

Minutes of the Williamson County Historical Commission

A regular meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held on November 8, 2018 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 4:04 p.m.

Members present were: Rachel Arnold, Joe Burgess, Nancy Bell, Eloise Brackenridge, Jane DiGesauldo, Kandy Dipprey, Dan Doss, Winnann Ewing, Mike Fowler, Col. Shelby Little, Michael McCloskey, Jan Raesz, Mickie Ross, Tina Steiner, and David Voelter, Wayne Ware.

There were no guests present.

Minutes:

The Chair called for review of the minutes of the October 11, 2018 meeting. Rachel Arnold recommended an amendment to item "Historical Places" to read that Rachel Arnold was *not* present. Rachel Arnold moved that the minutes be approved with the change. Mickie Ross seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous hand vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Bell reported that the WCHC did not use \$111.78 from the Williamson County General Fund. These monies do not roll over and go back to the county if unused. The budget from Williamson County for FY 18-19 was reduced by \$100; we need to keep the Commissioners Court notified of the work we are doing especially in the cemeteries, so they see the value of funding the WCHC.

Nancy also reported that the website continues to move along.

Old Business:

Mickie Ross is working with the Georgetown Area Office of TxDOT regarding the 1936 centennial boulder that was removed by TxDOT during a construction project. She is awaiting a response and will report at the next meeting.

Committees Reports:

Markers – Florence Church of Christ and NC Taylor House had issues with their inscriptions, so their inscriptions are getting approved now. We have sent in another application for this year for Post Oak Island and Saint Mary's School in Taylor just needs to write their application.

Nancy Bell reported that her DAR chapter refinished another marker and the Rotary club reach out to help with the refinishing.

Post Oak Island Charlene Jordan showed Mickie the eastside of the county. Mickie would love for Charlene to do a bus tour and showcase the east side

Cemeteries –

Wayne Ware reported that he and Col. Little worked at the Gunzell Cemetery near Thrall. They were assisted by resident with a bobcat that was able to move trees very quickly. Wayne got his address and will send a thank you note. Rachel Arnold also offered to send a thank you note on behalf of the WCHC.

Museum News –

Mickie Ross reported that the Field of Honor was on display at the San Gabriel Park through Monday, November 11 the museum will participate in the *Letters from Home* reading. Saturday, November 10 will be the Cemetery Tour at the IOOF Cemetery.

A new exhibit goes through December 22: Presidential Photographs displays David Valdez's time as White House Photographer for 41st President, George H.W. Bush.

Christmas Stroll Party from 9a-11a on Dec. 1, 2018.

Cowboy Christmas event on December 8 at the Chisholm Trail location 10-3pm. This kicks off the museum's capital campaign! Candlelight Christmas on the same night 6-8pm.

Oral History –

Winnann Ewing reported the committee is working to find which releases are missing. Once this is complete, Wayne will put the interviews on disc and then send to Rachel and anyone who would like to transcribe into written transcripts.

Billy Ruth signed a release prior to our release being created. Winnann believes Billy Ruth's son will sign on her behalf.

The committee was asked to begin asking for dates of birth and death.

Jan is going to make the release available online.

Website –

Nancy Bell reported that the website should be ready to go early next year. We will need to renew the domain in June for approximately \$400 and it is hosted by GoDaddy.com and Nancy will continue to update.

Dan would like to add more bridges to the website. There are currently 14 historic bridges in the county.

Speakers –

David reported that the Speaker Committee met on November 1, 2018. Micki, Winnann, Vicki, and Tina met to discuss the speaker series. Dr. Stephen Benold has spoken in the past about the 1937 Special Congressional Election and it is a great story. Judge Billy Ray Stubblefield also stated that he would talk about Williamson County history. An Evening of History: Cowboys and Politics. This talk would be in the 26th District Court at \$10/person.

David asked if members would prepare hor d'oeuvre; members agreed to provide finger foods. Rachel Arnold will create a google document so that members can sign up to bring an item.

There will be lot of promotion as the details become more solidified. It was recommended that we establish sponsorship levels for the event. Tina has set up a Facebook account where we can share and promote the event from our individual Facebook pages.

It was also recommended that the committee try to find a unique name for the event to encourage attendance. Planned date is February 21, 2019.

Brick Sales –

The first and second brick order has been submitted. 4x8 and 8x8 bricks available.

Historic Bridges –

No additional report

Historic Places –

Dan provided Rachel with documents about David McFadin and the Dickey Museum. Rachel will reach out to Winnann and Mickie to discuss the census. We will probably start with a smaller area first.

New Business:

Kandy Dipprey has made arrangements for our Christmas Party to be held on December 4, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. Currently, 27 attendees are scheduled.

Mike McCloskey and Mickie Ross volunteered to serve on the budget committee

George Meyer will no longer serve on the commission.

Comments:

Joe Burgess: The Moody Museum held its first story night and they hope to hold it the next story night in February. There were five story tellers who were recorded. The museum also held a very successful veterans' event where folks from Round Rock, Hutto and Buda brought WWI items for display.

Tina showed the commission the Facebook page which is currently only visible to members.

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Rachel Arnold, Secretary.