

McLennan County Historical Commission

Minutes for October 19, 2019

Proof of posting was established in accordance with the Government Code, Chapter 551 (known as the Open Meetings Act), and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Ken Brittain.

A Quorum was established with the following members present: Charles Barrow, George Bird, Ken Brittain, Thomas DeShong, Robert Gamboa, Byron Johnson, John Kamenec, Clint Lynch, Sean Sutcliffe, and Shirley Woodlock.

Meeting was opened by Ken Brittain who officially called the meeting to order at 8:31.

Minutes of the meeting of September 21, 2019 were approved with a motion by George Bird which was seconded by Clint Lynch. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's report was delivered by Ken Brittain. Neither he nor Clint Lynch heard from the commission's contact for the county concerning new charges. The Treasurer's report was approved with a motion by Clint Lynch and was seconded by George Bird. The motion passed.

Agenda items included the following:

- **Christmas Lunch Location:** Ken Brittain entertained suggestions for the upcoming Christmas luncheon. It was decided that Greta Watson would set up a lunch with the culinary school at TSTC similar to last year's celebration.
- **Committee for Torrey Trading Post Video:** Clint Lynch reported that he reached out to Baylor University's film department and Byron Johnson contacted Larry Holze. The committee will soon meet to discuss materials needed to create a storyboard and what the next steps in the project are.
- **County School History Project:** No report given.
- **Jacob De Cordova Lecture:** Clint Lynch reported that the lecture enjoyed a great turnout exceeding 200 attendees. The speaker did an excellent job bringing new information to the forefront. At the commission's table, people took a large number of bookmarks, brochures, and maps. Clint encouraged the commission to look for ways to honor De Cordova in the future, possibly by donating to relevant projects.
- **Reinstatement of Watson Arnold:** Ken Brittain read Watson Arnold's letter to the commission asking for reinstatement following absences due to health reasons. Ken will talk to Watson in the upcoming month to discuss options moving forward for reinstatement considering Watson's health and availability for future meetings.
- **West Waco Library Genealogy Lockup:** The event was held October 18 from 5:30 to 8:30. Jon Kamenec spoke with several interested individuals at the commission's table and sold a book. This raised the question of how the commission is marketing its book. Byron Johnson will speak with the City of Waco Visitor's Center, near the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum and suggested looking into the Waco Convention Center's website as another viable option. Selling books through Historic Waco Foundation is another possibility.

Committee Reports:

Marker Committee-Clint Lynch: Clint updated the commission on several potential marker applications. Last week, he visited the Chapel Hill Baptist Church near Bellmead. It has a small congregation but is between 138-150 years old. Clint will be discussing various options with them. The Dr Pepper Museum remains interested in a marker for the Corner Drug Store. Robert Denton is considering a marker for the former fire station behind the old Wilkerson-Hatch-Bailey funeral home, pending renovations. Clint expressed concerns that perhaps a medallion would be more appropriate. Van Messirer is also pursuing a historical marker for his home church in Crawford.

Medallion Committee-Sean Sutcliffe: Sean stated there were no updates to report.

Projects Committee-Watson Arnold: No report given.

Texas Treasures Awards-Dinah Mills: No report given.

Website and Public Relations Committee-Clint Lynch: Clint called upon members to continue submitting edits and suggestions for the website. Per last month's request, Clint presented a report to the commission showing the user statistics from 2018. A total of 1,644 users viewed 2,990 pages. The company managing our website will monitor user statistics for the remainder of 2019.

New Business:

- Connie Mayfield submitted her resignation from the commission citing personal reasons. She would, however, like to continue collaborating with the commission on the county school history project. Ken Brittain will talk to Connie about the project's progress and her role moving forward.

Announcements:

- Clint Lynch announced that the Heart of Texas Storytelling Guild was conducting "Walking Tales" at Oakwood Cemetery on October 19th. He encouraged members to attend after the meeting.

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

- Charles Barrow will discuss the Bell County Historical Commission's lecture from September 23, 2019 entitled "The Rise and Demise of the Great Western Cattle Trail in Texas."
- Clint Lynch proposed that the commission obtain a PO Box so that members' personal addresses will not be published online.
- The commission will vote on Charles Barrow for treasurer at the November meeting.

Adjournment: The next meeting will be held on the fourth Saturday in November (**November 23, 2019 at 9:00 A.M.**) A move to adjourn was made by Clint Lynch and seconded by Charles Barrow at 9:51. All in approval.

Submitted by Thomas A. DeShong, Secretary