

JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of JCHC Meeting March 25, 2024

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

The meeting took place at Dillon Depot on Anglin in Cleburne, Texas

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

Andy Asberry took the roll call: 14 appointees present (2 excused) and 5 guests.

Guests:

Jerry Walker of Cleburne

Susan Hejl of Cleburne

Doug Gulley of Joshua

Ben Head of Joshua

Douglas Cogdill of Cleburne

Special Presentation by Steve Wells, Doug Gulley, Ben Head, James Neeley and Andy Asberry of Terry's Texas Rangers SCV Camp #1937. Commander Wells shared many historical facts about Texas Confederates followed by the 1999 Texas governor's proclamation that April will be Confederate History & Heritage Month in Texas.

Announcements:

Chair Neeley noted that Danny Doggett's wife Beverly is in rehab following partial amputation of 1 leg and that Dan Roberts had been in the hospital, but was out and apparently recovered from his illness.

Nita Redmon received the Spirit of Grandview award from Grandview Chamber of Commerce and she and others representing Antique Alley were recognized March 25 at Commissioners' Court.

JCHC Secretary Amy Nichols compiled a slide show of historic photographs of Grandview shown at the Chamber of Commerce banquet and later at Grandview Methodist Church luncheon.

Several appointees participated in Pioneer Days at Chisholm Trail Outdoor Museum March 1 and 2.

March 29 (Good Friday) will also be Vietnam Veterans Day. 3 JCHC appointees were recognized for their service – Dale Dexheimer, Andy Asberry, and James Neeley.

April 8 will be the long-awaited total solar eclipse. Grandview is scheduled to have the longest period of darkness in this area (over 4 minutes) Several watch parties are planned throughout the county and schools will be closed.

A sign-up sheet for Springfest was passed around and appointees asked to volunteer to work 1 or 2 hour shifts April 27. Everyone representing JCHC that day should wear their name badge. Several non-profits will set up on the North side of the Courthouse and everyone is asked not to drive tent stakes, T-posts, or flag holders into the lawn. It was suggested volunteers bring food. Water and restrooms will be available in the courthouse.

Texas Dept. of Agriculture is accepting applications for family land heritage recognition of farms in continuous use by members of the same family for at least 100 years with ag sales of at least \$50 annually. Applications are available at www.texasagriculture.gov (Deadline is May 31, 2024)

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Amy Nichols offered the February 26, 2024 minutes for approval as printed. Steve Wells made motion to accept the minutes; 2nd by Ken Miser; Motion approved.

JCHC March 25, 2024 minutes, continued

Secretary's Report continued:

Douglas Cogdill's application for appointment to JCHC was presented and read.

Andy Asberry made motion to accept; 2nd by Ken Miser; Motion approved.

Note: Chair is authorized to order a name badge at cost not to exceed \$20 using Bennett's blanket fiscal year PO.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Andy Asberry reported a balance of \$55,027.01 and passed out reports reflecting JCHC Budget expenditures and encumbrances to date.

Nita Redmon moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; 2nd by Danny Doggett; Motion approved.

Chair Neeley shared that the JCHC Executive Committee met and approved JCHC's next fiscal year budget. The only change was the addition of a \$1,500 line item called "Springfest". The budget is due April 15, 2024 and will go into effect October 1, 2024.

Old Business:

A. Area County Historical Commission meeting April 26 at Cleburne AgriLife office. Guests will receive bags with brochures and maps of downtown attractions. Friends will provide refreshments and lunch. Judge Boedeker will conduct a special tour of the courthouse at 1:30 pm.

B. Andy Asberry and Wilma Reed attended a **historical commission conference in Clifton** concerning how to use history and heritage to increase tourism. Andy shared points made by 1 of the speakers included "history is not heritage" and "how you interpret history is your heritage."

New Business:

Next **JCHC meeting April 22, 2024** at 6:30 pm (Friends meet at 5:30 pm.)

Pat Dexheimer made a motion to meet at the Courthouse; Andy Asberry 2nd; Motion approved

Committee Reports:

A. Texas Historical Markers, RTHL Markers & Historic Cemetery Designation – Nita Redmon

Research continues regarding Recorded Texas Historic Landmark status for the 1915 Old Brazos Point Bridge. Judge Boedeker asked for more information about ownership and maintenance. Chair Neeley is assisting and has reached out to Bosque County Historical Commission.

B. JCHC Historical Landmark Plaques and Narratives – Nita Redmon/Kathy Misk

The photograph of Cleburne composer John Richard Rose has been framed and its accompanying narrative is on order. A dedication will be held on a Sunday in coming months at his former church.

Dan Roberts was not present to receive (3) JCHC Historic Landmark Plaques for his businesses Chaf-In Restaurant, Dillon Depot on Anglin (Former Dillon Funeral Home) and the Bus Depot Antique Mall (Former Central Texas Bus depot) The plaques will be awarded at the April meeting.

C. Friends of JCHC: - Friends continue preparations for the Area Historical Commission Meeting April 26. Representatives of Historical Commissions from surrounding counties will share successes and discuss problems. Friends will provide maps and brochures, morning refreshments, and lunch.

Friends will set up a donation table in the museum hallway on Saturday April 27 at Springfest.

D. Dotey House – Chair Neeley reported there is no information regarding the new roof and suggested waiting until it has been installed before hanging items back on the walls.

JCHC March 25, 2024 minutes, continued:

D. Dotey House, continued

Mr. Pelfrey has been paid for his work to repair the armoire. It and the wardrobe donated at the last meeting will be moved to the house as soon as possible.

Pat Dexheimer reported she is donating a new 6 ft. Christmas tree, 1 smaller tree, and a tote full of ornaments.

Chair reported having found (4) new, large red velvet bows for the picket fence and more are needed.

E Museum Report:

Chair Neeley read the report submitted by Museum Director:

136 visitors, 9 children participated in Seek & Find;

Research on churches and other requests;

Organization and cleaning of the center display case storage area was done;

Update on display of churches of Johnson County is ongoing

Volunteer hours 5-1/2 hours (inventory) and 14 hours (Burleson volunteers)

Expenditures \$29.99 for "sticky" notes (Chair noted other miscellaneous museum supplies were ordered which included mid-size archival boxes for the vault but none are listed among expenditures)

The wardrobe offered by Marsha Buckner at the April meeting was accepted by Commissioners Court.

Sign-up sheet for appointees to help during Springfest April 27 was passed around.

Chair reported (10) signs directing visitors to the museum are on order. Due to problems entering the order because Action Signs was closed due to a family emergency, the P.O. was issued to Bennett's at a savings of \$30.00.

F. Digitization of Newspapers (The Portal) – No report

G. Burleson:

Dale Dexheimer reported Vietnam Veterans will be honored Saturday March 30, 2024 at 1 pm downtown.

Announcement:

Steve Wells announced the Chisholm Trail Outdoor Museum will host Indigenous Institute of the Americas (Indian Pow-Wow) April 5-6, 2024 and volunteers are needed to drive shuttles from the parking lots.

Adjourn

Amy Nichols, Secretary