

JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of JCHC Meeting April 22, 2024

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

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

Andy Asberry took the roll call: 16 appointees present (1 excused) and 3 guests Ben Head of Joshua
Charlotte Lawson
Rowena Lawson

Announcements:

Chair Neeley announced everyone should sign the thank-you card on the sign-in table for Ron Pelfrey who repaired the Dotey House armoire and returned it to the house.

Also on the table instructions how to request THC's magazine The Medallion

It was suggested appointees watch a short video on the THC website showing how to clean Texas Historical Markers.

JCHC has received (2) copies of the original document that created Johnson County in 1854. One will replace a photostat copy in the museum display rack and includes a typed transcription. The copies were ordered from Bennett's using the Blanket P.O. Copy No. 2 will be stored in the map drawer.

Financial – JCHC was advised county money is not allowed to be spent by any department for dues to belong to an organization (such as Chamber of Commerce, Historic Downtown Cleburne Assoc., Save Old Cleburne, etc.)

JCHC's budget line item will be changed to read only "Conferences" rather than "Dues and Conferences"

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Amy Nichols offered the March 25, 2024 minutes for approval as printed.

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

Ben Head's application for appointment to JCHC was presented and read, this being his 3rd JCHC meeting as Bylaws require. He is interested in Burleson history and Buel Cemetery.

Andy Asberry made motion to accept Ben Head's application and authorize Chair to order a name badge at a cost not to exceed \$20 using the Blanket PO at Bennett's; 2nd by Ken Miser; Motion approved

JCHC name badge was presented to Doug Cogdill

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Andy Asberry reported a balance of \$54,667.25

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

Old Business:

A. Chair Neeley reported on the THC Real Places Preservation Conference in Austin April 3-5, 2024. Sandra and James Neeley attended (James paid his own way) Over 800 attended from CHC's to elected officials. There were approx. 57 ongoing and overlapping sessions ranging in length from 30-90 minutes each. The Neeleys attended about 20 that covered topics such as abandoned cemeteries, working with elected officials, wooden windows and doors, Section 106 Review, WW 2 internment camps in Texas, Markers 101 and many more. Johnson County sent the Assistant Director of Facilities Management.

Sandra Neeley met with Bob Brinkman, head of the Historical Marker programs at THC to discuss topics related to markers in Johnson County – THM at Johnson County Feeders Supply, missing Chisholm Trail/Bennett Home marker and Old Brazos Point Bridge.

JCHC April 22, 2024 Minutes, continued

During the Conference, Chair Neeley was advised of a special THC marker dedication honoring Texans who fought in the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee and recognizing 2 of the generals who died there and had towns named for them after the war (Cleburne and Granbury). The Neeleys plan to attend the May 13 ceremony representing Johnson County and the City of Cleburne.

New Business:

The **JCHC** meeting in May (which would have occurred on Memorial Day) was voted previously to be held on the 4th Tuesday (May 28, 2024) at 6:30 pm (Friends meet at 5:30 pm.)

Wilma Reed made a motion to meet in the conference room in the restored Courthouse; Andy Asberry 2nd; Motion approved

Other New Business included discussion of a proposed revision to the JCHC Bylaws. One appointee on the Executive Committee has a conflict on the 4th Monday of each month and asks that JCHC consider changing the day of the month JCHC meets. Discussion followed and the 4th Tuesday was suggested. No one voiced a conflict with 4th Tuesday. This item and other suggested Bylaws changes will be listed on the May JCHC agenda so a vote can be taken.

Committee Reports:

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

A previous application for a THM for Brazos Point Bridge was denied due to an error in the application. Chair Neeley discussed the current marker application with Bob Brinkman of THC in Austin and the fact the old bridge is not in good condition. Mr. Brinkman suggests JCHC pursue a Subject Marker rather than Recorded Texas Historic Landmark as is normally done for bridges and buildings.

The current application window closes mid-May and a \$100 non-refundable fee must accompany the application. Nita Redmon, Dan Roberts and others are working on the narrative.

The Judge and Pct. 1 Commissioner have expressed concerns about people walking on the bridge because there are holes and some rails are loose. Some repairs and maintenance are being planned.

The Old Brazos Point Bridge built in 1914 was on the main road before current southbound highways existed.

The Judge suggested due to the circumstances requiring this new application, JCHC may consider paying the full cost of this Texas Historic Marker and that permission from Commissioners Court is not required.

Andy Asberry made a motion for JCHC to pay the application fee, the total cost of the THM and pole for Old (1914) Brazos Point Bridge. 2nd by Doug Cogdill; Motion approved by all.

B. JCHC Historical Landmark Plaques and Narratives

– Nita Redmon/Kathy Misek

Nita Redmon stated the John Richard Rose narrative is finished and his picture framed. 2 small ID plaques are needed for Mr. Rose's framed picture – 1 listing his years of birth and death and 1 stating Johnson County Historical Commission 2024.

Motion by Nita Redmon to provide 2 silver metal plaques not to exceed \$20 per Bennett's written quote; 2nd by Dale Dexheimer; Motion approved.

B. JCHC Historical Landmark Plaques and Narratives, continued

Guests Charlotte Lawson and Rowena Lawson reported Buel Baptist Church will host a re-dedication of their building on Sunday June 2, 2024 at 12 noon and requested a Johnson Co. Historic Landmark plaque and narrative.

Nita Redmon made a motion to bestow a Johnson County Historic Landmark Plaque and Narrative to Buel Baptist Church, authorizing Chair to purchase narrative upon receipt of final draft and written quote from Bennett's not to exceed \$80; Ken Miser 2nd; Motion approved

Note: If JCHC is unable to provide the narrative before June 2, the oval Historic Landmark plaque will be dedicated and the narrative plaque provided asap.

C. Friends of JCHC: - Andy Asberry reported on the **Area County Historical Commission Meeting** to be held Friday, April 26, 2024 in the AgriLife conference room. Representatives of Historical Commissions from Ellis, Hill, Navarro, and Parker Counties have confirmed they will attend. There will be a round table discussion of problems and solutions. Friends of JCHC will provide morning pastries, juice, coffee, and lunch.

Friends will set up their donation table in the museum hallway on Saturday April 27 during **Springfest**.

Chair Neeley reported today's Commissioners Court approved that (50) Southwest Historical Quarterlies stored in the museum vault without donation form may be passed on to Friends of JCHC to exchange for donations.

D. Dotey House – Chair Neeley reported the repaired armoire and also the wardrobe donated by Marsha Buckner (accepted at the February meeting) have both been taken to the Dotey House.

The Judge reported the new roof should be installed by the end of June.

Exterior patching and painting of the house will be provided by Facilities Management this summer.

JCHC is asked to work with Facilities regarding the house's floors – patch, replace, or ? using JCHC's next fiscal year's budget. Facilities will provide names of approved vendors. Work should be done in October so it is completed prior to Candlewalk.

Fencing, windows, and other such repairs are on hold until the above items are completed.

Chair Neeley presented a written quote from Lowe's for 2 white vinyl roll-up shades for the kitchen windows, new curtain rods for the front door, AA and AAA batteries for use in candles during Candlewalk. The total written quote was \$101.86.

Steve Wells made a motion to make these purchases from Lowe's in an amount not to exceed \$125.00; 2nd by Danny Doggett; Motion approved

Chair Neeley reported having talked with an officer of Save Old Cleburne and learned that houses on Candlewalk can be fully ticketed only 1 time every 4 years – making the Dotey House ineligible in 2024. It is the consensus of JCHC and Friends that the Dotey House be open during Candlewalk as a "Featured" house, offering free tours, refreshments, and possibly live entertainment. The Hold Harmless Agreement may again be required.

E Museum Report:

Chair Neeley read the report submitted by Museum Director Darlene West:

101 visitors during April

Research requests continue

33 volunteer hours for James & Sandra Neeley, Marsha Buckner, and Linda Wallace (Inventory)

E. Museum Report, continued

14 volunteer hours Pat Dexheimer and Vivian Wright

Expenditures \$425.72 for ink cartridges

Ken Miser made a motion to accept the Museum Report; 2nd by Andy Asberry; Motion approved.

After lunch at the above-mentioned CHC meeting April 26, guests will tour the courthouse museum and Judge Boedeker volunteered to conduct a tour of the historic courthouse.

Springfest sign-up sheet was passed around. Volunteers are needed for 1-2 hour shifts as docents in the museum on Saturday April 27. Everyone was reminded to wear their name badges. The building will be unlocked by 8:30 a.m. and cleared at 4:30 p.m. JCHC's new "Museum Open" signs will be posted on each end of the building and non-profits will set up on the north lawn.

Memorandum of Donation Forms:

Ellie Wilson of Arkansas has offered photographs and documents from Van Darwin and Rosemary . Highnote of Cleburne. Mrs. Highnote was Assistant Manager of Howell's Department Store. The 1947 City Directory shows her husband was an office worker at Snow Flake Creamery. Documents include a booklet from the King Solomon Masonic Lodge at Temple. They lived on Surrey Place in Cleburne. Mr. Highnote died in 1973 and is buried in Cleburne. Mrs. Highnote remarried and moved away. Ms. Wilson is her daughter from the 2nd marriage.

Andy Asberry made a motion that Ms. Wilson be sent a letter declining the items for the museum collection and asking her permission to forward them to the Johnson County Genealogical Society and the Masonic items to the proper Masonic Lodge. 2nd by James Neeley; Motion carried.

Marsha Buckner previously offered 3 pieces of furniture for the Dotey House. One item (a wardrobe) was accepted and has been delivered to the house. The other 2 items remain pending (a converted pie safe and a dental cabinet) until it can be determined if one or both would be acceptable.

Dale Dexheimer made a motion to withdraw the 2 pending items from Marsha Buckner's Memorandum of Donation; 2nd by Ken Miser; Motion approved.

If either or both items are later determined to be suitable for the Dotey House, new Memorandum of Donation forms will be created at that time.

F. Digitization of Newspapers (The Portal)

Sandra Neeley reported THC will be sending all processed application documents (including photographs and videos) for approved Texas Historic Markers, Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks, and Historic Cemeteries to The Portal.

G. Burleson:

Dale Dexheimer reported he is composing narratives for 3 Burleson Johnson County Historic Landmarks that have only the oval plaques - 1 trolley car, The Baker House, and Hackney Building (aka Grumps)

Announcement:

May 18 – Cleburne Arts Festival – Songbird Live will offer free music all day

Stroll Thru Texas History at Acton (possibly May 16-17 – to be confirmed)

June 28 Burleson paranormal investigation – Pat Dexheimer – to be added to JCHC calendar

Meeting Adjourned

Amy Nichols, Secretary