

JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of JCHC Meeting July 22, 2024 – Held in Restored Courthouse Conference Room

Sandra Neeley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and presided over the meeting following the printed agenda at the Johnson County 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 present; 3 excused; and 2 guests (Susan Hejl and Roberta Frizell)

Announcements: Dotey House workday will be Thursday July 25 at 9 a.m.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the June 24, 2024 meeting were mailed to all appointees.

Dale Dexheimer moved to accept the minutes; 2nd by Ken Miser; Motion approved.

Carrie Murdoch offered a correction – that her surname is now Murdoch rather than Reynolds.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Andy Asberry provided copies of the Treasurer's Report; \$15,080 available

David Murdoch moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; 2nd by Dale Dexheimer; Motion approved.

Old Business:

A. Executive Committee has not met regarding museum filing and computer indexes

B. Bylaws Revision – suggestions included changing JCHC meeting date and other clarifications.

Discussion followed with unanimous consensus that at this time there are not enough changes to warrant a revision, nor change JCHC meeting day. Bylaws revision is therefore tabled.

New Business:

A. Next JCHC Meeting August 26, 2024

Doug Cogdill made a motion to hold the meeting at Dillon Depot; 2nd by Amy Nichols; Motion approved.

B. Chair reported Dotey House has been professionally leveled; the exterior painted and that a new roof is to be installed soon.

Per Judge Boedeker's request, Chair did a walk-through of the house with a representative of the approved flooring vendor Gomez Flooring and Johnson Co. Facilities Management on June 20, 2024.

The written quote listed demo of all floors down to the subfloor rafters, furnish and install 3/4" thick plywood subfloor, 3/4" thick red oak #1 grade floor, sanded to a smooth finish and followed by 3 coats of polyurethane and 500 linear feet of shoe molding to be stained same color as the floor.

Total quotation for this work was \$33,475.00

Motion by Andy Asberry to accept Gomez Flooring's bid of \$33,475 dated June 25, 2024 and proceed with the project; 2nd by Danny Doggett: Motion Approved.

C. Chair reported the Johnson County sub-courthouse across the street will be remodeled. The Judge asks JCHC to assist with decor representing Johnson County – possibly photographs of various towns and sites other than Cleburne (another organization has been asked to provide Cleburne pictures). Chair asked appointees to be thinking about suggestions for this project.

JCHC July 22, 2024 minutes, continued

Committee Reports:

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

Nita Redmon Marker Chair had no update on the **Bennett Home on the Chisholm Trail** replacement marker that is on order – only that Commissioner Bailey will install it.

Kathy Misek is working on the Texas Historic Cemetery application for **Buel Cemetery**. No update available; Kathy was not present.

Bill Parnell's request for Historic Cemetery status for **Kyle-Bullard Cemetery**; No update available.

B. JCHC Historical Landmark Plaques and Narratives

Nita Redmon reported she will meet with Dan Roberts regarding dedications for Dillon and Sons Funeral Home, Chaf-In Restaurant, and the Bus Depot. (Note: Narrative plaque for the Bus Depot will not be provided per Dan Roberts' request). (1) dedication will be held for all 3 at the same time.

Dale Dexheimer reported he will soon be finished with narratives for Hackney Building and Baker House in Burleson.

Narrative plaque for Trolley Car #330 has been received - Possible dedication to be held.

Visitor Ms. Susan Hejl applied for Johnson County Historic Landmark status for the Conway-Hejl Home at 509 North Anglin in Cleburne at the June JCHC meeting.

Motion by Amy Nichols to bestow a Johnson Co. Historic Landmark Plaque and Narrative for the **Conway-Hejl Home** 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;
2nd by Ken Miser; Motion approved

Update: Following the meeting Ms. Hejl declined the narrative, stating she would like JCHC to provide only the oval Johnson County Historic Landmark Plaque to be awarded at the August JCHC meeting.

C. Friends of JCHC: - Andy Asberry read a thank-you letter from Judge Bob McGregor, Chair of Hill County Historical Commission regarding the Area Historical Commission meeting JCHC and Friends hosted April 26, 2024.

Andy shared that membership in Friends is sparse and that more members are needed. Friends meet an hour prior to the regular JCHC meeting each month. Friends of JCHC raise money, print brochures and support JCHC in many ways.

D. Dotey House

No update on the roof – only that it will be done after the courthouse which is in process now.

Chair Neeley shared that there will be a workday this coming Thursday at 9 a.m. to replace the signpost outside, reattach and replace fence pickets damaged by a fallen branch on the Willingham St. side of the house, pull tacks from the Meeting Room walls and that outside work needed includes removing small trees and weeds from flower beds.

Wilma Reed asked about the exterior fence and discussion followed that Facilities Management plans to replace the pickets with a wrought-iron fence in the future.

Special Thank You to Andy Asberry for installing shelves in the storage building.

JCHC July 22, 2024 minutes, continued

D. Dotey House, continued

Chair Neeley explained the origin and timeline of Candlewalk as it has evolved through the last 40+ years from a "home tour" to an annual event in early December. sponsored by Save Old Cleburne. Participating houses are identified by luminarias (candles) after dark.

Dotey House will be a 'featured' house December 7, 2024, and open 1-8 pm; free admission

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

108 visitors to the museum since the last report, including from Idaho, Oklahoma, Ohio, and Montana. Facebook postings and various research requests continue.

16.5 total volunteer hours (includes inventory)

Expenses: \$224.78 Printer ink

Chair Neeley shared that less than \$200 remains in this budget line item for the remainder of the current fiscal year but that arrangements have been made should expenses arise that exceed that amount.

Guest Roberta Frizzell offered an autographed copy of "**Texas Flowers in Natural Colors**" a book printed in 1967 illustrated and authored by Cleburne native Miss Eula Whitehouse. Miss Whitehouse (1892-1974) is buried in Cleburne Memorial Cemetery. She attended the University of Texas and was on the staff at SMU. Miss Whitehouse had a PhD in Botany and this book includes her drawings of native Texas plants. She also discovered a plant that was named after her. Ms. Frizzell stated she offers the book to JCHC in honor of her brother-in-law John Percifield, former JCHC Chair.

Chair Neeley shared that Miss Whitehouse had 5 siblings, one of whom was well-known local physician Dr. William G. Whitehouse, MD.

Amy Nichols made a motion to accept the book into the Courthouse Museum collection; 2nd by Ken Miser and Andy Asberry; Motion approved.

Ms. Frizzell asked that the book be on display in the museum after acceptance by Commissioners Court. Discussion followed that space should be designated to display and call attention to new museum acquisitions.

Inventory of the museum collection continues

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

Sandra Neeley shared that JCHC-submitted books are being uploaded to the site as they are completed.

The most recent include: **One Hundred Years of Godley History 1883-1983** and

Johnson County Century Re-Call 1854-1954 Official Program May 2nd-8th

Other books, photographs and the Frances Mason scrapbook remain in process at The Portal.

G. Burleson:

Dale Dexheimer reported approximately 500 people visit the Burleson Heritage Museum, visitors center and trolley car displays each month and that normally 100-125 visit each Saturday.

JCHC appointee and BHF volunteer Vivian Wright was not present, having just been released from the hospital.

Pat Dexheimer reported the recent Ghost Tour raised \$575 for Burleson Heritage Foundation

Announcements:

David Murdoch shared that Chisholm Trail Outdoor Museum recently hosted the 80th Anniversary celebration of the Liberation of Guam from Japan. He stated 30-40 Guam citizens attended, that they are very appreciative of the USA and that the event was a great success.

Today being Dan Roberts' birthday, everyone was invited to Dillon Depot on Anglin

Meeting Adjourned

Amy Nichols, Secretary