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From: Pinellas County Clerk of Court <noreply@mypinellasclerk.gov>
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To: BCC Agenda Comments
Subject: NEW BCC AGENDA COMMENT

Topic Heritage Village Initiative

BCC Agenda Date 8-19-2025

Agenda Item Number

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Comments

I am Rob Roberts - resident of Seminole I am joined today by fellow PCHC commissioners, Sandy Boseman, Patricia Irwin, and Dr. Greg Buschman. With the coming 50-year anniversary of Heritage Village, and 250 year anniversary of our nation, the PCHC's shared vision for the park is to plan development for the next 50 years. To that end, we have come to ask for your support for a key initiative at Heritage Village. It is called the The Power of Place: Oral History Initiative The Power of Place Initiative is the signature program celebrating Heritage Village's 50th and the United States 250th anniversary in 2026. This initiative situates Pinellas County's history within a national context by collecting stories tied to specific locations, fostering a sense of rootedness at the local level while contributing to the broader U.S. semiquincentennial narrative. By embedding Heritage Village's 50th anniversary celebration within this thematic framework, the project not only celebrates a local institution, but it amplifies local meaning within a national moment of reflection. These records rely on personal memory, emotion, and lived experience. The interview process requires empathy and trust-building. The initiative: Positions Pinellas County's Heritage Village as a national model for integrating local storytelling into the America 250 commemoration. Strengthens Heritage Village's role as a living-history hub, showcasing decades of preservation while engaging new generations. Provides rich curriculum and community-accessible content for schools, universities, and lifelong learners. Leaves behind a recorded, searchable, and attributed archive of local narratives echoing place—linking Heritage Village's history with the national story. In essence, the initiative transforms spaces into memory-rich storytelling venues, motivates civic identity rooted in locality, and links the county's half-century of heritage

preservation to the nation’s 250-year journey—making “place” both local and national history. It is our sincere hope that we can look forward to the Commission's support for this banner initiative. Let’s make Heritage Village not just a place of history—but a place of living memory. Thank you.

Your Stand on the Issue

Support