

**McLennan County Historical Commission
Minutes for September 19, 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 and telephone: Watson Arnold, Charles Barrow, Ken Brittain, Thomas DeShong, Amanda Dyer, Robert Gamboa, Byron Johnson, John Kamenec, Clint Lynch, Sean Sutcliffe, Greta Watson, and Shirley Woodlock.

Meeting was opened by Ken Brittain who officially called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Minutes of the meeting of July 18, 2020 were approved. A motion was made by Clint Lynch and seconded by Greta Watson to accept the minutes. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's report was delivered by Charles Barrow. Reports from Missy at the Auditor's Office reveal no changes in the account balances. One account has a balance of \$1,300.00; the other has a balance of \$21,719.00. There are currently two outstanding invoices: \$100 for the Katy Ballpark marker application and \$1,000 for annual website maintenance. Concerning the budget for 2021 fiscal year, the Commission was allotted \$1,300 for supplies, \$13,400 for other services and charges, and \$1 for professional development for a total of \$14,701.00. Shirley Woodlock made a motion, seconded by Clint Lynch, to accept the Treasurer's report.

Agenda items included the following:

- **Bledsoe Marker:** Several members of the Commission have expressed interest in securing a historical marker for Jules Bledsoe's gravesite which is located at Greenwood Cemetery. Clint Lynch reminded the Commission that due to the state of the grounds, excavation is limited to six inches below the surface, suggesting a smaller marker might be required. The possibility of mounting a replacement historical marker for the cemetery on one of the brick columns at the cemetery's entrance was suggested.
- **Daughters of the American Revolution:** Ken Brittain informed the Commission that Van Messirer's name has been recommended for an award given by the Henry Downs Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to honor individuals invested in supporting local history.
- **Greenwood Cemetery:** Clint Lynch confirmed that the city is nearing completion on their restorative work at the cemetery. In talking with Tom Balk, a park planner for the City of Waco, the city wants to update the marker and the text. Robert Gamboa said that after the marker was considered stolen, representatives from Waco Parks and Recreation suggested the city would cover the costs of the replacement marker. Clint Lynch is going to check with Tom Balk to verify which entity will cover the costs, but Clint asserted that the Commission has the funds and good will to do so if needed.
- **Katy Ballpark Marker:** Ken Brittain informed the Commission that the Katy Ballpark historical marker application has been denied. It was suggested that the Texas Historical Commission may have placed quotas on the markers for this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but this can only be speculated. Amanda Dyer agreed to review the comments and feedback from the application to revise its supporting narrative. The marker application will be resubmitted next year.

- **Potential Members:** Clint Lynch reported that two prospective members have submitted applications which were recently emailed to the Commission for review. Kevin Stone is a local archaeologist, and Sylvia Hernandez is an archivist at The Texas Collection. Shirley Woodlock made a motion, seconded by Charles Barrow, to approve both candidates for consideration. Ken Brittain will submit their names this week to the County Commissioners for approval. Clint Lynch volunteered to notify Kevin and Sylvia that their applications are being considered by the County Commissioners to keep them informed.
- **Second Presbyterian Church (13th and Jefferson):** Amanda Dyer confirmed that her contact at Magnolia has no idea where the historical marker is. Ken Brittain suggested that it is quite possible that the church took the marker with them when the congregation moved to a new facility. Ken volunteered to visit the church and to verify whether they have the marker.

Committee Reports:

Marker Committee-Clint Lynch: With the Katy Ballpark application being rejected, Clint reported that there are no new markers this year. The two markers approved through the Texas Historical Commission's Untold Stories - Evangelia Settlement and Jesse Washington - will proceed as intended. Clint informed the Commission that several members met to edit the Jesse Washington marker text after the July meeting. This revised edition was submitted to the Texas Historical Commission who will ultimately decide which version of the text will be used.

Medallion Committee-Sean Sutcliffe: Nothing new to report.

Projects Committee-Watson Arnold: No report given.

Texas Treasure Business Award Committee-Shirley Woodlock: Shirley reported that there are three companies that she is going to reach out to for the business awards: Bellmead Funeral Home, Willis Plumbing, and Poppa Rollo's. She is already gathering documentation on the businesses but has been limited in being able to talk with them in person due to the pandemic.

Video Committee-Clint Lynch: Clint said that the Video Committee will be meeting soon via Zoom to discuss options moving forward. He wanted to wait and see what the budget was like for the upcoming fiscal year before discussing how the project could progress.

Website and Public Relations Committee-Clint Lynch: Clint reported that the website company will not update the site until the annual invoice has been paid. Reference questions continue to come in through the website, including one about a potential confrontation between Ku Klux Klan members and Northern sympathizers in Old Perry. Clint expressed that he and Sean are currently researching this event to see if it occurred in McLennan County or Falls County.

New Business:

In reviewing the applications of the two prospective members, Amanda Dyer suggested that the membership application needed to be updated. Specifically, meeting times should be removed, and addresses should be updated or removed. Thomas DeShong agreed to update the form and to send it out to the membership for review next month.

Clint Lynch reported that it would be advantageous for all records from the meetings - including the agenda, the previous meeting's minutes, the Treasurer's report, and Committee reports - to be emailed out to the Commission in one convenient email. The Secretary, Thomas DeShong, agreed to handle this task and will send out all relevant files the Tuesday before each meeting. Thomas will send out a reminder to all officers and Committee chairs to send in their reports the day before they are due.

Prior to adjournment, Treasurer Charles Barrow said that he wanted all outstanding invoices paid soon. Clint Lynch confirmed that he would get the receipts for the website and the Katy Ballpark application fee to Charles as soon as possible.

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Ken Brittain suggested that the approval of the new members will need to be addressed at the next meeting.

Robert Gamboa stated that there are two members of the Waco community who have been inducted into Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame. He suggested that the Commission could partner with Baylor University to ensure these markers are secured. Ken Brittain agreed but reminded Robert that writers and sponsors for the markers will need to be determined.

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 Clint Lynch and seconded by Shirley Woodlock at 10:56 a.m. All in approval.

Submitted by Thomas A. DeShong, Secretary