

Minutes of the Williamson County Historical Commission

A regular meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held on July 11, 2019 in the Williamson County Courthouse at 700 Main Street, Georgetown, Texas. Eloise Brackenridge served as Chair and Rachel Arnold served as secretary.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members present were: Rachel Arnold, Nancy Bell, Eloise Brackenridge, Kelly Clark, Jane DiGesauldo, Kandy Dippery, Dan Doss, Winnann Ewing, Mike Fowler, Barbara Glasscock, Michael McCloskey, Jan Raesz, and Tina Steiner.

No guests were in attendance.

Minutes:

The Chair called for review of the minutes of the June 13, 2019 meeting. Mike Fowler moved for the acceptance of the minutes and Winnann Ewing seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Bell reported that the WCHC General fund has a balance of \$155.21 (Gmail, mileage, PO Box), the Programs Fund has \$7,675.20, the Donations Fund has \$398.62 and we have \$100 of unrestricted donations.

Retention Policy so that Nancy can shred financial records that are older than 5 years. The museum will keep a record of the commission members (given to the museum by Nancy Bell)

Old Business:

Currently, THC does not have a vendor for markers, so it will make getting new supplemental plaque hard. Micki Ross to evaluate the dates for the executive summary so that the WCHC can brief the Commissioners Court ahead of the change. The WCHC would like to move forward even though THC will not be able to make the plaque.

Rachel Arnold read the Williamson County resolution recognizing the Taylor-Cooper House.

Nancy Bell gave an update regarding the Pioneer House in Leander. Information is not forthcoming, and it is hard to get any information regarding the house or the lost funds. Nancy will work to get information through a public information request. The house was not transferred to the City of Leander; it was asked if the City of Leander was willing to accept it.

Committees Reports:

Markers –

THC is not currently accepting marker requests as they do not have a vendor to make the markers themselves

Cemeteries –

Kandy mentioned the email from Wayne about Kevin Kaatz. Tina Steiner has reached out to both Kevin and Roxanne via Facebook.

Museum News –

Mickie Ross was not present for an update. Mike McCloskey mentioned the Saloon & Poker event on July 20th the Williamson Museum on the Chisholm Trail.

Oral History –

Winnann sent an email to the commission regarding the Oral History Handbook. Please comment by August 10.

Tina and Jane went to meet with Pete Peterson who knows Tina's grandfather. Tina is working to have her grandfather recognized as a Round Rock Legend, but not many know him.

Website –

Nancy added more information
998 users
982 were new users
3250 page views

THC has requested our cemetery information. Nancy may ask for help from Jan Reasz.

Speakers –

No report given. Eloise mentioned Kicker Garry who is folklorist as a possible speaker.

Brick Sales –

No report was given

Historic Bridges –

No report

Historic Places –

Rachel Arnold reported that she would finish a letter to send out to cities. She will send to Eloise and Mickie for review and then distribute to the commission.

New Business –

At the conclusion of the meeting, Nancy Bell requested permission to discuss a letter she received after the agenda had been sent. Our president agreed and a lively discussion ensued on historical markers that have been removed from their original sites.

The letter Nancy read was from Spicewood Springs Apartments regarding the Jollyville Cemetery marker that was displaced during a June 2018 storm. The pole is still in place, but the marker is being stored in the apartment's office.

Nancy reported that the state pays for the marker one-time, subsequent costs of maintenance is not guaranteed. There are numerous markers in limbo, comprising three pages that are stored by various means.

Two are at a TxDot warehouse. According to Nancy Bell, one of them is a large pink granite stone designating William McAlpine as namesake of the county's origin in 1848.

Eloise said she would contact Taylor Mayor Brant Rydell to determine if the WCHC could be permitted to place that marker in one of Taylor's parks. Nancy Bell suggested that we place the Hudson Brothers' Confederate marker at Old Settlers. Jessie Daniel Ames' Hall named for Laura Kuykendahl marker at Southwestern University was removed from the women's dorm when it burned. This discussion was speaking about markers that are currently in storage throughout the county.

Dan Doss suggested putting aside 10% to 15% of future earnings from speaker series or other income-producing projects, to be set aside and designated for restoring historical markers around the county.

He also asked that the commission begin plans to recognize Ms. Ames' efforts in an appropriate way, for her considerable efforts in the cause of suffrage in Williamson County. She led a large group of women to register to vote in 1918. Texas was the first state to ratify the 19th amendment 100 years ago.

The chair adjourned the meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rachel Arnold.