

Marion County Historical Commission

Meeting

April 13, 2026

The meeting of the Marion County Historical Commission was called to order by President Dr. Richard Cardinali at 6:00 p.m. in the Growth Services Building, 2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd, Ocala, FL 34471.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Cardinali.

Roll Call: Dr. Richard Cardinali, Mrs. Bertha Flynn, Mrs. Becky Long, Mrs. Cynthia Wilson-Graham, Mr. Courtland Richards and Mrs. Judy Delk were in attendance. A quorum was present.

Guests: Heather Flynn and Bill Nicoll.

Public Comment:

Minutes: Minutes of the March 09, 2026 meeting were presented. Motion by Mr. Richards, seconded by Mrs. Long to accept as presented.

Financial report: Mrs. Delk moved to accept as presented, Mrs. Long seconded and all were in favor.

Old Business: Mrs. Long discussed the letter to Commissioner McClain regarding the Camp Roosevelt marker.

Dr. Cardinali informed Commissioner McClain about the archived Ocala Star-Banner/ Evening Star newspapers being housed in the Gainesville Sun building. Mr. Richards noted that Alan Youngblood at the Sun, is doing restoration efforts for such papers. He is to ask the Main Street Group about possible fundraising for such a restoration project. Comm. McClain suggested sending editorial letters to online news outlets regarding the issue. Comm. McClain researched and announced there is a Library of Congress \$325 ,000 grant available, National Endowment for the Humanities, State of FL., University of FL all possibilities.

Historical Outreach: Mrs. Delk updated the group on upcoming events. Mrs. Flynn discussed the May anniversary of the town of Anthony.

New Business: Mr. Richards suggests we pursue a historical marker at the Perry Swim School.

Mr. Nicoll suggests a marker at the site of the former Jim Taylor Airport and Greenwood Aviation School. Many World War II pilots were trained there, and later the classrooms became Greenwood Elementary School.

Mr. Richards notes Mr. Guy Marwick, first director of the Silver River Museum, will be filmed on 5/7/26, along with Dr. Scott Mitchell. They will touch on early pottery, as well.

Mrs. Wilson-Graham reports the Santos area is still being researched for a marker. She also reports the Emerson School marker has finally been approved.

Donations: Dr. Cardinali moved, Mr. Richards seconded, to accept the donations, and loan them back to the Marion County Museum of History & Archaeology to be researched, accessioned, and displayed, stored or disposed of as deemed necessary by the museum.

Mrs. Delk reports she is checking on inventory of law enforcement officers memorial flags prior to the memorial service.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. Next meeting is 05/11/26.

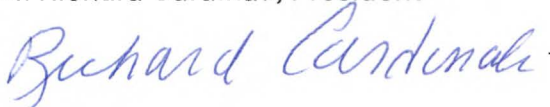
Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Judy Delk, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judy Delk".

Signed,

Dr. Richard Cardinali, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Cardinali".

Coomer, Richard Collection, donation:

1. Book: Dunnellon-Boomtown of the 1890s: The Story of Rainbow Springs and Dunnellon, paper, 1969, J. Lester Dinkins, autographed.
2. Book: Photocopy of Ocala by J. O. D. Clarke, 1891, bound as a hardback in 1971. The original the photocopy was taken from belonged to R. N. Dosh, editor of the Banner and the Star-Banner for decades.
3. Book: Notices of Florida and the Campaigns, hardback, by M. M. Cohen, facsimile copy of the 1836 original. Printed by the University of Florida Press, 1964.
4. Book: Where Do You Find the Uncommon in Ocala, Dunnellon, Orange Lake (the title includes six other communities), soft cover, 1984, Stella Gibbons and Christie Gay.
5. Book: Compilation of Ordinances and Charter and Amendments to Charter of the Town of Dunnellon, Dunnellon, Florida, hard back, c. 1927.
6. Booklet: The Flappers Danced on Main Street – Anthony in the 1920s, soft cover, Beatrice Mims Shepard, 1980, autographed.
7. Book: Memories of Fort McCoy, soft cover, 1986, Faye Perry Melton, autographed.
8. Booklet: Rays of Sunshine, August 1959, Vol. six No. 8, softcover, Ruth and Carroll Fraser, Ocala.
9. Booklet: Rays of Sunshine, October 1948, Vol. three No. 10, softcover, Ruth and Carroll Fraser, Ocala.
10. Map: Ocala National Forest, USDA, Forest Service, 1983.
11. Map: Map of Ocala-Marion County Florida, Mid-State Federal, 1980
12. Poster: Marion County Fair, 1989
13. Poster: Marion County Fair, 1990
14. Poster: Steamboating on the Ocklawaha, Oscar Rayneri, Florida Living Heritage Collection, signed & numbered

McCreary, Elain Wellhorner Collection, donated:

1. Booklet: Ocala and Silver Springs Company, 1892, soft cover.
2. Booklet: Ocala Elk's Club Centennial
3. Brochure: Silver Springs, 1994

4. Newspaper: Downtowner, published by Downtown Ocala Inc., 1981.

Sperring, Kent, Collection, donation:

1. Silver Springs souvenir spoon in the shape of a shovel, silver plated (?).



2. Silver Springs souvenir spoon, silver plated (?), in original box.



3. Silver Springs souvenir spoon, silver plated, in original box.

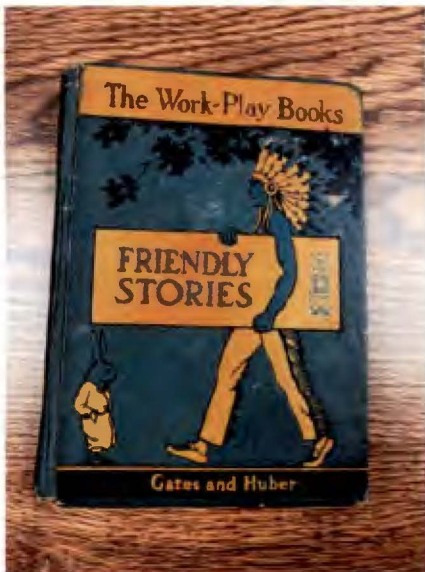


4. Silver Springs souvenir sugar spoon.



Landrum, Evan, Collection, loan:

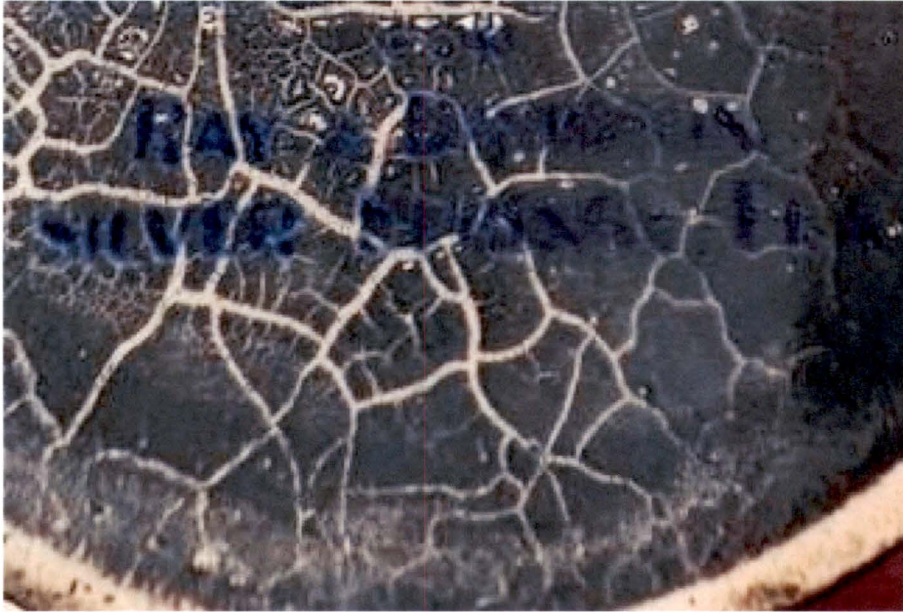
1. Felt pennant, white with green lettering, logo, and trim from Ocala High School, circa 1968-1970.
2. Book: Friendly Stories, The Work-Play Books Series, copyright 1938, issued by Ocala Primary School (note: this was a reader for the second grade.)



Dunn, Zita Kay, Collection, donation:

1. Fire-damaged souvenir mug from one of the stores that burned in the June 1955 fire at Silver Springs; the mug says Ray & Davidson on the bottom; three photos below.





Smith, Nancy Rose, Collection, donation:

1. Booklet commemorating the 100th anniversary of Ocala Lion's Club