

Historical Advisory Committee (HAC) Minutes
June 11, 2025
Meeting held at Centennial Park in Port Charlotte

Committee Members

Deborah Fitch
Karen Hartman
Dianne Munson
Theresa Murtha
Clare Riggs
Pat Spence
Stephen Valdes

BOCC Liaison

N/a

Libraries & History Staff

Jennifer Zoebelein

Public Attendees

N/a

Roll call

Dianne does the roll call; Theresa Murtha is absent. We have a quorum.

Approval of minutes

Diane calls for approval of April minutes. Clare moves to approve the minutes, Stephen seconds. Approved.

HAC Meeting schedule

Diane suggests changing the meeting schedule. Karen makes a motion to move the HAC meetings from monthly to quarterly from here forward, which means the next meeting would be in September. Stephen seconds, motion approved. Jennifer will let Pam know so they can open up the conference room.

Citizen Input

N/a

Member Input

Stephen:

Will there be a new Commissioner liaison? Jennifer confirms that per Jeanette, we will not be getting a new one as the other commissioners do not have time to take it on.

There was work recently done on the wooden "Indian" statue. The statue was carved out of a tree granted to the city of Punta Gorda and has water retention that was damaging the statue. The statue now has a copper cover to divert the water. It's drilled into a concrete base and is

being held down with wires. The city of Punta Gorda has possibly \$400,000 worth of grants waiting to be utilized and Stephen is hoping some may go towards restoration. There is room to move it to the History Park but it would likely be at a very high cost.

The History Center has an incredible collection that should be moved into a historic building. It's currently inside a County building.

The Women's Club is going to reopen soon.

The Military Museum will be closed for ten days for cleaning. With 32,000 Veterans in this County we get a lot of items like wedding photos and flags that can be hard to dispose of.

Is there a way we could move towards putting together all of the Historical groups? Dianne states we've discussed this over the years but nothing has moved forward. Jennifer states there is a place on the History Services website that lists all of the Historical groups in the County. Jennifer will email the link to everyone.

Stephen commented that he met Carol in Arcadia who runs most if not all of the historical programs in Arcadia. Jennifer states she has collaborated with Carol in the past, such as the Pioneer Festival, and she is wonderful at what she does.

Stephen feels that Arcadia is the last remaining chunk of "Old Florida" and they are in the process of revitalizing the downtown area.

Dianne:

Any new information on Mid-County Regional opening? Jennifer confirms the schedule is still set for Spring 2026.

Meeting adjourns

Next meeting is on September 10th, 2025, at 9am, in the Centennial Park large conference room in Port Charlotte. All HAC meetings throughout 2025 will be held here.