

**McLennan County Historical Commission
Minutes for July 18, 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 Vice Chair Clint Lynch.

A Quorum was established with the following members present via Zoom and telephone: Watson Arnold, Ken Brittain, Thomas DeShong, Byron Johnson, John Kamenec, Clint Lynch, Sean Sutcliffe, Greta Watson, and Shirley Woodlock.

Meeting was opened by Clint Lynch who officially called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes of the meeting of June 27, 2020 were approved. A motion was made by Shirley Woodlock and seconded by Byron Johnson to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

No official Treasurer's report was given in the absence of Charles Barrow. Clint Lynch mentioned that there were no new expenditures, and that the only pending expenditure was the \$1,000 invoice for the Historical Commission's website maintenance.

Agenda items included the following:

- **2021 Budget:** Concerning the proposed budget, Shirley Woodlock asked what the \$500 line for the Texas Treasure Business Awards was for. Clint Lynch responded that this was primarily set aside for ceremonies. Byron Johnson asked what the \$1,000 line for Historic Waco Foundation was intended for. Clint explained that this was set aside so that the commission could co-host lectures and events. Shirley Woodlock made a motion, seconded by Byron Johnson, that the 2021 budget be accepted. The motion passed.
- **Jesse Washington Marker:** Clint Lynch opened discussion on the Jesse Washington historical marker as was approved by the Historical Marker Committee. Watson Arnold opposed some of the language of the text, arguing that it was loaded language. He argued history should be objective. Clint explained that this modified version of the text was written by the Texas Historical Commission, and that most Waco and Texas officials who have read the revised version were supportive of it. John Kamenec then raised concerns about the accuracy of the second paragraph. He argued that the text ignores Washington's guilt in the murder but agrees to the language that the situation divulged into a lynching.

Watson Arnold made a motion, seconded by John Kamenec that the commission approve a historical marker to Jesse Washington but that the wording of the narrative must be changed to reflect historical accuracy, objectivity, and documentation. Clint Lynch asked for a roll call on the motion. The motion passed 6-3.

Results of Roll Call:

Yes (6): Watson Arnold, Byron Johnson, John Kamenec, Sean Sutcliffe, Greta Watson, Shirley Woodlock

No (3): Ken Brittain, Thomas DeShong, Clint Lynch

During the vote, Sean Sutcliffe reminded the commission that the term “Waco Horror” is a historical term that has been used to describe the lynching.

During the vote, Thomas DeShong stated that the reason he was voting no was because he agreed with the version of the text as approved by the Marker Committee.

A member asked that the names and results of the vote be kept confidential, but according to *Robert's Rules of Order* (2011), “In roll-call voting, a record of how each member voted, as well as the result of the vote, should be entered in full in the journal or minutes” (p. 422).

Because the text of the historical marker is due back to the Texas Historical Commission by July 30th, a letter will be written to address the concerns of the commission members. Ken Brittain made a motion, seconded by Shirley Woodlock, that Clint Lynch, Chair of the Marker Committee, compose the letter as soon as possible.

- **Second Presbyterian Church (13th and Jefferson):** Ken Brittain has not had a chance to talk to the appropriate individuals and asked that this agenda item be tabled until next month.

Committee Reports:

Marker Committee-Clint Lynch: Nothing new to report.

Medallion Committee-Sean Sutcliffe: Nothing new to report.

Projects Committee-Watson Arnold: Nothing new to report.

Texas Treasure Business Award Committee-Shirley Woodlock: Shirley continues to build upon the list of potential businesses that are eligible for the award including Cupp’s (1929) and a barbershop she is currently investigating which was on the edge of Lacy Lakeview (1933).

Video Committee-Clint Lynch: Nothing new to report.

Website and Public Relations Committee-Clint Lynch: Nothing new to report.

New Business: None.

Requests for Future Agenda Items: Shirley Woodlock asked about the possibility of securing a historical marker for Jules Bledsoe’s gravesite. Clint Lynch said he will reach out to Waco’s Parks & Recreation to see if the city has any intention of applying for a marker.

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 Greta Watson and seconded by Shirley Woodlock at 10:53 a.m. All in approval.

Submitted by Thomas A. DeShong, Secretary