

Minutes of the Williamson County Historical Commission

A regular meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held on March 12, 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 4:03 p.m.

Members present were: Rachel Arnold, Nancy Bell, Eloise Brackenridge, Dan Doss, Mike Fowler, Barbara Glasscock, Shelby Little, Michael McCloskey, David Voelter, Wayne Ware.

No guests were present.

The chair discussed the Texas Historical Commission's Annual Report. The chair asked for 1.) Preservation and Protection—Cemetery Projects 2.) Education Projects—Speakers Series 3.) Educate outside of the county—Website. This needs to be completed by February 21. We are going to put some of our other projects in the report as well.

Minutes:

The Chair called for review of the minutes of the February 12, 2020 meeting. Members noted who attended so that could be corrected.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Bell reported a balance of \$931.45 for the General Fund.

Program Fund balance is \$6,931.59, Tombstone restoration balance is \$625 and \$200 of unrestricted funds.

Nancy Bell made a motion to maintain a fund balance of \$750 in the Program Fund at all times, except for an emergency as defined by a majority of the commission members present. This motion ensures that the website is always paid and maintained. Rachel Arnold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Nancy also presented the budget to the commission. We are removing our Williamson Museum donation and appropriating funds to marker restoration for markers whose sponsors have died, cannot be found or are unable to fund restoration.

Nancy will send the budget to the committee for consideration.

Old Business:

Michael McCloskey asked if the committee had to meet monthly. We do not have to.

Rachel Arnold offered a conference call line for the WCHC use that the public could access if needed.

Motion by Michael McCloskey to empower the chair to make the decision 7 days in advance of our next meeting to set up a by conference call. David Voelter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Rachel also asked for clarification on the Genealogical Society who donated to the cemetery fund.

Those in attendance signed thank you notes for Commissioner Covey, Judge Gravell, and Constable Stofle.

Nancy met with the City of Leander, CTRMA, TxDOT was not present, and they failed to invite the Leander Historic Preservation Committee. They discussed the MOA and the Davis House in Leander. THC was there and told them that they cannot move the house but they can remodel the inside. They discussed having a farmer teach at the Bryson House. A development is coming in around the Bryson Farmstead. The developer had a surveyor come out to survey a land swap (that is a benefit to the house). He's requesting permission from THC, but the City of Leander was not aware of the proposal. Everyone left the meeting to discuss it in more detail.

Committees Reports:

Markers –

Rachel Arnold is going to work towards getting a timeline to the subcommittee on the supplemental marker on the courthouse.

Cemeteries –

Working at the Bitig Cemetery to right tombstones and foot stones. They are doing more weeding.

Museum News –

Still doing school presentations.

Oral History –

Joe was not able to attend. Rachel is cleaning up the Peterson transcription. Needed information on the spelling of Waymon Farrell.

A email update was presented at the meeting and is as follows:

- Rachel has completed one of the interviews in her possession. Not sure if it is Byron or Peterson that is complete.
- Jodi Moore with DAR has completed transcribing four of the Moody Museum stories. I am writing summaries for each story and putting together packets.
- When Jodi returns from her trip, I will forward on of Jane's interviews to her for transcription, as discussed in the last board meeting.
- I will contact the other Cedar Park DAR member, Pat Rogers, who has also volunteered to transcribe and get her started.
- Need a status update from Winnann on the Benold interview.
- Need an update from Wayne and Mickie regarding the backup of the recorders at the museum.
- Wayne needs to be thanked by the board for donating thumb drives to be used for backup.

Speakers:

The Commission held a Speakers Series Post-Mortem. Need to do more planning and so that we can publicize earlier.

Website:

In January the website had users 319, 304 were new users. There were 936-page views. Nancy continues to update the website with pictures.

She asked if she wanted us to update the website to add the speaker series.

Nancy reported that an HVAC company purchased our old URL. It is now a Park Domain, which means that they are getting money every time someone clicks on the link.

Bricks:

Bricks are going well. 2 orders last month and they have 2 of 6 for the current month. Col. Little is going to the VFW and other veteran groups. Please contact him with any groups he might need to visit to discuss the veteran brick program. Hoping to start laying bricks in the next two weeks.

County Census:

Eloise discussed what the THC sent to the commission. Mickie discussed attending the "Real Places" conference. Mickie to share with everyone at the next meeting.

New Business:

Dan Doss talked about the Spur Line that goes from Granger to Round Rock. Showed the original stock certificate from 1879 for \$100 for the Georgetown Railroad. Might end

up in the museum if we can't find the right place to put it. Jason Johnson is the owner of the certificate.

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rachel Arnold.