

Minutes of the Williamson County Historical Commission

A regular meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held on February 13, 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 4:00 p.m.

Members present were: Rachel Arnold, Nancy Bell, Eloise Brackenridge, Mildred Hill Davis, Jane DiGesualdo, Kandy Dippery, Dan Doss, Mike Fowler, Barbara Glasscock, Shelby Little, Michael McCloskey, Jan Raesz, Mickie Ross, David Voelter, Wayne Ware.

Sylvia Forbes was a guest.

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 January 9, 2020 meeting. Members noted who attended so that could be corrected.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Bell reported a balance of \$1,029.45 for the General Fund.

Program Fund balance is \$6,171.79, Tombstone restoration balance is \$707.30 and \$200 of unrestricted funds.

Old Business:

Clay Raesz is bidding on the Jolly Cemetery maker. Nancy will send the committee the quote, but he thinks it will be <\$500.

Someone took the Connell Cemetery at Bear Creek Cemetery marker. Wayne will place a sign out to see if we can get it back.

Committees Reports:

Markers –

The state has found someone to cast new markers! We have one marking in line. The marker deadline has changed the time to from Sept-Nov to April-June.

Cemeteries –

The group has been going to the Donahue Cemetery. They have mowed and fixed up the markers. There is a group that helps erect the tombstones with a tripod, Joe Plunkett is the main contact. They have been doing great work around the county.

We have an extra mower and Winnann who gave the mower to the cemetery committee decided it was best to sell the mower and donate the money to the commission. There was some discussion as to whether the committee could continue to store it and it was noted that it could not, and that Williamson County would not store private property on its premises.

The committee also discussed the Hunt Cemetery. Rachel let the commission know that she had contacted the concerned party and given her a solution.

Museum News –

Cemetery maps for sale \$3. Also mentioned the portal as a great resource.

The museum will conduct Ghost Tours every 1st Friday

Night at the Museum will be February 29th 7-9PM (Museum comes alive) Adults \$10
Children \$5.

Mickie Ross announced that she will be leaving the museum Thursday February 20, 2020. The commission expressed its sadness with Mickie's decision to leave the museum and asked that she stay on the commission.

Oral History –

No update.

Speakers:

David Voelter will send some information out regarding jobs for the speaker series on February 27. The word has gotten out and there is a lot of excitement about the series.

Rachel confirmed the food and Mildred will bring an extra ice chest and water.

Winnann received comments and confirmed the program layout.

Website:

In January the website had users 305, 293 were new users. There were 701-page views. Nancy continues to update the website with pictures.

Nancy handed out the business cards.

Bricks:

Bricks are moving forward and an order for 12 bricks was placed. Col. Little has been talking to veteran and heritage groups. He is also working on a new order form. He will set up a table at the Speaker event to sell bricks.

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:

Irene Veran's son would like to donate some of her memorabilia to the museum.