

Minutes of the Williamson County Historical Commission

A regular meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held on November 14, 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, Kelly Clark, Mildred Hill Davis, Jane DiGesualdo, Kandy Dippery, Dan Doss, Winnann Ewing, Mike Fowler, Shelby Little, Michael McCloskey, Jan Raesz, David Voelter, Wayne Ware.

Sylvia Forbes was a guest who recently moved from Missouri.

Minutes:

The Chair called for review of the minutes of the October 10, 2019 meeting. Jane DiGesualdo noted that she was present for the meeting. Eloise Brackenridge attended the brick discussion with Judge Gravell not Nancy Bell. The bricks committee spoke via phone call rather than meeting with city representative. David Voelter's name was misspelled (secretary could not find this mistake to correct).

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Bell reported a balance of \$1,487.32 for the General Fund.

Program Fund balance is \$7,132.86, Tombstone restoration balance is \$343.67 and \$200 of unrestricted funds.

Old Business:

Discussed the records retention policy. Can dispose of records >5 years old. Nancy has selected to shred records from 1997 (one deposit agreement) and then records 1999-2014. Nancy does the shredding for free at the UT credit union.

While looking through the records Nancy found minutes from June 2008 and saw the Bryson Farmstead mentioned.

Rachel Arnold attend the Oct. 17, 2019 Leander City Council meeting. She reported that the Council accepted the deed to the Farmstead. In addition, she reported that the council also discussed the \$300k that was used on the sidewalk and the possibility of reimbursing those dollars because they were "creatively used." A Leander resident told council to forget it. Rachel send an email to the council thanking them for their vote and letting them know that I supported any thoughts to repaying the \$300k to escrow. The WCHC

mentioned that it might be good for Rachel to request that the consideration of the \$300k to be placed on the council agenda. Interim city manager asked for our delegation's email address and they have been given to the city.

Nancy was interviewed for the Community Impact regarding the Bryson Farmstead.

Committees Reports:

Markers –

Mickie Ross was not present. Nancy Bell discussed the Jolly Cemetery marker on Spicewoods Spring that broke off during a storm and has been housed in an apartment building's office. She would like to pick it up and work to get reposted. Nancy requested that we approve program funds to replace the marker. A motion was made by Eloise Brackenridge. The motion was seconded by Wayne Ware. The motion passed unanimously.

Cemeteries –

Ziechang family met and was ready to visit but couldn't get to the cemetery. Wayne will send the maps so they can get in. There is a map on the website; it is listed at Noack and their last name. Directions are included on how to access the cemetery.

The are winding down on the Gordon Cemetery where the Boy Scouts are conducting an Eagle Scout project.

Mt. Horeb is still on

Museum News –

Mickie was not present. Rachel Arnold mentioned that the Capitol Christmas Tree will be on the square Sunday Nov. 17 2pm-5pm. Fun activities will be planned and will be

Museum volunteers have been educating 8th Graders at the Field of Honor.

Oral History –

Joe will get 30 booklets printed. A separate checklist will be printed by interviewers as needed.

Rachel reported that Google works for transcription. You do have to follow and make sure that the punctuation and spelling is correct, but it worked well. Mildred reported the same experience with Google. You must denote who speaks.

The commission discussed keeping a permanent record and recording of each oral history. Eloise recommended that Joe and Wayne work to explore ways to record oral histories.

Speakers:

David asked the WCHC if we thought an encore of last year's speakers would be best or if we should proceed in another direction. Dates were discussed and Rachel Arnold mentioned that Commissioner Covey thinks she can get donations if we can do the in February. The WCHC agreed that they would like to proceed with a February date.

We need a TABC certified bartender. Tina is certified and so is Mickie. Rachel stated she could get certified too.

David will discuss Dr. Doug Benold and Judge Bill Ray Stubblefield. There was discussion about the topic of discussion and Winnann stated that Jesse Daniel Ames might be a great topic. There was also discussion of the "visual historian".

Website:

In October the website had 1346 users, 1302 were new users. There were 4290 page views. Nancy is working on the report for the THC.

Bricks:

Secretary was not present for this discussion.

County Census:

Rachel Arnold was not present to give report.

New Business:

Kandy announced that the Blue Corn restaurant had agreed to provide full menu choices for the WCHC Christmas party on December 10.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Arnold.