theresa Murtha

BOCC Liaison: Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

Libraries & History Staff

Jennifer Zobelein, Joe Guerzo

Public Attendees

None

Roll Call

Dianne calls for roll call: All present except Theresa Murtha

Approval of July Minutes

- Stephen Valdes calls to approve minutes, Pat seconds it. They are approved.

Discussion of Ordinance Revisions

- The changes were approved by the Board of Commissioners, so now only a majority of HAC members are needed: now only 4 are required for a meeting.

- An absence is now just an absence. There are no excused absences.
- The additional changes suggested at July HAC meeting will go before the Board in September. Commissioner Deutsch recommends attending that meeting. It is on the second Tuesday in September.
- Jennifer confirms the rest of the 2023 HAC meetings will take place at Centennial.

Member Input

- Stephen Valdes inquires on how to do historical research. Jennifer says he can come by the library and visit her. He is interested in the history of the cigar business in the county. The curator of the Historical Center in downtown Ybor City may have excess items that they can loan out for display. Commissioner Deutsch recommends checking the archives of the Sun or Herald.
- Stephen Valdes announces the M-60 tank will arrive at American Legion Post 103 on September 2nd. It cost \$24,000 to move it from Titusville.
- Commissioner Deutsch mentions dates. The U.S. Coast Guard's birthday (1790) is this month. It's the only branch of the military that's fully operational in peacetime. This past Monday was the anniversary of the founding of the Purple Heart. October 23rd will be the 40th anniversary of the Beirut bombing. It was the 2nd largest loss of Marines, second only to Iwo Jima.
- Commissioner Deutsch says that veterans contribute \$370M annually to county.
- Dianne inquires about the October 23rd anniversary, Commissioner Deutsch says the program will take place on October 21st at Gaines Park. He was hoping to get 220 Marines in uniform but is only in the teens. Stephen Valdes mentions that the Military Heritage Museum has a lot of uniforms and is looking to donate some. Claire suggests that Charlotte Players may be able to use them, but he answers they already came for them. He says they can donate them to families if a veteran wants to be buried in uniform.
- Valerie announces that there will be a D.A.R. cleanup day on Saturday October 7 at Hickory Bluff Cemetery. Starting that day, they will be planting a "Never Forget Garden" and it will be dedicated on November 4th. They are planting white knockout roses. Both dates are open to the public.
- Stephen Valdes asks if the D.A.R. is responsible for the Liberty Trees. Valerie answers yes. He saw one in Gilchrist Park on way to Fisherman's Village.
- Commissioner Deutsch tells the HAC that a Veterans Day dinner will be held at Sunseeker on November 11th. Tickets are \$275.

Meeting adjourns

Next meeting is Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 9am at Centennial Park