

JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of JCHC Meeting June 24, 2024 – Held at Dillon Depot on Anglin

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

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

Andy Asberry took the roll call: 12 appointees were present (7 excused) and 4 guests.

Chair Neeley recognized 3 guests from Buel Baptist Church and Cemetery – Rowena Lawson, Mary Baker, Debbie Dunn from Waco, and later Susan Hejl.

Special Post-Meeting Note: Vivian Wright, Ken Miser, Kathy Misesk, Nita Redmon and Amy Nichols had various illnesses Monday and were unable to attend. We hope all feel better soon and can join us at the July meeting.

Illnesses of Dale Dexheimer's son, and appointees David Murdoch and Bob Rubel were noted.

Special Thank You to JCHC guest Rowena Lawson who assisted the Executive Committee take minutes of this meeting as Secretary Nichols was absent due to illness.

Chair Neeley clarified that anyone volunteering to help JCHC on any project is working for JCHC under this organization's supervision and is not required to be appointed.

There is a Johnson County Volunteer category which is applied for at the judge's office. It requires a background check and drug test is required same as county employees.

Thanks were expressed for words of encouragement during the wildfires in Ruidoso, NM. The Neeleys have 5 family members there and numerous people from this area have homes at Ruidoso.

JCHC's Distinguished Service Award from THC, presented at Commissioners Court June 10 was displayed on the sign-in table.

The Neeleys attended the Texas Monument Dedication at Franklin, Tennessee on May 18, 2024. They expressed what an honor it was to be invited to this special event that included officials from the State of Tennessee and Texas Historical Commission.

UTube includes 2 videos of the dedication and photographs of the event were on the sign-in table.

Although the Neeleys paid their own way, they confirmed it was 'worth every penny' to have attended.

Steve Wells pointed out that the Neeleys were recognized recently at the Sons of Confederate Veterans state convention in San Antonio. The Texas Division Commander of SCV also attended the event at Franklin.

County Judge Boedeker and Cleburne Mayor Cane were invited but unable to attend; and although invited, no one attended from Granbury or Hood County.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the May 28, 2024 meeting had been mailed to all appointees.

Ben Head sent word he is not a member at Buel Baptist Church as the minutes read.

Andy Asberry moved to accept the minutes with this correction; 2nd by Danny Doggett; Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Andy Asberry reported a balance of \$15,298.31 available.

Motion made by Dale Dexheimer to accept the Treasurer's Report; 2nd by Wilma Reed; Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report, continued:

JCHC voted at the April 22, 2024 meeting to pay all expenses related to the Texas Historical Marker application for **Brazos Point Bridge**. Due to time constraints, Dan Roberts paid the \$100 application fee.

Motion made by James Neeley; 2nd by Andy Asberry to reimburse Dan Roberts the \$100 application fee he paid when the Brazos Point Bridge Texas Historical Marker application was submitted to THC.
All For; Motion Approved

Dan Roberts reported he has filled out paperwork for the judge's office to be a Johnson Co. Approved Vendor so he can be reimbursed.

Old Business:

A. Texas Monument Dedication the Neeleys attended at Franklin, TN on May 18, 2024
See Announcements for this report.

B. Chair suggested an **Executive Committee meeting** to discuss filing system proposed merging of like files in the Jack Carlton Collection and the General Files – but keeping the 2 collections separate – and to discuss the several searchable indexes on the museum computer be made "Read Only" so visitors cannot accidentally make changes. (museum volunteers would continue logging in to make their updates as usual)

Vice-Chair Dexheimer suggested the 2 ladies who maintain the vault files be included in the meeting. Date of this meeting is to be determined and will be posted 72 hours in advance as required.

C. Possible **Bylaws Revision** – briefly discussed here – see last item herein

New Business:

Next JCHC Meeting July 22, 2024

Andy Asberry moved to hold the meeting at the restored courthouse conference room; 2nd by Danny Doggett; Motion approved.

Committee Reports:

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

Chair Neeley offered the report in the absence of Marker Chair Nita Redmon.

Discussion followed about the replacement THM for **Bennett Home on the Chisholm Trail** as approved by THC in April. JCHC voted at the May meeting to proceed with this project.

Andy Asberry made a motion; 2nd by Doug Cogdill that Chair be authorized to order a 17 x 22 narrative plaque upon receipt of proof and written quote from Bennett's not to exceed \$125; Motion approved

Kathy Misek is processing the application for **Buel Cemetery to have Texas Historic Cemetery Designation**.

Chair Neeley explained the detailed, somewhat lengthy process; and that upon official receipt of Historic Cemetery designation from THC, a medallion with name and date the cemetery was established can be ordered from THC. At this time the cost is approx. \$800 and it is possible JCHC can pay 1/2 as was done for Oakland Cemetery.

THC received **174 THM applications** and those accepted will be notified in the 1st week of August, 2024.

Bill Parnell of Whitney contacted JCHC asking that application be made for **Kyle-Bullard Cemetery** to have Texas Historic Cemetery Designation. It is located near the Brazos River, Hamm Creek Park, and Klondike Ranch. His contact info will be provided to Marker Chair Redmon.

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B. JCHC Historical Landmark Plaques and Narratives – Nita Redmon & Kathy Misek Co-Chairs
Chair Neeley offered this report as both Co-Chairs were absent due to illness.

The **John Richard Rose** framed photograph and narrative plaque are ready to install when a suitable location is determined. Nita Redmon has spoken with his church which is agreeable, but there is concern only the small congregation would see this display. A more public place is being sought. She has spoken with the Cultural Arts Center at the former JN Long school and a request for suggestion of sites was submitted to the City of Cleburne.

Buel Baptist Church received their oval Johnson County Historic Landmark Plaque on June 2 and it was installed by appointee James Neeley on June 3.

Andy Asberry made a motion; 2nd by Doug Cogdill to compose a narrative plaque for **Buel Baptist Church** and authorize Chair to purchase it upon receipt and approval the final draft and a written quote from Bennett's at a not-to-exceed amount of \$125; Motion approved

3 narratives were in process for Dan Roberts' properties. He has opted not to install a narrative at the Bus Depot at this time. The 2 narratives for **Chaf-In** and **Dillon and Sons Funeral Home** have been ordered.

3 narratives are in process for properties in Burleson that already have oval plaques. **Trolley Car #330** narrative has been ordered. Narratives for **Hackney Building** and **Baker House** are in process.

Andy Asberry made a motion; 2nd by Doug Cogdill to bestow a JCHC Historic Landmark Plaque and narrative for **Bennett's** in Cleburne and authorize Chair to purchase narrative upon receipt and approval of final draft and written quote from Bennett's at the not-to-exceed amount of \$100

Cleburne resident Susan Kay Hejl presented her application for a Johnson Co. Historic Landmark Plaque and narrative for her home at **509 North Anglin**, possibly to be titled "**Conway Home**". Her application will be forwarded to Co-Chairs Redmon and Misek for review and possible 'vote to bestow' taken at the July 22 JCHC meeting.

C. Friends of JCHC: - Andy Asberry reported Friends did not meet June 24 as there was not a quorum. He mentioned the upcoming Community Day at Cleburne State Park and that Friends of JCHC and JCHC had been invited to set up a booth inside an air-conditioned building. His VFW Post will be serving hot dogs. As no one volunteered, the invitation must be declined. Hopefully both Friends of JCHC and JCHC can plan for and participate in this event in 2025.

July 6 the VFW will be hosting Popsicles in the Park at Cleburne State Park

D. Dotey House

James Neeley moved; 2nd by Andy Asberry to revise the "Key List" of appointees authorized to check out the Dotey House key from the museum to remove Bill Conover's name and add Steve Wells, Ben Head and Doug Cogdill. All for; motion carried

Chair will forward the revised list to Judge Boedeker's office and ask that it be shared with the Museum Director.

Thank you, Andy Asberry for adding much-needed shelves on each side of the storage building.

Work day June 6 included Doug Cogdill, Danny & Beverly Doggett, Sandra & James Neeley, and Kathy Misek inside the house installing pull-up shades in the kitchen, a towel rack, and began removal of tacks & nails from Meeting Room walls. Amy Nichols cleaned flowerbeds outside.

July 25 was set for the next workday IF the roof installation is not in process on that day.

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Dotey House, continued

The roof is rescheduled for the "end of July" due to rain delays, after the Guinn Justice Ctr. and Courthouse.

Facilities Mgmt. appreciated the Thank You note from JCHC for doing such a good job painting the house's exterior. They seem excited to see the house's improvements.

Facilities removed a large tree branch that fell during a storm and will replace the loose and broken pickets that resulted. Some spare pickets are in the Hatter's Shed.

Racks for storing the metal folding chairs are being discussed as is replacement of the signpost out front. Pat Dexheimer has obtained a Christmas tree and was asked to continue storing it temporarily.

Chair Neeley, Johnson Co. Facilities Mgmt. and a representative from a County approved flooring contractor met at the Dotey House June 20 for recommendations about the house's floors.

JCHC is to be kept informed as this project moves forward.

Everyone involved is aware of JCHC's plan to open the house for Candlewalk 1st weekend in December and that cleaning/decorating must begin around Thanksgiving.

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

132 visitors to the museum since the last report, including from Louisiana, Kansas, and Florida.

20 info packets were provided for 2 groups of children attending "camp" at the Layland Museum

Handouts have been updated, adding other images to "Pictures in the Marble"

Facebook postings and various research requests continue.

A Texas Historic Cemetery request from Bill Parnell of Whitney was forwarded to JCHC Chair for Marker Chair Redmon.

18.5 total volunteer hours (includes inventory)

Expenses: Labels for file folders \$24.30

No items were offered with Memorandum of Donation this month

Inventory of the museum collection continues

F. Digitization of Newspapers (The Portal to Texas History)

Marsha Buckner reported on a recent visit to UNT/The Portal and noted JCHC's items are next-to-last in the Metadata section, meaning they should be completed and uploaded 'soon'. (this JCHC submission includes books, 1 scrapbook and photographs)

JCHC's last submission of newspapers has been uploaded but not invoiced as UNT will wait on billing until all JCHC items are complete.

Sandra Neeley presented a program about using The Portal to First Methodist Church of Grandview's Golden Zebras luncheon on June 11. Amy Nichols and Nita Redmon also attended.

G. Burleson:

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

See JCHC Calendar of Events for numbers to call for reservations.

Burleson will host its annual July 4 parade and Burleson Heritage Foundation will have a float (period dress requested) It is a large parade with many participants. Meet at Collegiate High School on Johnson St. at 8:30 a.m. if you want to ride on the BHF float.

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Announcement:

Carrie Murdoch shared the ribbon cutting for the new Doug Harman Museum was held recently at Chisholm Trail Outdoor Museum

She offered other JCHC Calendar corrections and additions:

Oct. 19 Fundraiser 10-6 for Daughters of the American Revolution - CTOM

Oct. 26 Chili Cook-off and concert – CTOM

2025

March 1-2 (Saturday and Sunday) Texas Independence Day - CTOM

Meeting Adjourned

Rowena Lawson and Sandra Neeley