

JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of JCHC Meeting February 26, 2023

Sandra Neeley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Dillon Depot on Anglin and presided over the meeting following the printed agenda.

Wilma Reed voiced the invocation, followed by pledges to the United States and Texas flags.

Andy Asberry took Roll Call - 16 appointees were present (1 excused absence) and 2 guests Douglas Cogdill and LaRita Mims Jackson.

Announcements:

Chair Neeley shared that JCHC's annual report to Commissioners Court had been done that morning and that copies of summary of the report were available.

Everyone is invited to attend the Johnson & Somervell Co. Retired School Employees meeting on Wednesday March 13 at 10 a.m. at St. Mark UMC Fellowship Hall. Guest speaker will be Jetain Chubb, Texas State Archivist and Director of Information Services at Texas State Library.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Amy Nichols offered the January 22, 2024 minutes for approval as printed.

Nita Redmon moved to accept the minutes; 2nd by Andy Asberry; Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Andy Asberry provided the Treasurer's Report and confirmed the closing balance as \$44,017.62.

Motion by Nita Redmon to accept the Treasurer's Report; 2nd by Mike Mills; Motion approved.

Old Business:

Chair Neeley and Treasurer Asberry updated JCHC regarding the Area Historical Commission meeting JCHC to be held April 26, 2024 the day before Springfest in the AgriLife Building. As many as 30-50 people may attend. Friends of JCHC will provide refreshments and lunch but JCHC will conduct the meeting. After lunch the group will be invited to tour the Courthouse Museum, followed by a special tour of the courthouse.

New Business:

Next JCHC meeting will be **March 25, 2024** at 6:30 pm (Friends of JCHC at 5:30 pm)

Andy Asberry made a motion that JCHC meet again at Dillon Depot; 2nd by Mike Mills; Motion approved.

JCHC's May meeting would take place on Memorial Day May 27. Chair shared that the Commissioners Court will meet on Tuesday May 28. Discussion followed if JCHC should meet the same day as the Court, on another date, or cancel the May meeting (which would result in the June meeting being long)

Dale Dexheimer made a motion to hold the May JCHC meeting on Tuesday May 28; 2nd by James Neeley; 14 for; 1 opposed; Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

A. Texas Historical Markers & Historic Cemetery Designations

Nita Redmon – No Report

Chair Neeley shared that names and addresses of all THM and Historic Cemeteries in Johnson County were uploaded to the County website by the museum director.

B. JCHC Historic Landmark Plaques and Narratives:

Nita Redmon shared that Bennett's has not yet provided a quote for a larger narrative plaque with larger font.

Dale Dexheimer provided replacement applications for the #330 Trolley Car and for the Baker House, both in Burleson so files on each can be created.

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B. JCHC Historic Landmark Plaques and Narratives, continued:

Discussion followed there is a Historic Landmark file in the museum for S. F. Hackney Building in Burlison, which is where Grumps is housed. This building and the 2 mentioned above do not have a narrative plaque but each would be eligible if requested. This property was once a Farmers & Merchants Bank/clearing house and has bullet holes in the walls from a bank robbery.

Nita Redmon shared that Rev. Stevenson of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Cleburne prefers a warmer month for dedication of the John Richard Rose photo and narrative plaque to be placed in the church.

C. Friends of JCHC:

Andy Asberry shared that Dan Roberts has created a sample booklet listing all Johnson County Markers he plans to print and sell. A sample was passed around and many positive comments were heard.

D. Dotey House – Chair Neeley shared the Commissioners Court had approved the House being on Candlewalk in December 2024. The Hold Harmless Agreement will not be required due to Save Old Cleburne furnishing accident and liability insurance for each ticketed house on the tour. Assuming the Dotey House will be a fully-ticketed house on Candlewalk next time many more visitors should come tour the house.

Chair reported the armoire has been restored and that an invoice for \$200 has been given to the judge's office to process for payment. Facilities Management removed the refrigerator.

The back door no longer fits the opening. Apparently, it was cut down in the past so it could be closed. Chair reported Facilities added weather stripping and that the back door likely will need to be replaced.

Chair shared that the Dotey House will be getting a new roof – a composite that looks like cedar shakes but is wind, hail, and fire resistant – installed over felt and decking. The product was approved by Texas Historical Commission. The County will cover the approximate \$10,000 difference between the roof's cost and the insurance settlement.

Discussion followed that JCHC may not want to rehang all existing pictures on the walls of the Dotey House and that replacements should depict people who have lived in the Dotey House and historic pictures of Cleburne. Chair to inquire how to dispose of unwanted items.

75 hand carved, wooden Christmas ornaments donated by Doris Lanfear were moved with complete documentation from the museum vault to the Dotey House storage building for use at Christmas.

Marsha Buckner suggested using historic digital images of Cleburne during various time periods. Chair confirmed this possibility and that potential images will be discussed in the future.

E. Museum Report

Andy Asberry read the report submitted by the Museum Director. The Museum had 87 visitors for the month.

Total volunteer hours were 48

Accessions: City of Venus City Ordinances 1903 and Venus Public Schools Course of Study 1915-16

No expenditures.

Chair reported the Commissioners Court gave official permission today for the museum to be open April 27 for Springfest. History-related, Johnson County nonprofits are invited to set up on the north side courthouse lawn but no tent stakes or T-posts can be driven into the ground due to the sprinkler system and donations only – no sales.

Inventory continues and some documentation of school lands have been found and shared with the judge's office;

Judge Boedecker put a display case with flag and letter in the museum, for a total of 6 US flags now on display in the museum. Extra flags on display could possibly be rotated.

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E. Museum Report, continued:

An old metal cabinet was moved from County surplus to the museum and provides more space for the scrapbooks/subject binders. One existing cabinet and 2 others from surplus were put in the Conference Room with some of the ledgers.

Memorandum of Donation form was submitted by Marsha Buckner for a Wardrobe to be placed in the Dotey House. A photo was passed around. The wardrobe is approx. 6'-7" tall x 35" wide. It was made by Miss Buckner's gr-gr-grandfather who was a cabinet maker and served 2 terms as Sheriff of Johnson County during the Civil War; James Neeley made a motion to accept the wardrobe; 2nd by Mike Mills; Approved.

2 other items Marsha Buckner offered included a pie safe over 100 years old and a dental cabinet from the 19th century. Chair suggested that JCHC should first determine if there is space for one or both of these pieces of furniture before voting to accept them for the Dotey House. Donation of these items was tabled until this is confirmed. To be discussed at a future meeting.

F. Digitization of Newspapers – The Portal to Texas History

Sandra Neeley reported all JCHC submitted newspapers and the Cleburne High School "Yapper" newspapers have been uploaded to the site. JCHC's books, photographs and 1 scrapbook remain in process. A single invoice will be provided and UNT/The Portal was asked to submit it in time to be paid prior to the last day of September when Johnson County's fiscal year ends.

G. Burleson:

Dale Dexheimer shared that visitor traffic in the Burleson Museum remains strong as Razzoo's and Heim BBQ attract more people downtown. Last Saturday afternoon, 45 people visited the museum.

He reported the red and white trolley car #411 will be air conditioned. 4 bids have been submitted ranging from \$10,000-\$25,000. Air conditioning is necessary to preserve the valuable furniture inside.

H. Other Reports and Updates:

Steve Wells shared Texas Independence Day will be celebrated Friday and Saturday March 1 and 2 at the Chisholm Trail Outdoor Museum. Legends of Texas will perform a play about the Alamo heroes. Hours are 10-2 both days.

Andy Asberry inquired about Laramore Cemetery. Chair has asked the Sheriff's Department for the phone number visitors should call prior to entry due to history with the confrontational landowner. The Sheriff's Department was asked to provide a sign stating the telephone number and how visitors can receive proper instructions from the person who answers at the Sheriff's Department.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Amy Nichols, Secretary