

Minutes of the Williamson County Historical Commission

A regular meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held on May 9, 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, Joe Burgess, Mildred Davis, Jane DiGesauldo, Kandy Dippery, Dan Doss, Mike Fowler, Barbara Glasscock, Michael McCloskey, Jan Raesz, Micki Ross, David Voelter and Wayne Ware.

Donna Fowler was a guest.

Minutes:

The Chair called for review of the minutes of the April 11, 2019 meeting. The guest, Charlene Saboca's name was corrected with the right spelling. Rachel Arnold motioned for the approval of the minutes and Joe Burgess seconded. Motion passed by unanimous hand vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Bell reported that the WCHC General fund has a balance of \$656.31, the Programs Fund has \$8,256.43, the Donations Fund has \$444.44 and we have \$100 of unrestricted donations.

Old Business:

There was no old business

Committees Reports:

Markers –

No new marker information. There have been people who have been contacted Micki about markers, but no applications.

Supplemental marker— a subcommittee met earlier in the afternoon on May 9 to discuss the heart of the issue regarding the supplemental plaque. It was decided not to add wording to the plaque, but to accurately not describe the ethnic group as “African American pioneer settlers.” We don't have a way to accurately describe the how member of that ethnic group came to Williamson County. Mike will come up with an executive summary to give to the county commissioners. However, this will be vetted prior to it going to the county commissioners.

Winnann's house dedication will be this Sunday and we hope that everyone will be there. The Commissioners Court will be considering a resolution recognizing Winnann and her family.

Cemeteries –

Hutto Cemeteries— “Cemetery Work Day” Installed 15 new name, date of death, date of birth markers that were not existing or unreadable. They did a memorial marker for a man who perished on the USS Arizona.

More detail was given regarding the access to the Hunt Cemetery. Rachel Arnold spoke with the family member and let her know that we can help with a driveway permit.

There is a cemetery in Noack under many names. A descendant of a decedent buried (Mrs. Boyce) in the Zieschang Cemetery reached out to the THC to see if someone could mow and care for it. The gate to access the cemetery is only accessible from another property owners' property. The property owner stated he would give the cemetery crew access once the area dries out. Mrs. Boyce stated she would help pay for the tombstone cleaners and epoxy to repair the damaged tombstones. The cemetery committee cannot commit to maintaining it regularly, so the committee is hopeful that someone may continue the care after the “heavy lifting” is complete.

Museum News –

Mike Fowler stated that Hutto is working on a museum/chamber combo in downtown Hutto.

May is National Preservation Month. They have a Facebook and Instagram account. Please go “like” the pages and send pictures to Micki.

They just celebrated the 14th Pioneer Day at Old Settlers Park with about 1400 people. Kalahari is coming and that means more occupancy tax money that can be used. Mother/Daughter Tea May 29, Mid Somer June 22—Chisholm Trail, Party Like It's 1876 on June 29-- . The new exhibit: “Law and Order in Williamson County” opens in mid July.

Oral History –

Winnann sent out the booklet. Please notify her if there are any additional comments. Joe Burgess suggested on Pg.10 bullets 4-7 (define responsibility)—he will reply to the email.

Rachel will get CDs from Micki and work to copy the Oral Histories on these devices.

Website –

Nancy Bell gave Micki an envelope containing copies of all passwords and needed information for the website to be kept at the museum in case of an emergency that the website coordinator is unable to fulfill their duties.

New website stats: 1540 users in April. Nancy is working on 15 cemeteries and added 3 more.

Speakers –

Working with the past speakers on their bricks.

Brick Sales –

Col. Shelby Little was absent, and no report was given. We are hopeful the city will place the once we have waiting. The Moody Museum purchased a brick for each corner of the courthouse, but it may be a while.

Historic Bridges –

No report

Historic Places –

Meeting on May 22 at Tony and Luigi's for lunch at 11:30. We plan to define the scope of our efforts.

Comments –

In conclusion to the May meeting, Dan Doss reported on an interesting find that J.C. Johnson sent him that had been found in an old house he was working on. Among the 100-year-old items was a copy of a 1916 Taylor High School yearbook, the first one of its kind to be published. Because of its significance to the county, Dan read aloud the history of Taylor described in the book's prologue.

The yearbook editors told how the site for Taylorsville was selected in the vast prairie near what was known as Flag Springs, an area designated only by crisscrossed cow trails. Its name was given for a railroad employee, an early arrival for the station to be built for the east and west expansion of the IG&N line.

Soon, the town site was moved, and its name shortened to Taylor; Squire Wright was the first justice of the peace elected; and Dan'l Moody was the first mayor. Other interesting information included the necessity to establish a city cemetery on the occasion of a Mr. McDonald being shot and killed; City National Bank established in 1883, and water service provided "over" the town by 1890.

RACHEL ARNOLD HAD TO LEAVE THE MEETING AT 5:00 PM AND JAN RAESZ TOOK ADDITIONAL MINUTES.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Arnold.