

# JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## Minutes of JCHC Meeting January 22, 2024

Sandra Neeley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Restored Johnson County Courthouse Conference Room and presided over the meeting following the printed agenda.

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

Andy Asberry took Roll Call - 12 appointees were present (3 excused absences) and 2 guests Douglas Cogdill and Ben Head.

### Announcements:

Chair Neeley reported the museum's vault door has been worked on so that it can be closed without locking as requested of Judge Boedeker at the November 2023 meeting, but that the door stuck closed recently and additional work will be required.

Condolences were offered for the passing of Mrs. Louise Boren, donor of Burleson's Russell Farm.

JCHC's Annual report to Texas Historical Commission is due March 1. Chair asked all appointees to please turn in their volunteer hours and reminded everyone that this report has resulted in JCHC earning a Distinguished Service Award from THC the past 2 years.

THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe retired and his replacement is Edward Legel.

### Secretary's Report:

Secretary Amy Nichols offered the November 27, 2023 minutes for approval as printed.

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

Chair Neeley announced for the benefit of the visitors that anyone interested in being appointed to JCHC should attend 3 meetings within a 6-month period prior to requesting appointment.

### Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Andy Asberry reported the opening balance was \$74,166.76.

\$19,200 was paid for Dotey House foundation leveling which was completed in December.

Current available balance is \$57,681.35.

He shared the Auditor's office creates JCHC's financial spreadsheet and sends it to him the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Treasurer Asberry plans to request a meeting with both the County Auditor and Treasurer to learn more about how the available balance is calculated.

Steve Wells moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nita Redmon; Motion approved.

### Old Business:

Chair Neeley discussed that JCHC is working with Friends of JCHC to hold an area historical commission meeting on Friday, April 26, 2024 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Johnson County AgriLife Building at 109 West Chambers in Cleburne. This is the day before Springfest.

Andy Asberry moved JCHC pay any postage related to the event; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nita Redmon; Motion approved.

### New Business:

**Next JCHC meeting will be February 26, 2024 at 6:30 pm (Friends of JCHC at 5:30 pm)**

Christy Morton suggested it be held at Dillon Depot at 302 N. Anglin in Cleburne and offered to confirm availability.

Andy Asberry moved the February JCHC meeting be held at Dillon Depot if available; 2<sup>nd</sup> by James Neeley; Motion approved.

Chair Neeley asked for JCHC's approval and endorsement to represent JCHC at the February 26, 2024 Commissioners Court meeting to confirm the museum being open for Springfest April 27, discuss the Dotey House and its participation in next December's Candlewalk and to submit JCHC's 2023 annual report to the Commissioners.

Mike Mills moved for Chair Neeley to make this Court appearance on behalf of JCHC; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vivian Wright; Motion approved.

## JCHC Minutes of January 22, 2024 meeting, continued

### New Business, continued:

Chair noted Court convenes at 9 a.m. and that everyone is invited to attend.

Discussion followed that the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in May is also Memorial Day. JCHC should decide at the February meeting to set a different meeting date for the May meeting or not hold it at all.

Chair reported the wooden armoire in the Dotey House bedroom was taken to a local woodworker Ron Pelfrey for repair. Mr. Pelfrey (a Johnson Co. approved vendor) provided a written estimate stating the total cost will not exceed \$200.

Motion made by Andy Asberry; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christy Morton that Chair be authorized to approve Mr. Pelfrey's final invoice up to \$200 when presented and forward same for payment; Motion approved.

JCHC has discussed ordering "Courthouse Museum Open" (with an arrow) signs directing visitors to the courthouse museum during Springfest as voted at the November 2023 meeting. Judge Boedeker has requested both basement doors and the 1<sup>st</sup> floor Henderson Street door be opened so several signs are needed for each side of the building.

Previous discussions suggested 10 signs may be too many, so Chair Neeley presented a new quote from Action Signs for 1-9 in the amount of \$35 each + \$2 for each metal "H" metal stake.

10 signs were quoted at \$14 each + \$2 for each metal "H" stake.

Motion made by Andy Asberry; 2<sup>nd</sup> by James Neeley for JCHC to purchase (10) signs each with "H" stake for a total cost of \$160.00; Motion approved.

The signs quoted are to be 18" x 24", white background with black lettering and a red arrow. on both sides. Action Signs to provide a proof to JCHC c/o Chair Neeley for approval.

### Committee Reports: (5-minute time limit)

#### A. Texas Historical Markers & Historic Cemetery Designations

Chair reported the ongoing situation regarding a THM being removed from a business in Johnson County is between THC and the property owners. Johnson County and JCHC are not to be involved in any way.

A THM near where the Chisholm Trail crosses the Brazos River has been stolen several times. If THC can provide the wording, JCHC may consider replacing it with a plastic, laser cut plaque.

#### B. JCHC Historic Landmark Plaques and Narratives:

Chair Neeley is compiling an updated list of JCHC Historic Landmark Plaques and Texas Historical Markers in Johnson County. Upon completion it may be uploaded to the JCHC Facebook page to JCHC's area in the Johnson County website.

Nita Redmon stated Dan Roberts wants the plaques for his (3) businesses dedicated in the spring when the weather is nicer. No date has been set.

She has spoken with Rev. Stevenson of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Cleburne regarding placing a photograph and narrative plaque honoring Black composer John Richard Rose at the church. The church prefers a date in the Spring but no date has been scheduled. (Mr. Rose attended Mt. Zion Church)

Vice-Chair Dexheimer is helping to recreate documentation of 3 existing JCHC historic landmark plaques in Burleson as JCHC has no files on them. (Grumps building, 1 trolley car and the Baker House)

Nita Redmon stated the need to follow up with Patrick's Floral regarding the Historic Landmark Plaque they were awarded several years ago but never installed. Apparently, it is not wanted and should be returned to JCHC. Nita Redmon stated the owner could not locate the oval plaque last time she went there in person and asked for other appointees to please help retrieve this plaque.

She also reported Bennett's Printing needs more time to offer info they ask be included in their narrative due to Gary Bennett's father being in ill health.

## **B. JCHC Historic Landmark Plaques and Narratives, continued**

Bennett's will provide a quote on a slightly larger narrative plaque allowing for larger, bolder font to be considered in the future so the wording is more legible.

Lone Willow Baptist Church - Confirmation is needed if the church has an oval plaque or not and it was noted the oval plaque on the Rosendahl home in Cleburne disappeared after the home became a rental.

## **C. Friends of JCHC:**

Andy Asberry reported Friends may provide lunch during the area CHC meeting April 26 and that they are looking at catering prices. Anyone with recommendations should let him know. Friends will provide refreshments that day and a goody bag for each attendee.

**D. Dotey House** – Chair Neeley reported foundation leveling of the Dotey House has been completed and the County already paid Atlas Foundation for the work from JCHC funds voted on at the November meeting. No interior damage has been noticed and all doors now swing freely. The County is working with insurance to obtain a new roof for the house and JCHC hopes the chimney 'screens' to catch loose bricks can be removed, the chimneys repaired and hopefully capped off.

59 adults and 14 children under 18 toured the house during Candlewalk.

Chair thanked volunteers who helped clean, decorate and conduct tours including Kathy Misek's 8-person crew of students, Kathy's son Mitch, and her friends Paul and Garrett. Friends provided refreshments for guests and fed the volunteers.

During Candlewalk, 2 visitors expressed interest in attending JCHC meetings and requesting appointment, a quilting club offered to make a quilt for the bed and a college music director offered entertainment next year.

Future decorating needs include at least a dozen large red bows for the picket fence in front and 1 or 2 Christmas trees 8-10 feet tall. If anyone locates a tree, please let Amy Nichols know. A large rug for the meeting room would be useful. All items must be donated and each donor should be asked what to do with their item if it is not used (return to the donor, dispose of it, pass it on to another group, etc.)

Facilities Management will check JCHC's refrigerator for mold and advise if it can be cleaned. If not, Facilities will dispose of it.

## **E Museum Report**

Volunteers are needed to serve as docents in the museum for 1–2-hour shifts during Springfest April 27. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the March and April JCHC meetings. Friends will set up their donation table in the hall across from the museum during Springfest.

Inventory of archival boxes in the vault has begun. Volunteers are logging their time on this project.

23 total museum volunteer hours were reported during January.

Museum Director's report stated 1,151 visitors came to the museum during 2023.  
1 expenditure (printer ink) \$223.00

Mike Mills made motion to accept the Museum Report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Danny Doggett. Motion approved.

**Memorandum of Donation** form was submitted from 96-year-old Mrs. Nelda Frederick of Venus for a 1903 Venus City Ordinance booklet and a copy of 1915-16 Venus school courses of study. Motion made to accept this donation by Vivian Wright; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christy Morton; Motion passed

Mrs. Frederick will let JCHC know when she has located other items and photographs of Venus.

LaRita Mims Jackson who had loaned a green settee to the Dotey House several years ago without a donation form, has signed a form she submitted as well as an official Johnson County form, accepted by the Commissioners Court in December. She also provided a story about the settee's history.

## **F. Digitization of Newspapers – The Portal to Texas History**

Sandra Neeley reported JCHC items at The Portal are still being processed. The Portal recently celebrated 2 million items on the site.

## **G. Burleson:**

Dale Dexheimer shared that visitor traffic in the Burleson Museum remains steady and that the addition of new neighbors Razzoo's and Heim BBQ have brought more people downtown. He shared that they plan to air condition the passenger trolley car because heat is degrading the seating.

Vivian Wright and Pat Dexheimer continue to volunteer at the JCHC museum. They find items in the files that were previously listed as missing but were actually misfiled.

## **H. Other Reports and Updates:**

Steve Wells shared that a forum of local political candidates will take place tomorrow night January 23 from 7-8:30 pm in the United Cooperative meeting room, 2601 S. Burleson Blvd., Burleson

April 6-7 Intertribal Pow-Wow at CTOM

## **Adjourn:**

Amy Nichols made a motion to adjourn; 2nd by all; Motion approved  
Meeting adjourned approx. 7:50 pm

Amy Nichols, Secretary