

Minutes of the Williamson County Historical Commission

A regular meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held on April 12, 2018 in the Williamson County Courthouse at 700 Main Street, Georgetown, TX. Eloise Brackenridge served as Chair and Barbara Glasscock served as Secretary.

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

Members present were: Nancy Bell, Eloise Brackenridge, Mildred Davis, Dan Doss, Winnann Ewing, Barbara Glasscock, Shelby Little, George Meyer, and David Voelter.

There was one guest present: Marietta Mugford.

Marietta is a past member of the WCHC. She gave a presentation about a Reclamation Project that was started long ago. In about 1973, Ken Ragsdale of the Texas Historical Association and a group of people came to Georgetown for pictures. Loretta Matthews was the Chair of the WCHC at the time. The WCHC started a project to have sophomore students write historical essays as a competition to get students involved in the local history. Marietta still has some of the essays in her possession. She is asking if there are any other essays in storage somewhere, possibly at the Williamson Museum. Mickie Ross will check to see if there are any on file at the museum.

This year is the 170th birthday of Williamson County.

Minutes:

The Chair called for review of the minutes of the March 2018 meeting. Mickie Ross moved that the minutes be approved. Winnann Ewing seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous hand vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Bell reported that there is currently \$1,341.54 in the General Fund and \$6,517.30 in the Program Fund. Nancy has the budget ready to send to the County Commissioners asking for a 5% increase in funding from the county. The budget will include an increase of funds for the mileage for Wayne Ware for cemetery cleanup.

Old Business:

. Website Update - The last communication Nancy Bell had with Diane Gaume was on March 21. She needs to send requests to the developer of the template. The coordinates are not showing up in the mapping of the cemeteries. She has been trying to get in touch with Diane again.

Nancy also reported that the San Gabriel Chapter of the DAR will hold a cemetery cleanup day of April 21 at the Bittick Cemetery on CR 236.

. Bricks – Shelby Little reports that there have been no orders for new bricks. He is finalizing the orders for the WCHC memorial bricks in memory of Clare Easley and Laura Sue Smith.

. Williamson County Historical Marker – This is the large granite marker that was given to Williamson County by the Texas Historical Commission and was removed from its original placement in a roadside side park along IH35 . After discussion David Voelter moved that the marker be place in front of the Williamson Museum on Austin Avenue in Georgetown. Winnann Ewing seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous hand vote.

. Presentation by Dr. Stephen Benold - David Voelter attended a meeting where Dr. Stephen Benold gave a presentation about the 1937 Special Congressional Election. The presentation was very interesting and informative. He is still interested in having Dr. Benold speak as a fund raiser in conjunction with the WCHC. We need to decide when and where that might happen.

Committee Reports:

Promotions –

Mildred Davis reported that there has been no activity in promoting brick sales. There is a joint Georgetown High School reunion (classed 1957-1964) being held on May 5, 2018 where she will encourage participants to purchase memorial bricks.

Bridges –

Dan Doss did not have anything new to report.

Markers –

The City of Georgetown is working on a plan to reinstall the Emzy Taylor marker. They have determined that the placement will be in front of the Lockett Building at the corner of 7th Street and Austin Avenue. The marker was originally on the old fire station on Main Street and had been removed when that building was repurposed.

New Business:

. P.J. Stevens has resigned from the WCHC. Since he has resigned there is a need to elect a new Vice Chair. That election will take place at the May meeting.

. New Members - Eloise Brackenridge will visit with Connie Odom about putting together a news release soliciting new members to the WCHC. Nancy Bell will send a copy of the last news release to Eloise.

. Summer Activities - Winnann Ewing and David Voelter will work on the planning for the presentation by Dr. Stephen Benold.

Announcements:

. Museum News - Mickie Ross will be emailing an invitation to the reception on April 22 for the opening of the new photo exhibit – Congregations of Williamson county.

There will be Parade Watch Party for the Poppy Festival in the Williamson County Courthouse.

May 5 is Pioneer Day in Old Settlers Park in Round Rock.

May is Preservation Month. There will be something going on every weekend.

On May 17 there will be a book signing by Ken Roberts.

There were about 80 people in Round Rock for Chisholm Trail Day last weekend.

There were 28 people in attendance at the Eggstravaganza at the Chisholm Trail Museum.

. Mildred Davis told us about a Facebook page that is circulating about Old Georgetown, Texas. There are all kinds of old pictures posted of places in Georgetown.

. Shelby Little reminded us of Confederate Memorial Day on April 9.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Glasscock, Secretary