

## **Historical Advisory Committee (HAC) Minutes**

**September 11, 2024**

Meeting held at Centennial Park in Port Charlotte

### **Committee Members**

Pat Spence  
Dianne Munson  
Theresa Murtha  
Clare Riggs  
Stephen Valdes  
Katherine Adamo  
Deborah Fitch

### **Present**

Pat Spence  
Theresa Murtha  
Stephen Valdes  
Katherine Adamo  
Deborah Fitch

### **Not Present**

Dianne Munson  
Clare Riggs

### **BOCC Liaison**

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch

### **Libraries & History Staff**

Jennifer Zoebelein, Cal Keene

### **Public Attendees**

Gene Murtha

### **9/11 Remembrance**

- Theresa calls for a moment of silence in honor of 9/11

### **Roll Call**

- Theresa does the roll call: Dianne and Clare are absent

### **Approval of July Minutes**

- Theresa calls for approval of July minutes. Stephen approves and Katherine seconds it
- Minutes are approved

### **New Member**

- Welcomed new member Deborah Finch. Deborah worked as a newspaper editor in upstate NY and an educator of Humanities for over 40 years. She is a mother of 4 and grandmother of 8.

### **Gilchrist marker update**

- Marker has been installed, located to the right of the headstone
- Cannot do ceremony due to orange fencing, as advised by Public Works. There is no ETA on when PW will be complete with the necessary work
- PW installed a very informative sign with a refreshed map

### **Indian Spring marker update**

- Location of marker has been moved as it was originally on someone's plot

### **Bunk House update**

- Brief refresher on the history of the Bunk House for our new member, Deborah Finch
- Full-structural analysis and preservation report has been received and will go before the BCC for review. They will determine what happens with the restoration of the Bunk House moving forward
- HAC would like to review the report – Jennifer will check on ordinance and privacy concerns to see if a copy could be distributed to the HAC
- There was a previous effort to raise funds for the restoration by the Historical Society
- There are layers of construction over time, so a determination on what time period to restore it to will need to be made
- There is debate about moving the Bunk House to Placida

### **Hotel Punta Gorda marker update**

- Hotel PG marker (located in the historic district) was destroyed by Ian, at which point Jennifer reached out to the City Clerk. It was determined a sign permit and certificate of appropriateness was required in order to replace the marker.
- Jennifer circled back with the City Clerk recently and has yet to hear back.
- Theresa will reach out to the City

### **El Jobean marker update**

- El Jobean marker was damaged in August when the Bean Depot was closed
- Facilities checked the marker and stated the bell piece is gone
- Jennifer has started the process of ordering a new marker

### **New Point Comfort marker update**

- Marker will be done in January, which is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Stanley Lampp first plotting New Point Comfort
- HAC is invited to the unveiling – No date at this time

### **Citizen Input**

- N/a

### **Member Input**

- Pat is going to look into the damage of the El Jobean marker
- Theresa stated the History Center has announced that they are honoring a few different people including the first Presbyterian church in Punta Gorda and the CARES organization.
- Stephen stated the Military Museum is working with the school board to up the grade level of historical learning. The Punta Gorda Historical Society received a \$10,000 which will be going to the Women's Club to finish their kitchen. The Historical Park has rented out all of the cottages. The Wildlife Center has broken ground and there will be ways to navigate between there and the Historic Park. They are rebranding from "Farmer's Market" to "Artisan Market"

- Katherine stated the Hickory Bluff Chapter is maintain the Keep Charlotte Beautiful at the Hickory Bluff Cemetery. She has mentioned getting an informational board for the cemetery, to compliment the two or three cement markers – Jennifer will inquire with. A statue and bench were donated, and they received two grants as well. Jennifer recommended doing a ground-penetrating radar before placing anything else in the cemetery. Katherine also stated they received approval from the County and the Daughter's of the American Revolution to install a marker at the William R. Gaines park in February
- Stephen stated the Liberty Tree marker is hard to see. He will send a photo to Jennifer
- Deborah asked about replacing the single piece that's missing from the El Jobean marker, rather than replacing the whole thing. Jennifer clarified that it is all cast together and cannot be replaced

### **Meeting adjourns**

- Theresa made a motion to adjourn, and Stephen seconded. Next meeting is on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 9am at Centennial Park