Historical Advisory Committee (HAC)

Minutes January 10, 2024

Meeting held at Centennial Park in Port Charlotte

Committee Members	Present	Not Present
Pat Spence	Dianne Munson	Clare Riggs
Dianne Munson	Stephen Valdes	
Theresa Murtha	Theresa Murtha	
Clare Riggs	Pat Spence	
Stephen Valdes		

BOCC Liaison: Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

Libraries & History Staff

Jennifer Zoebelein, Joe Guerzo

Public Attendees

Gene Murtha

Roll Call

Dianne calls for roll call: Clare Riggs absent.

Approval of December Minutes

- Pat calls for approval of December minutes and Stephen seconds the motion.

Discussion on Frequency of HAC Meetings

- Commissioner Deutsch asks Jennifer if there is any problem with the bylaws to prevent them from canceling meetings. She says no.
- Discussion to cancel August and December meetings, but Commissioner Deutsch suggests waiting until October to vote on canceling December.
- HAC votes unanimously to cancel the August 2024 meeting.

Discussion Regarding Historical Group Collaboration

- Dianne feels there's not much interest from the different groups.
- Theresa suggests a calendar for all groups, but is not sure who would do it.

County History Museum as part of redesigned Cultural Center

- Theresa says she is in favor of the recommendation by Frank (Desguin) to make a museum a part of the redesigned Cultural Center.
- Commissioner Deutsch suggests it being in the redesigned Forrest Nelson Library. He says our libraries are one the most popular features of the county. He also says that the library will be open before the Cultural Center.
- Theresa asks about space at library. Commissioner Deutsch says, "you'll have to lobby for every inch". She wonders if the Cultural Center has more space.
- Theresa makes a motion to recommend they put a museum in the Cultural Center and a History exhibit space in the Forrest Nelson library.
- Pat asks what Jennifer thinks. Jennifer attended one of the public meetings and feels that it wasn't what the people were interested in. She feels they wanted what was in the Cultural Center before.
- Jennifer asks, "What do you want me to do with this motion?" Commissioner Deutsch says to share it with Library Administration.
- Theresa says it is good for tourism. Stephen adds that it drives income.
- Theresa moves for the motion and Stephen seconds it. All vote in favor.

Marion Avenue Marker

- Theresa asks about the steps to get the marker done. Jennifer says she will get her the application. She also will talk to the city of Punta Gorda and let them know that this is what the HAC wants.
- Commissioner Deutsch says we should send a thank you note to the D.A.R. for Valerie's involvement with HAC. (Commissioner Deutsch leaves meeting)

Use of Otocast for Markers

- The Tourism Bureau contacted Jennifer and asked if we would want our markers on Otocast, so she will be working on that.
- Theresa asks about an update on the ordered markers. Jennifer has no new information.
- Dianne asks Jennifer for an application for the Elks' marker. She will resend it.

Citizen Input

- Gene Murtha says he heard that Charlotte County has 30,000 items in their collection and that they are stored in multiple storage facilities. He asks if this is correct. Jennifer says no, everything is either at the Englewood Archives or the Punta Gorda Archives inside their respective libraries. There used to be 3 storage spaces, but everything has been moved into archives or donated appropriately.
- Theresa asks about the Betty Reese paintings. Jennifer says we have them, and they are on display at the different library locations.
- Theresa asks if there's enough material for a museum. Jennifer answers not enough for a museum, but enough for a partial display in a library.

Member Input

- Stephen asks for more elaboration on Otocast. Jennifer tells him it's a digital platform. Basically, it's an app that would be linked through the Tourism Bureau. People will be able to see them on their phone through the app.

Meeting adjourns

- **Next meeting is on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, at 9am at Centennial Park**