

**Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)  
Minutes July 14, 2021**

Meeting held at the Mid County Regional Library.

**Committee Members**

Dianne Munson (2/25/2020)  
Theresa Murtha (5/11/2021)  
Pat Spence (2018)  
Valerie Colbert (2/25/2020)  
Clare Riggs (5/11/2021)  
Deborah Blair (6/23/2020)  
Stephen Valdes (5/11/2021)

**Present**

Dianne Munson  
Pat Spence  
Clare Riggs  
Deborah Blair  
Stephen Valdes

**Not Present**

Theresa Murtha  
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**

Dianne Munson requested that the meeting stay within an hour time frame, but this was not voted on. She also asked for review of minutes and that if changes need to be made to contact Tina Ranney. Minutes were not approved.

**New Business:**

**Charlotte County Centennial Events:** Jennifer began with a laptop presentation of the Charlotte County website and where to find various information on centennial events. There are two county-wide centennial events left for the year: Farm to Fork, this Saturday at Centennial Park, and the Veterans Day Car Cruise. Commissioner Deutsch mentioned that there will be a Veterans Day Parade (The Saturday before Veterans Day) from Charlotte Harbor to William R Gaines Park, along with a Liberty Tree Dedication October 9<sup>th</sup>, a veterans' program at the Gaines Park and a 9/11 Program and Memorial Wall. Dianne mentioned that perhaps a historical marker could be placed at this location, and Stephen Valdes mentioned a historical marker at the helicopter site. Commissioner Deutsch said that this might be problematic due to the expense of getting to the site. Commissioner Deutsch mentioned the services Charlotte County provides to veterans and provided information about the County's veterans. Lengthy discussion about veterans and homelessness ensued. Jennifer resumed her presentation to include the Libraries and History website pages and where to find information on county historical markers and the online archival collection.

**Historical Markers and Review of the current list:** Dianne handed out a list of proposed historical markers from earlier HAC committees and asked members to review and provide input at the next meeting. Jennifer mentioned and briefly reviewed the document establishing the marker program in 2005 and asked if everyone had received the copy sent by Tina via email. Member discussion ensued.

**Historical Development Review:** Dianne asked for a list of any houses or structures to be demo'd; she would like to visit those locations. Jennifer stated that we have not received any permits in a long time but will keep committee informed should any come in. Deborah mentioned that she would also be interested in going to visit those locations and possibly photograph those structures. Brief discussion about archives and collections.

Dianne mentioned the mobile meeting in September and changed it to October for the Liberty Tree dedication, but this was not voted on. Discussion by Commissioner Deutsch involving the ceremony and how to get kids more involved and interested in learning about Veteran service. Deborah said that we need to acknowledge the diversity in the county, and we should be respectful and sensitive about approaching children to participate. Dianne added that Veterans Day parades have always had lower attendance and mentioned about reaching out to the schools. Further discussion on topic ensued.

**Programs/Outreach:** Dianne asked if there would be any interest in having people speak at future HAC meetings on history events/topics, but this was not voted on. Deborah mentioned she has contacts at the college. Dianne asked her to check on that.

Dianne asked if anyone had anything else to share. Stephen Valdes mentioned that the Military Heritage Museum has artifacts available if the library would ever need items for displays or programs, and he also mentioned they are trying to build a Florida exhibit. Dianne asked again if anyone had anything to share. Commissioner Deutsch mentioned that there are still two openings for the committee. Discussion on Floridian population and what makes a person "Floridian" by Stephen Valdes. Deborah had to leave early, and Dianne ended the meeting without formal adjournment.

**Public Input:** None

**Adjournment** - None.

**Next HAC Meeting:** - Wednesday, August 11, 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.