

**McLennan County Historical Commission
Minutes for November 23, 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: Watson Arnold, Charles Barrow, George Bird, Ken Brittain, Thomas DeShong, Robert Gamboa, Byron Johnson, John Kamenec, Clint Lynch, and Shirley Woodlock.

Meeting was opened by Ken Brittain who officially called the meeting to order at 9:03.

Minutes of the meeting of October 19, 2019 were approved with a motion by George Bird which was seconded by Byron Johnson. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's report was delivered by Clint Lynch. The current balance for the commission was reported as \$23,701.00. The Treasurer's report was approved with a motion by George Bird and was seconded by Charles Barrow. The motion passed.

Agenda items included the following:

- **Bell County Historical Commission Lecture:** Charles Barrow gave a brief report on the Bell County Historical Commission's lecture, "The Rise and Demise of the Great Western Cattle Trails in Texas." Monte Monroe, the Texas State Archivist, was the event's keynote speaker. Charles was impressed with Bell County's work and encouraged the commission to consider newsletters, pamphlets, and other means of reaching out to the community.
- **Christmas Lunch at TSTC:** Ken Brittain informed the commission that he will be in contact with Greta Watson to iron out the details of the Christmas luncheon. He will then communicate these to the commission members via e-mail.
- **County School History Project:** Ken Brittain said he will be in contact with Connie Mayfield regarding her progress on the project.
- **Discussion on Commission Mailbox:** Clint Lynch encouraged the commission to secure a post office box so that members' personal addresses need not be on the website. The cost for a P.O. box at the post office on Clay Avenue would be approximately \$200 per year. Charles Barrow made a motion, seconded by Clint Lynch to accept the proposal. Clint will apply for a P.O. box on behalf of the commission.
- **Discussion on Commission Meeting Time:** Members discussed the pros and cons of hosting the commission's monthly meetings during the week versus on the weekends. The commission agreed to continue meeting on the third Saturday of each month, but Ken Brittain encouraged conversation and flexibility moving forward.
- **Reinstatement of Watson Arnold:** The commission voted on the reinstatement of Watson Arnold after he missed substantial time for medical issues. George Bird made a motion, seconded by Shirley Woodlock, to reinstate Watson as a member of the commission. All in approval.
- **Suspension Bridge Update:** Tom Balk, a park planner for the City of Waco, spoke to the commission regarding the progress of the Waco Suspension Bridge renovations. After providing

a brief history of the bridge, Tom discussed the plans to repair and replace elements of the cable system, the deck, the steel suspensions, and the anchor houses. The city is currently accepting bids and construction is expected to start in February 2020 and be completed by October 2021.

- **TxDOT Letter:** Ken Brittain presented a letter from the Texas Department of Transportation requesting confirmation that there was no historical significance for a bridge spanning Speegleville Creek. No commission members objected. Shirley Woodlock made a motion, seconded by John Kamenec that Ken Brittain respond to TxDOT on behalf of the commission.
- **Vote on Charles Barrow for Treasurer:** The commission voted on accepting Charles Barrow as the Treasurer. All in approval.

Committee Reports:

Marker Committee-Clint Lynch: Clint reported that the same parties (Dr Pepper Museum and Chapel Hill Baptist Church) remain interested in applying for historical markers, but the process is currently in limbo as the state finds a new foundry to produce the markers.

Medallion Committee-Sean Sutcliffe: No report given.

Projects Committee-Watson Arnold: Watson stated that the Texas State Historical Association is currently giving away free Texas Almanacs and asked the commission to consider whether or not it would like to aid in the distribution of these to local libraries, schools, etc.

Texas Treasures Awards-Dinah Mills: No report given.

Video Committee-Clint Lynch: Clint spoke about the progress being made on the Torrey Trading Post video project. Charles Barrow is currently creating a storyboard. Clint secured several photographs relating to Sam Houston. Contact has been made with the Map Curator of The Texas Collection regarding early Texas maps. John Kamenec brought in a painting of Waco's Torrey Trading Post depicting the council grounds.

Website and Public Relations Committee-Clint Lynch: Clint encouraged members to once again review the website and report back any revisions to be made.

New Business:

- Clint Lynch introduced Amanda Dyer as a prospective candidate for membership. Amanda has served on the Bell County Historical Commission and was on staff at the Texas Historical Commission. Tom Balk, who delivered the presentation on the Waco Suspension Bridge, is also a prospective candidate for membership.
- Watson Arnold made a motion, seconded by Charles Barrow, that the commission lower the retail cost of its book to \$15 in order to reduce inventory.

Requests for Future Agenda Items: None.

Adjournment: The next meeting will be held on the third Saturday in January (**January 18, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.**) A move to adjourn was made by Watson Arnold and seconded by Charles Barrow at 10:19. All in approval.

Submitted by Thomas A. DeShong, Secretary