

Minutes of the Williamson County Historical Commission

A regular meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held on September 12, 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, Mildred Hill Davis, Kelly Clark, Jane DiGesauldo, Kandy Dippery, Dan Doss, Barbara Glasscock, Shelby Little, Michael McCloskey, Mickie Ross, Wayne Ware.

No guests were in attendance.

Minutes:

The Chair called for review of the minutes of the July 11, 2019 meeting. Nancy Bell changes needed to be made to the "Website" and "New Business" sections of the minutes. The secretary recognized and agreed to clarify any confusion.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Bell reported that the WCHC FY20 budget was approved at \$1,600 for the General Fund.

\$7.53 in the remaining in the FY19 General Fund. \$6 to be used for Google and Wayne is returning the \$1.53 to the Williamson County General Fund. Program Fund balance is \$7,132.86, Tombstone restoration balance is \$343.67 and \$100 of unrestricted funds. Jane donated \$100 from Park Meadow Nursing home that will be added to unrestricted funds.

Old Business:

Nancy did an open records request to the City of Leander requesting information regarding the Pioneer House in Leander. Through the receipt of the information, it was discovered that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is the enforcement authority of the MOA. Nancy motioned that the WCHC contact the FHWA to make them aware of the City of Leander's failure to accept the deed; Rachel Arnold seconded the motion. Mickie Ross then asked if the WCHC had reached out to the City of Leander. It was determined that the WCHC had not. Rachel Arnold rescinded her second. The original motion died for lack of a second. Rachel Arnold then motioned that the WCHC reach out to the City of Leander within the next week to schedule a meeting with leadership. Mickie Ross seconded the motion. The motion passed 13-1. Mickie Ross and Eloise Brackenridge stated that they would like to attend the meeting with Rachel and Nancy.

Committees Reports:

Markers –

Final wording for the Post Oak Island marker. Charlene has approved that. No other markers are in the works.

Cemeteries –

Wayne and Shelby visited the Gordon Cemetery. There is an Eagle Scout that would like to rehabilitate the cemetery. WCHC is going to be the beneficiary

Boy Scouts want to help at the Mt Horeb Cemetery. They may do a fence and a permanent sign as the other signs have been stolen in the past.

Nowak Cemetery where Johnson grass is nearly seven feet tall. They cleared out the grass near the tombstones. The father from Dallas was not able to come, but the CRV (Cemetery Restoration Volunteers) were able to work. They plan to continue working as temperatures cool.

Circleville Cemetery had all the tombstones broken. The CRV worked to repair them, but some were stolen.

The View is going to do a story on the CRV. They need more volunteers.

The committee discussed the potential of getting donations to give as a reward to get information about cemetery vandalization.

Museum News –

Mus

Check out the Law & Order exhibit.

Cattleman Ball honoring Gordon Logan of SportsCuts

Almost done with Wikipedia that they are hoping will be complete by the Cattleman Ball.

Sept. 22 the Museum will be open on Sunday. There will be a prohibition exhibit.

Round Rock Chamber is trying to close the Palm House Museum. There is a lot going on with this but want the WCHC to have the information.

The Williamson County Commissioners Court has voted to no longer rent out the County Courthouse.

Oral History –

The commission discussed the checklist for the oral history. Jane read off a checklist that she has. The commission also wants to buy new recorders. Kandy and Mildred will be

working to find potential companies to help transcribe the eleven histories that are waiting for transcription.

Website –

Nancy added more information
1435 users in July
1401 were new users in July
1756 users in Aug.
1699 new users in Aug.

Nancy has finished putting everything on the website. 14 bridges, 28 towns, 4 oral histories, 235 cemeteries, 271 historical markers

Speakers –

No report given.

Brick Sales –

Col. Little mentioned that he was not able to schedule a meeting with Judge Gravell and Commissioner Covey. He would like to discuss the veteran bricks. Rachel Arnold stated she would get a meeting scheduled with Commissioner Covey. Kandy, Mildred and Eloise would like to help and attend a meeting. Also,

Historic Bridges –

No report

Historic Places –

Rachel will be sending the letter to the Census Committee members for evaluation. Then will email for the WCHC to distribute. She also mentioned the historic church in Bartlett that burned.

Eloise mentioned that a professional grant writer would like to help us with grants, but it is very preliminary.

New Business –

Discuss places to possibly have speakers come to.
Mike McCloskey mentioned that the building TxDOT asked about for their Section 106 has no historic value as it is not old enough.

The chair adjourned the meeting approximately 5:10p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rachel Arnold.