

# JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## Minutes of JCHC Meeting May 28, 2024 – special date due to Memorial Day

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: 14 appointees were present (3 excused) and no guests.

### **Announcements:**

Chair Neeley congratulated Wilma Reed for being recognized as a 60-year member of DAR.

Congratulations to JCHC for having received a THC Distinguished Service Award for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. It will be presented June 10 at Commissioners Court.

The Neeleys were invited to and attended the Texas Monument Dedication at Franklin, Tennessee on May 18, 2024. As this meeting was being 'streamlined' due to forecasted storms, a more detailed report on the trip will be made at a future meeting.

For the same reason, JCHC dispensed with reading the Museum Report copies of which were made available on the sign-in table.

### **Secretary's Report:**

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

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

There were no new appointee requests.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Andy Asberry reported a balance of \$15,560.08 available.

Motion made by Wilma Reed to accept the Treasurer's Report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vivian Wright; Motion approved.

### **Old Business:**

**A.** JCHC hosted an **Area County Historical Commission** meeting on Friday April 26, 2024 and 19 attended from Johnson and surrounding counties (Parker, Bosque, Navarro, Hill, Somervell, and Ellis) Everyone had a chance to voice their successes, challenges and ask questions.

Friends of JCHC provided donuts, cinnamon rolls, bagels, coffee, orange juice, and milk and a gift bag for each guest as well as a box lunch. A group photo was taken then everyone adjourned for a tour of the historic courthouse. Contact information was shared later.

Kathy Misek read a thank you note from Dr. Mary Jane McReynolds, Chair of Navarro CHC.

**B.** The courthouse museum was open April 27, 2024 for **Springfest**. JCHC paid \$700 for two off-duty deputies from the Johnson Co. Sheriff's Department for the day as required by Commissioners Court. Discussion followed that the experience was very different from last year. This time there was no car show around the courthouse and none of the other activities were scheduled nearby so there were very few museum visitors. Less than 24 people visited the museum, so it did not justify JCHC paying the security guards.

2 invited non-profits set up on the lawn; but after no visitors in the first 2-3 hours, both packed up and left.

All Springfest activities, display booths and food vendors were at Market Square and along Mill Street. JCHC must remember and seriously consider this year's event before committing to Springfest 2025.

## JCHC May 28, 2024 minutes, continued

### New Business:

The JCHC meeting June 24, 2024 at 6:30 pm (Friends meet at 5:30 pm.)

Doug Cogdill made a motion to meet at the **Dillon Depot on Anglin**; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Amy Nichols; Motion approved

Other New Business would have included discussion of a proposed revision to the JCHC Bylaws but Chair Neeley asked that this be postponed to next month to shorten this meeting.

### Committee Reports:

#### A. Texas Historical Markers, RTHL Markers & Historic Cemetery Designation

Nita Redmon was not in attendance. Chair Neeley reported the **Brazos Point Bridge** Subject THM was approved today May 28, 2024, during Commissioners Court. The marker will be installed on the side of a county road, thus requiring the Judge's signature. The completed Att. A was sent to Austin today and JCHC should know by August if THC approves it.

Chair Neeley reported on the replacement THM for **Bennett Home on the Chisholm Trail** as discussed at the April meeting. The original 1960s marker at the "Y" intersection of CR 1006 and 1208 off FM 916 west of Rio Vista was stolen in the 1980s. JCHC was given permission by the Chairman of the Historical Marker Program at THC to replace it with one of JCHC's non-metallic, waterproof, laser cut plaques and Mr. Brinkman has approved the wording.

David Murdoch made a motion to proceed with the replacement marker; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wilma Reed; Motion passed (pricing to be available and voted on at the June meeting)

#### B. JCHC Historical Landmark Plaques and Narratives – Kathy Misek

The **John Richard Rose** framed photograph and narrative dedication likely will be held on a Sunday at Mr. Rose's church Mt. Zion Baptist in Cleburne. 2 small plaques voted to buy at the April meeting are on order but not yet received.

Co-chair Redmon is exploring other more public sites in Cleburne to install this plaque and photograph.

Kathy Misek reported Sunday June 2, 2024 will be **Buel Baptist Church** re-dedication off Hwy 67 east of Keene. Buel also has a historic cemetery and David Roberts a veteran of the Republic of Texas is buried there as well as citizens of the Republic of Texas. Kathy shared that Jasper Roberts originally got the railroad routed through Keene from Dallas and Buel became a railroad stop.

Buel was the post office for Lee's Academy that became Buel Baptist Church. The church service this coming Sunday will begin at 10:30 a.m. and rededication of the church and dedication of a JCHC Historic Landmark Plaque will be at 12 pm. JCHC appointee Ben Head is a member of the church.

3 narratives are pending for Dan Roberts' properties (Chaf-In, Dillon Funeral Home and Central Texas Bus Depot) and Dale Dexheimer reported he is composing 3 narratives for Burleson sites (Hackney Building, Trolley Car #330, and Baker House)

Andy Asberry made a motion to order narrative plaques for Dan Roberts' 3 properties and for 3 sites in Burleson and authorize Chair to purchase each upon receipt and approval of final draft and written quote from Bennett's at a not-to-exceed amount of \$80 each; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Cogdill; Motion approved

**C. Friends of JCHC:** - Dotey House will be "Featured" during Candlewalk in December. JCHC recently learned houses are allowed to be ticketed only once every 4 years. It is not yet known if the Hold Harmless Agreement will be required. Friends and JCHC plan to advertise the house being open that day.

**D. Dotey House** – Chair Neeley reported the house has been painted by Facilities Management. Items on order from Lowes voted to buy at the April meeting (2 roll-up vinyl shades, curtain rods and batteries for candles) have been delivered and that the shades need to be installed.

## **JCHC May 28, 2024 minutes, continued**

Dotey House, continued

The roof should be replaced by the end of June.

Friends of JCHC scheduled a workday for Thursday June 6, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. to remove tacks from the walls of the meeting room, hang the 2 new shades and possibly weed flower beds.

**E. Museum Report** – copies were provided on the sign-in table

Director completed inventory of books housed in her office which JCHC assumes will be made available on the museum computer.

6 research requests

22 volunteer hours

\$58.66 expenditures (office supplies)

The items offered previously by Ms. Ellie Wilson of Arkansas of items of Mr. and Mrs. Van Highnote of Cleburne were declined in April by JCHC. Ms. Wilson gave permission for the family photos and documents be passed on to Johnson Co. Genealogical Society and Masonic-Lodge related items to the Nolands River Lodge in Rio Vista which has merged with Cleburne Lodge where Mr. Highnote was a member. These 2 organizations gladly accepted the items.

Inventory of the museum collection continues.

Chair Neeley announced items scheduled to be discussed – files in the vault and changes to the museum computer would be tabled. David Murdoch reported he had seen the judge about this agenda item.

**F. Digitization of Newspapers (The Portal)**

No updates, however Sandra Neeley reported she will give a presentation about using The Portal to Texas History on June 11 at First Methodist Church in Grandview.

**G. Burleson:**

Burleson Heritage Foundation Ghost Tour fundraiser is scheduled for June 28 at 9:30 pm \$25 (cash only)

Dale Dexheimer invited everyone to participate in the Burleson 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and wear period dress. Participants should meet at the Collegiate High School on Johnson Street.

**Announcement:**

Chisholm Trail Outdoor Museum – David Murdoch shared the ribbon cutting for the new Doug Harman Museum at CTOM will be June 8 at 1 pm. He stated the Amon Carter Museum also wanted this collection but CTOM got it and it is a wonderful collection.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Amy Nichols, Secretary