

Historical Advisory Committee (HAC) Minutes  
September 10, 2025  
Meeting held at Centennial Park in Port Charlotte

**Committee Members**

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

**BOCC Liaison**

N/a

**Libraries & History Staff**

Jennifer Zoebelein

**Public Attendees**

N/a

**Roll call**

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

**Historical Advisory Board continuation**

Theresa spearheaded conversation regarding the importance of the Historical Advisory Board and championed for its continuation. Dr. Jennifer outline some efficient strategies that could be implemented. Discussion amongst the members ensued on the operational procedures. Theresa made a motion to vote for the board's continuation on a quarterly basis. Motion was approved unanimously.

**Markers**

Dr. Jennifer expressed appreciation for a resident that called and reported the Bass Biological Labs marker was broken. Facilities went out and confirmed it was cracked in half and a part was missing. We don't know what happened or where the missing piece is, but after the end of the fiscal year, Dr. Jennifer will order a replacement.

Additionally, the Punta Gorda Army Airfield marker at the Punta Gorda Airport has been moved due to the construction. It is now located at the air/welcome center. The information has been updated on our website so the public can still locate and visit the marker.

**Board representation**

Members shared the areas of Charlotte County that they live in and represent. Karen Hartman is interested in expanding the size of the HAC.

**Approval of minutes**

Karen Hartman calls for approval of the June minutes. Clare seconds. Motion was approved.

## **Citizen Input**

N/a

## **Member Input**

Karen Hartman – Asked Dr. Jennifer about the qualifications of getting something nationally registered as historic. Dr. Jennifer gave information on the criteria for the registry, using the AC Freeman House as an example.

Theresa Murtha – Inquired about implementing a form/agreement that states when purchasing a historic home, the owner agrees to maintain its historic quality. Dr. Jennifer stated that's something that would have to go through Legal and the BCC Board.

Theresa Murtha – Inquired about putting a historical marker near the event center property which would need to have City of Punta Gorda authorization. Questions regarding other markers in downtown Punta Gorda was raised but there is a process needed before replacing missing or damaged markers in that area.

Theresa Murtha – Asked about the “Indian Cemetery.” Dr. Jennifer stated Public Works has been doing a great job of cleaning/restoring.

Members discussed a list of markers that Dianne Munson handed out, as well as expressed interest in garnering more tourism. Some ideas were thrown around about urban legends. Dr. Jennifer will send an email in November to the members to get agenda items for the next meeting. Karen Hartman requested that Dr. Jennifer circulate a word document she plans to email her.

## **Meeting adjourns**

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