

McLennan County Historical Commission
Minutes for May 30, 2020

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 Chair Ken Brittain.

A **Quorum** was established with the following members present via Zoom: Charles Barrow, George Bird, Ken Brittain, Thomas DeShong, Amanda Dyer, Byron Johnson, Clint Lynch, and Shirley Woodlock.

Meeting was opened by Ken Brittain who officially called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

Minutes of the meeting of February 15, 2020 were approved. A motion was made by Charles Barrow and seconded by Clint Lynch to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's report was delivered by Charles Barrow. Charles said changes are expected in the accounts due to expenses submitted by Clint Lynch. He has left voicemails for Missy Niles but has not received any updates. Byron Johnson reminded the commission that many government offices were closed during the quarantine. Once Charles receives the reports from Missy, he will circulate copies to members of the commission. Amanda Dyer made a motion, seconded by George Bird, to accept the Treasurer's report.

Agenda items included the following:

- **175th Anniversary of Baylor University:** Baylor University celebrated the 175th anniversary of its charter in February. Prior to this meeting, Robert Gamboa proposed that a proclamation be issued by the commission honoring this milestone. Charles Barrow made a motion, seconded by Amanda Dyer, that the proclamation be drafted and edited by the commission before it is finalized.
- **Evangelia Project:** Clint Lynch updated the commission on the progress to secure a historical marker for the Evangelia Settlement, an early 1900's daycare center near Webster and Clay. A ceremony will be organized and held soon.
- **Geological History of McLennan County:** Clint Lynch reminded the commission of a lecture that was to be sponsored by the Historic Waco Foundation regarding the geographical history of McLennan County. The talk was postponed due to the coronavirus, but it should be posted to HWF's website as early as next week.
- **McLennan County History Book:** Following the February meeting, Watson Arnold proposed that the commission present copies of its book on McLennan County history to county officials, particularly commissioners and judges, who did not already have one. Charles Barrow made a motion, seconded by Clint Lynch, to proceed with this plan.
- **Greenwood Cemetery:** Ken Brittain received an email from Tom Balk regarding the restoration of Greenwood Cemetery and the construction of a new fence. The commission will order a new historical marker for the property once it can be installed.
- **Henry Downs Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution:** Ken Brittain reported that members of the Henry Downs Chapter of the DAR would like to present to the commission

regarding a program that honors individuals from the county who are involved in historical work. The commission agreed to hear the presentation.

- **Central Presbyterian Church and Marker:** Ken Brittain reported that Magnolia has purchased the Central Presbyterian Church with the intent to move the building from its original site. However, there is concern that the church has been torn down and that the marker may have been moved as well. Ken has sent an email to the Texas Historical Commission to discern what is going on. Amanda Dyer offered to follow up with one of her contacts at Magnolia to find out what information she can regarding the location of the historical marker.

Committee Reports:

Marker Committee-Clint Lynch: Beyond the information shared for the agenda item concerning Evangelia Settlement, Clint has nothing new to report.

Medallion Committee-Sean Sutcliffe: Sean was not in attendance. No report given.

Projects Committee-Watson Arnold: Watson was not in attendance. No report given.

Texas Treasure Business Award Committee-Shirley Woodlock: Shirley has continued conducting research for the committee. She has identified 11-12 potential businesses for the award. Progress depends largely on the county opening back up.

Video Committee-Clint Lynch: Clint recently emailed members of the Video Committee, sending out a draft of the script produced by Charles Barrow. Clint and Charles encouraged committee members to review the script and offer their feedback.

Website and Public Relations Committee-Clint Lynch: Clint reported that the website continues to experience significant traffic and that reference questions keep coming in. He cited one such question that he and Sean Sutcliffe answered regarding the first distillery in Texas.

New Business:

Katy Ballpark Marker Application: Ken Brittain reported that the historical marker application for the Katy Ballpark is waiting on two documents. The first is a confirmation from city officials granting permission to place the marker. This has been submitted. The second requirement is a 4-5 page narrative on the history of Katy Ballpark. Ken will be composing this report soon.

Requests for Future Agenda Items: Byron Johnson suggested that the commission contact the county's IT department to see if they have any surplus microphones or cameras since the commission will likely have to meet online in the months to come.

Adjournment: The next meeting will likely be held online through Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic. The date and time of the meeting, as of now, have not been set. A move to adjourn was made by Charles Barrow and seconded by Clint Lynch at 2:47 p.m. All in approval.

Submitted by Thomas A. DeShong, Secretary