

Manatee County Historical Commission

*Mission: Preserving Our Past to Enrich Our Future
Save Real Places; Tell Real Stories*

Who are we?

- The **Manatee County Historical Commission** is a 17 member volunteer advisory board appointed by the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners.
 - **We advocate** - providing insight to the BOCC regarding aspects of **historical preservation** in Manatee County. The Historical Commission writes resolutions and letters regarding historical preservation projects county wide.
 - This relationship also provides an annual budget for staffing Manatee Village Historical Park through the Manatee County Clerk's Historical Resources Division. This budget provides for four full time staff, half the salary of the Historical Resources Department Director, utilities, supplies, and some repairs to the facility. This budget also provides for the school trip programming that takes place at Manatee Village Historical Park.
 - Because we are a governmentally appointed advisory board, the activities of the Manatee County Historical Commission fall under the Florida Statute 286.011, or the Government in the Sunshine Law. This makes all of our meetings and records open to the public.
- The **Manatee County Historical Commission, Inc.** is also the community benefit organization or 501(c)3 which supports Manatee Village Historical Park.
 - **We preserve** local history through the acceptance donations of money and artifacts. The Manatee County Historical Commission, Inc. raises funding for building restorations and collections care and management at Manatee Village Historical Park.
 - **We educate** the community through programming, like Manatee County History Fair and lectures on historical topics, as well as special events like Cracker Christmas, the annual Heritage Days Open House, and Spirit Voices from Old Manatee.

Manatee Village Historical Park

- The Park is a collection or restored structures from Manatee County's pioneer past.
- The Park was initiated with the 1974 move of the 1887 Old Meeting House, home to the Manatee United Methodist Church, which was restored and opened in 1976 as a celebration of the country's Bicentennial.
- The structures are used to relate lifestyles and architecture characteristic of the pioneer settlement period of west central Florida. Our structures date from 1860 to 1925.
- We also maintain a collection of artifacts dating from 1843.

- The grounds area mixture of ownerships: some leased from City of Bradenton, some owned by the Manatee County Historical Commission, Inc.

Meeting Attendance

- The Historical Commission generally meets at noon, on the second Friday of each month. These meetings typically take place at Manatee Village Historical Park, in the Wiggins Store Conference Room.
- Special Committees will schedule meetings to conduct their work as necessary. You may choose one or more committees to serve on.
 - Finance & Fundraising Committee
 - Park Development & Maintenance Committee
 - Collections Committee
 - History Fair Task Force
 - Website & Social Media Committee
 - Heritage Days Open House Task Force
 - Cracker Christmas Task Force
 - Spirit Voices from Old Manatee task Force

Current Projects

- The Manatee County Historical Commission currently has several projects that we are working to support.
 - Steeple Restoration of the 1887 Old Meeting House Church
 - Restoration of the 1888 William H. Vanderipe House
 - Manatee County History Fair
 - Development of an independent website and improvement of social media presence to represent the Manatee County Historical Commission.
 - Continued support of educational programming
 - Further development of the Spirit Voices from Old Manatee program