

Minutes of the Williamson County Historical Commission

A regular meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held on January 9, 2020 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 4:02 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.

Minutes:

The Chair called for review of the minutes of the November 14, 2019 meeting. Col. Little noted that the minutes incorrectly stated that they were for October 2019.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Bell reported a balance of \$1,035.45 for the General Fund.

Program Fund balance is \$6,250.31, Tombstone restoration balance is \$843.67 and \$200 of unrestricted funds.

WCGS gave a \$500 donation to the tombstone restoration

Old Business:

Nancy picked up the Jolly Cemetery Marker from the apartments. She spoke with Southwell Company in Corpus Christi. It is cast aluminum, which means welders will not weld it. Estimates to repair are about \$800. We may need to place on cement and ask for permission to move it to the cemetery.

Nancy also finished the THC Cemetery Report. Wilco GIS will update with her information.

Rachel Arnold was asked to send an email to the City of Leander regarding the funds used for the City of Leander.

Committees Reports:

Markers –

Mickie Ross was not present. No report was given.

Cemeteries –

Williamson County Geological Society donated money and they will be used for signs. Rachel Arnold will send a thank you note.

Museum News –

Mickie Ross was not present. No report was given.

Oral History –

Joe handed out the Oral History Handbook! It looks great. The committee stated that recorders are needed because phones are not sufficient. We now have 3 updated recorders that they can use for the interviews. WCHC will pay for the recorders. Joe will bring a recorder for the Speaker's Series.

Google is working well for transcription. Rachel is working on Stiles Byrom now. Sylvia Forbes offered to see if her DAR chapter would like to help with transcription.

Story-Telling is different from Oral Histories so it would be helpful to keep the categories separate.

The Moody Museum is hosting another speaker series January 18 at 7:00.

Speakers:

David Voelter spoke with Judge Stubblefield and discussed the names of each of their discussions "Coming of the Railroad" and "An Interview with Jesse Daniel Ames". The tickets will be printed "Railroad and Suffragettes." There will be two speakers: one will speak about railroads coming to Williamson County and then two people in costume will be role playing an interview between a reporter and Jesse Daniel Ames.

Doors will open at 6:30pm. at the historic courthouse.

Rachel Arnold presented the menu: shrimp w/cocktail sauce, cheese and meat, spinach dip, chipotle dip, crackers, eggrolls and a fruit tray. The desserts will be pastries, cheesecakes, and cookies. Rachel will also bring small 8oz water.

David, Mickie, and Winnann will work on the poster. Mickie will print 50 posters. Nancy can put something on the website too.

We discussed leaving the price at \$10. Judge and Commissioners name will be at the bottom.

David will call Charlotte with the Sun to do a story. Rachel will send a draft press release for review and Mickie will send out to the list of media she has.

We need to record the discussion and see if we can get Ann Marie Kennon to take pictures.

Mickie will request the south doors open at 6:30.

Col. Little will bring tablecloths.

The committee will meet again on January 23 at 3:00 pm at the museum.

Website:

In November the website had 856 users, 823 were new users. In December the website had users 530, 501 were new users. December marked the first month after the old website was completely removed. There were 1443-page views.

Nancy asked if we could come up with a business card for the WCHC. The commission agreed for Nancy to move forward with getting quotes for the cards.

Bricks:

Col. Little discussed the application and putting a place for veterans to signify that they have served. He will have more to report at the February meeting.

County Census:

Rachel Arnold stated that she would like for committee members to pair up with someone so that we can get “teams” to work on areas of interest for them.

Dan Doss passed out information on the McFadden House, which is an endangered space.

New Business:

Michael McCloskey noted that the census is in 2020 and that there is a historical aspect and story to be told.