

# JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## Minutes of JCHC Meeting August 26, 2024 Held at the Dillon Depot on Anglin – Cleburne

Sandra Neeley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and presided over the meeting following the printed agenda at the 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 present; 5 excused; and 3 guests (Susan Hejl, Rowena Lawson, and Bill Parnell)

### **Announcements:**

Chair Neeley shared that Nita Redmon was recognized this morning at Commissioners Court for 25 yrs of Antique Alley Texas. This year's event will be Sept 20-22, 2024.

Calendar of Events items mentioned included

Alvarado Pioneer & Old Settlers Reunion Parade August 28 (Terry's Texas Rangers will fire a cannon to start the parade)

October 5, 2024 - Prairie Springs Cemetery, Burlison – dedication of a CSA monument

October 12, 2024 - Grandview Western Heritage Day

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

Secretary Amy Nichols offered the July 22, 2024 minutes for approval.

Andy Asberry moved to accept; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nita Redmon; Motion approved.

Rowena Lawson has attended 3 JCHC meetings and submitted her application for appointment to JCHC.

James Neeley moved to **accept Rowena Lawson's** application and authorize Chair to approve and order a name badge using current fiscal year PO at Bennett's at a cost not to exceed \$20; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nita Redmon; Motion Approved

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

Treasurer Andy Asberry provided copies of the Treasurer's Report and confirmed closing balance of \$14,708.29 as of July 31, 2024;

Nita Redmon moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vivian Wright; Motion approved.

### **Old Business:**

None

### **New Business:**

A. Next JCHC Meeting September 23, 2024

Amy Nichols made a motion to hold the September 2024 meeting at the restored courthouse conference room; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nita Redmon; Motion approved.

It was unanimously agreed to hold the Oct. 28 meeting at Burlison Visitors Center and Nov. 25 meeting at the Dotey House

## JCHC Minutes of August 26, 2024 meeting, continued

### Committee Reports:

**A. TX Historical Markers, RTHL Markers & TX Historic Cemetery Designation – Marker Chair**  
Chair reported the replacement narrative for **Bennett Home on the Chisholm Trail** has been received and that Commissioner Bailey's crew has cleaned and mowed the site and moved the large rocks with plans to add more. It will be installed by Facilities Mgmt. and JCHC in October. No dedication is planned. Chair pointed out that because it is a non-THC marker, THC will not reinstate it on the THC online Atlas of THMs in Texas but that JCHC should list it and its wording that THC approved.

Kathy Misek was not present to report on the Texas Historic Cemetery application for Buel Cemetery. Marker Chair Redmon pointed out the application may have to be started over.

Bill Parnell requested Texas Historic Cemetery status for **Kyle-Bullard Cemetery** in Johnson Co. near Klondike Ranch. Its oldest grave is Asa Lorenzo Bullard born 1793. Including Mr. Bullard there are 3 known graves of Civil War soldiers in the cemetery.

Nita Redmon made a motion; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy Asberry that JCHC pursue Texas Historic Cemetery Status for **Kyle-Bullard Cemetery**.

Discussion followed that Mr. Parnell be allowed (with assistance from Andy Asberry) to make application for Texas Historic Cemetery status if its application fee is paid by others and that it goes through JCHC for submission to THC. The next 'window' for applications opens March 1, 2025.

Chair Neeley was contacted by **Cleburne State Park** about a **TX Historical Marker** for the Park's **CCC Camp**. Although the Park itself has no funds nor anyone to make the application, it does have a Friends group that may be able to help. Many Texas state parks have THM for their CCC Camps.

### **B. JCHC Historical Landmark Plaques and Narratives**

Nita Redmon presented an oval Johnson Co. Historic Landmark plaque to Ms. Susan Hejl for the 1892 **Conway-Hejl home** at 509 North Anglin in Cleburne. Ms. Hejl has resided there 40 years and has restored the home built by former Cleburne Mayor John C. Conway.

Mrs. Hejl expressed her gratitude for having this recognition from JCHC.  
(She declined an accompanying narrative at this time)

Nita Redmon reported no date has been set to dedicate the **John Richard Rose** framed photograph and narrative, likely to be held at Greater Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Cleburne – possibly during another special date such as Juneteenth.

Dan Roberts, owner of the building that was **Dillon and Sons Funeral Home** was ill and unable to attend to accept its narrative plaque. He already has the narrative for **Chaf-In** and declined having a narrative for the **Bus Depot** because its east side mural includes a story about the building's history. A single dedication will be held.

Co-Chair Redmon presented the narrative plaque for Interurban **Trolley Car #330** built in 1903 and on display at Burleson to Dale Dexheimer. He read the plaque aloud and will represent JCHC at its dedication Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 6 pm at Burleson Heritage Museum and Visitors Center. Everyone is invited to attend.

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

James Neeley will install the narrative plaque at **Buell Baptist Church** in October.

No update on the narrative plaque JCHC is to compose for **Bennett's** in Cleburne. Information on the business' history will be provided to Co-Chair Redmon.

## **JCHC August 26, 2024 minutes, continued**

**J N Long School** (known as the Cultural Arts Center) has an oval JCHC Historic Landmark Plaque and has requested a narrative to accompany it. A Texas Historical Marker was previously applied for but denied by THC so there is much info about the school in its THM application file at the courthouse museum.

Andy Asberry made a motion; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vivian Wright to bestow, order and fund a Historic Landmark narrative for **J N Long School** in Cleburne and authorize Chair to purchase narrative upon receipt of final draft and written quote from Bennett's at the not to exceed amount of \$100 ; Motion approved

**C. Friends of JCHC:** - Andy Asberry stated there were only 3 Friends members present tonight so they were unable to hold a meeting.

Friends of JCHC raises money to fund events and projects for JCHC that are not covered by JCHC's budget and that Friends of JCHC needs more members.

Friends of JCHC meets at 5:30 pm at the same location and date as JCHC meetings.

### **D. Dotey House**

Chair thanked those who helped with the workday July, especially Andy Asberry for building and installing a new sign post out front and for reattaching fence pickets damaged when a tree limb fell on them along Willingham Street. Doug Cogdill, Dale Dexheimer and Sandra Neeley continued removal of tacks in the Meeting Room walls. No further workdays can be scheduled until the roof has been replaced.

Chair Neeley shared that the floor is finished and is 'curing' so furniture can be moved back into place, hopefully within the next 2 weeks.

The roof replacement will begin as soon as the restored courthouse roof is finished.

Discussion followed that a very fragile, dirty wedding dress and cotton CSA coat in the bedroom have no official record of donation to or acceptance by Johnson County. They were possibly brought to the house in 2012 by Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Garner. Discussion followed to offer the items back to Mrs. Garner. Official vote will occur after JCHC appointees have an opportunity to view the items at the November meeting at the Dotey House.

Note: The current Memorandum of Donation form states items requiring special handling (such as this fragile dress) cannot be accepted at this time, meaning if offered now, the wedding dress would not be accepted.

Chair noted that JCHC has the offer to display an 1860s replica dress and wool CSA officer's coat to be borrowed for Candlewalk and returned to their owners afterwards.

No contact has been made with the choir that offered to provide entertainment this year, but word was left with the lady's husband who works at Cleburne Public Library.

No contact has been made with the quilting group that offered to make a new quilt for the bed at Candlewalk in 2023. Chair mentioned that an aged, fragile autograph quilt in poor condition needs repair and 'loops' added on top so it can be easily displayed then removed after each event and placed in storage at the Dotey House. It is possible JCHC will have to hire someone to make this quilt repair.

Chair showed 2 identical examples of swag-type curtains available from Walmart and Amazon for less than \$40 each. JCHC is very limited where such things can be purchased. Lowes and Home Depot are approved local vendors and the County does order from Amazon and possibly Walmart.

13 curtains are needed – 4 for the parlor, 4 for the bedroom and 5 in the meeting room.

Chair will discuss this purchase with the Judge's office to confirm sources and so that curtains in each of the 3 rooms are different.

Andy Asberry moved that JCHC spend up to \$650 for curtains for the Dotey House; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Danny Doggett; motion approved.

## **JCHC August 26, 2024 minutes, continued**

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

103 visitors to the museum since the last report, including from Kansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Missouri, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Scotland

Facebook postings and various research requests continue.

A handout "Johnson County Heroes Who Died in WW II" is available at the museum

12 total volunteer hours

### **Inventory:**

Chair Neeley reported the incomplete, undated donation form says the spinning wheel at the museum came from "Johnson County Heritage Foundation, represented by Randolph Garner" who is deceased. The judge's office confirmed there was no official acceptance of this item by Johnson County.

Museum Director Darlene West included the following statement in her Museum Report: *"Regarding the spinning wheel currently located in the Museum: As stated by the JCHC Chair, there is no record of accession for this item and to our knowledge it didn't come from Johnson County; therefore, it needs a new home."*

Discussion followed about returning the spinning wheel to JCHF with our thanks IF an address can be located for the organization. Updates to follow at the September JCHC meeting.

Mrs. Courtney Davis of San Augustine, TX offered 7 items from the early 1900s in Venus.

Motion by Marsha Buckner to accept the donation of these items; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy Asberry; Motion approved

Last month a book about Texas Wildflowers by Miss Eula Whitehouse was accepted. The Museum Director has created a nice display and write-up featuring this new acquisition.

Longtime Cleburne resident and City Councilman John Warren offered The Legacy of East Cleburne in 2 volumes: History of Booker T. Washington High School and History of the Black Churches.

Motion by Marsha Buckner to accept these books; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy Asberry; Motion approved

### **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 and that other books, photographs and the Frances Mason scrapbook remain in process at The Portal. Invoicing will be provided upon completion.

### **G. Burleson:**

Dale Dexheimer reported Burleson Founders Day will be Saturday October 12 with a parade (aka stroll through downtown by participants in period dress) will be at 9 or 10 a.m. Everyone is invited to the parade.

September 10 at 6 pm a JCHC Historic Landmark Narrative will be dedicated at the Burleson Heritage Museum; Everyone is invited to attend.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Amy Nichols, Secretary