

Minutes of the Williamson County Historical Commission

A regular meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held on April 9, 2020 via teleconference due to COVID19 Stay Home and Stay Safe Orders. Eloise Brackenridge served as Chair and Rachel Arnold served as secretary.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Members present were: Rachel Arnold, Nancy Bell, Eloise Brackenridge, Joe Burgess, Kelly Clark, Mildred Davis, Kandy Dippery, Winnann Ewing, Col. Shelby Little, Michael McCloskey, Jan Raesz, Mickie Ross, Tina Steiner, and David Voelter.

Minutes:

The Chair called for review of the minutes of the March 12, 2020 meeting. Joe Burgess moved that the minutes be approved as presented. David Voelter seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Bell reported that the WCHC General fund has a balance of \$925.45, the Programs Fund has \$7,961.79, the Donations Fund has \$481.20 and we have \$600 of unrestricted donations.

In mid-March, Nancy Bell emailed to all members the proposed 2020-2021 budget with corresponding letter to vote on approving as is and submit to the Commissioners Court before the April 30th deadline. Results of vote: 14 YES to approve; 0 NAY to not approve. March 26th the proposed budget and letter were emailed to the auditor's office since the county is on lockdown due to the coronavirus.

Old Business:

Mike McCloskey asked about the supplemental plaque and Mickie Ross stated that she prepared the material and visited with Commissioner Covey. It was recommended that the Commission present it to the Commissioner's Court for approval. However, we would like to present the information to the board and do a meeting in person (when allowable) with the county judge. Mickie will look through the information to make sure we have the most up to date data; however, nothing has changed from the information Mickie sent previously.

Nancy Bell gave a quick update on the pioneer house.

Committees Reports:

Markers:

Post Oak Island wording was approved. Nancy Bell sent information from Karen Thompson to Mickie Ross and Mickie will touch base.

Cemeteries:

Col. Little gave a report and said that weather had hindered their ability to do anything. They are looking for a new lead because the current lead's wife is not doing well health wise. They are working internally.

Museum News:

Eloise asked who will be reporting on the museum moving forward. Mickie stated that it will probably be the new director; however, a director has not yet been hired. It was reported that the museum is still reaching out amid lockdowns and quarantines. They are doing Facebook live at 12pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays for school children.

Oral History:

Joe Burgess reported that Jodi Monroe with DAR has completed 7 of the Moody Museum speaker transcripts. Mickie will email Jane's stuff to stnogr1@att.net for transcription. Jane has Irene Veran's oral history. Once Joe completes the summary of the Moody Museum speakers, he will get them over to Mickie.

Website:

In March the website had users 224, 216 were new users. There were 507 page views. Nancy continues to update the website with pictures.

Speakers:

David would like to pass the torch onto a new chairperson who can coordinate the next speakers' series. Jan Raesz will chair the committee and Rachel Arnold, Kandy Dippery, Winnann Ewing, and Mickie Ross have agreed to service on Jan's committee. This committee will meet in May, June or July. Rachel Arnold will check on the dates with Judge Gravell and Commissioner Covey once the COVID19 emergency has subsided.

Brick Sales:

Col. Little has lots of bricks in his garage. None of the targeted groups are meeting until things are lifted, but if you or anyone you know would like to buy a brick, please contact Col. Little.

New business

Bylaws committee:

Mike is the chair of this subcommittee and would like to get the committee moving forward. Nancy Bell, Kandy Dippery and David Voelter will serve on the committee and Eloise Brackenridge will sit as an ex officio member. The current bylaws are available on the website.

THC Annual Report:

David sent info in January about the speakers' series. Eloise received Nancy Bell's report. Joe Burgess will send a report for the Oral Histories and Wayne will send a cemeteries report.

Joe Burgess updated the committee that the Taylor Station Bar shut down recently and “Friends of the Moody Museum” purchased a lot of the memorabilia. They are preserving it for display. They have a wide shot picture of Dan Moody’s inauguration and the Moody Museum has and will continue its preservation efforts.

Rachel noted that adults and children are currently living through a historical event that will be discussed and taught in the future. She found a COVID-19 time capsule for children to fill out and will email to the commission.

Michael McCloskey motioned that the WCHC give Eloise Brackenridge the ability to call a teleconference meeting anytime she feels as though a face to face meeting is not possible. The motion was seconded by Rachel Arnold. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 5:11 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rachel Arnold.