

JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes of JCHC Meeting October 28, 2024
Held at the Burleson Visitors Center and Museum – Burleson, TX

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

Neal Jones, President of Burleson Heritage Foundation (BHF) welcomed everyone.

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

Andy Asberry took the roll call. 13 appointees present; 3 excused

3 Guests were introduced: Neal Jones, Robert Garbarino of BHF and Charlotte Lawson

Announcements:

Chair Neeley announced that reappointment forms were passed out to all eligible appointees and asked that everyone please fill out the short application and return the completed forms to her tonight. At the November meeting forms will also be available and a nominating committee appointed for 2025 and 2026 officers. Election of officers will take place at the January 2025 meeting.

Nita Redmon shared a health update on Dan Roberts. He has been discharged from hospital and now has home health.

Chair Neeley shared that she and Steve Wells spoke October 5 at the dedication of a memorial to soldiers from the War Between the States buried at Prairie Springs Cemetery near Burleson. A monument was unveiled and Terry's Texas Rangers SCV Camp #1937 provided color/honor guard.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Amy Nichols offered the September 23, 2024 minutes for approval as printed. Andy Asberry moved to accept the minutes; 2nd by Nita Redmon; Motion Approved.

New appointee Rowena Lawson was given her name badge.

Treasurer's Report:

Andy Asberry reported a closing balance of \$48,600.09

He and Chair Neeley plan to meet soon with financial officers of Johnson County – Budget Coordinator and representatives of the Auditor and Treasurer's offices to learn about JCHC's monthly financial report.

Treasurer Asberry presented (4) special items requiring votes and provided written quotes or instructions:

1. Written, itemized bid from Ware Fencing LLC of Crowley, TX for \$15,400 to remove the entire perimeter fence around Dotey House, install new posts, new pickets, new walk-thru and drive-thru gates. The material is to be pine and painted white. The contractor will haul off all the old fencing. Danny Doggett made a motion to accept the bid and approve the new fence as stated; 2nd by Steve Wells; Motion Approved.

2. Written bid from TP&R Construction of Desoto, TX a Johnson County approved vendor for \$4,975.00 to paint trim on 17 windows, paint trim on 8 doors, paint baseboards throughout, paint wooden hallway sides, paint 8 doors, repair 1 back exterior door, paint 1 room walls and ceiling (the kitchen) and white wooden divider between entry hall and parlor of the Dotey House. Motion made by Steve Wells to approve this bid; 2nd by Vivian Wright; Motion approved

Note: Chair Neeley pointed out Facilities Mgmt. has been assured by both Ware Fencing and TP&R that they can begin work a week or 2 after PO is issued and that the actual work will take only a few days. JCHC has been assured we will have plenty of time to enter the house in November to prepare and decorate for Candlwalk Dec. 7.

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3. Vote to reimburse Chair or JCHC authorized representative for travel to and from Denton/ UNT (The Portal) for up to 2 trips per fiscal year to pick up and deliver items to The Portal to Texas History. These funds to come from Dues & Conferences line item. The County travel reimbursement form will be required and approved by the Judge.

Motion made by Andy Asberry; 2nd by Rowena Lawson; Motion Approved

4. Vote to send JCHC Executive Committee and Texas Historical Marker Chair to the THC Real Places Conference in April 2025 with reimbursement or payment of expenses. Chair to appear at Commissioners Court when fees and those going are known. THC has advised JCHC registration info will be sent beginning in November 2024.

Motion made by Steve Wells; 2nd by Andy Asberry; Motion Approved

Chair Neeley reminded everyone that JCHC's Bylaws state expenses are to be paid only for the 4 Executive Committee members and THM Chair but that any and everyone is welcome to attend and pay their own expenses.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Chair Neeley reported a land developer found a headstone indicating a possible grave on land in Grandview as reported to JCHC by the real estate agent. Amy Nichols of Grandview Cemetery Association met with the agent at the possible grave site and took photos. The headstone is for Oscar Harrell, age 16, born 1880, died 1896, son of Lewis and Julia Harrell.

Texas Historical Commission is working with the real estate agent and land developer to search for more graves. The buyer will likely be required to fence off the small cemetery.

Dan Roberts has been ill and unable to represent JCHC at Save Old Cleburne or Historic Downtown Cleburne meetings. JCHC does not know yet what status the Dotey House will have during Candlewalk – ticketed or featured. JCHC will create some flyers advertising the house being open Dec. 7 and take them to places that sell tickets for the event.

Next JCHC Meeting November 25, 2024 meeting will be held at the **Dotey House** following workday. JCHC has been assured the interior painting will be completed by that date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. TX Historical Markers, RTHL Markers & TX Historic Cemetery Designation – Marker Chair Nita Redmon had no report;

Andy Asberry reported he and Bill Parnell had been at **Kyle-Bullard Cemetery** taking pictures and gathering information for the Texas Historic Cemetery application.

Buell Cemetery's Texas Historic Cemetery application is on hold after Kathy Misek resigned from JCHC. Rowena Lawson is willing to help if Nita Redmon can obtain the research information from Kathy Misek.

Bennett Home on the Chisholm Trail replacement TX Hist. Marker provided by JCHC was installed Sept. 26. by Facilities Management; No dedication is planned.

Chair pointed out a thank you card for Facilities Management was on the sign-in table.

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B. JCHC Historical Landmark Plaques and Narratives

Nita Redmon project chair reported Dan Roberts has installed his 3 oval plaques and 2 narratives; no date for their dedication has been set.

John Richard Rose dedication will be Sunday, March 30 at his church on the same date of an event that will include other churches being there also.

Narrative plaque for Buel Baptist Church was installed by James Neeley on October 25.

Dale Dexheimer reported the S. F. Hackney Building (Grumps Burgers) dedication was October 12. Chair Neeley spoke on behalf of JCHC as well as the owner of the building, Burleson Mayor, and Mayor pro-tem.

Dale Dexheimer was given the Baker House narrative plaque at this meeting.

Bennett's needs both an oval plaque and narrative.

Charlotte Lawson is working on the narrative for J. N. Long School.

Hudson Home at 720 N. Robinson application was tabled and will be voted on at the November JCHC meeting.

C. Friends of JCHC: - No report.

D. Dotey House

Chair reported the new roof is complete, chimneys capped off, floor completed except for the water closet (an oversight by the contractor). Facilities is working with the contractor about this matter.

Dec. 7 – Candlewalk – JCHC doesn't yet know if the house will be ticketed which could mean as many as 200 more visitors than when 'featured'.

Friends will have a donation table and simple refreshments.

The house will be open 1-8 pm. It is hoped a JCHC appointee can be in each room.

Workdays need to be scheduled to clean and decorate for Candlewalk. Furniture must be uncovered and dusted, curtains hung and decorate for Christmas after the interior painting is finished.

Steve Wells suggested he could arrive about 2 pm the day of the next meeting November 25. It was decided to schedule a workday then (some may come earlier) and hold the regular meeting afterwards.

Facilities will have a locksmith work on the front door latch, an arborist will take down a dead tree in the front yard and the gaslight out front have its gas connection disconnected and either electrified or fittings removed so a battery candle can be used during Candlewalk. They will also paint the pole.

Steve Wells will bring a CSA replica coat and Wilma Reed will loan a period dress for display in the bedroom during the event and return both to their owners afterwards.

Today at Commissioners Court, the Hold Harmless Agreement was waived. JCHC was instructed, however, not to allow the public to use the water closet.

E. Museum Report – Director Darlene West provided both September and October reports and copies were available on the sign-in table

September report listed 106 visitors, including Arizona, Utah, and Oklahoma

October report listed 87 visitors, including California, Arkansas, Idaho, Mississippi, Missouri, and Oregon.

Memorandum of Donation from **Linda Coulston Ball**: copies of 3 documents related to the 150-year-old spinning wheel already at the Dotey House and a 20-pound iron Mr. Kirkham used to make ladies hats in the "Hatter's Shed" behind the House.

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Museum Report, continued

Motion to accept these 4 items (historic value only) by Andy Asberry; 2nd by Danny Doggett; Motion approved

Mrs. Ball has asked that the items be noted as being From the Collection of the Ball Family

She asked JCHC look for 2 small tin-types in the Dotey House. She has identification of the people depicted. She also plans to give JCHC copies of her grandparents' marriage license and a copy of Mrs. Kirkham's photo for framing and display in the house.

The items from Joshua remain in limbo until gone through and sorted by volunteers after which JCHC will vote on the Memorandum of Donation.

Inventory:

The spinning wheel that was on display in the courthouse museum (documentation not dated, signed, nor accepted by JCHC or Commissioners Court) has been returned to the Johnson County Heritage Foundation.

Springfest:

Currently there are no plans to open the courthouse museum during Springfest in April. JCHC, Friends of JCHC and 2 other non-profits who set up on the courthouse lawn last year may set up tables on Mill Street, the new site of Springfest.

F. Burleson:

A Paranormal Investigation is scheduled for November 8 at 7:30 pm; Admission \$25 (also see the Calendar)

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

Sandra Neeley shared that the invoice for \$1,650.30 for items taken to The Portal in March 2023 has been paid. The next submission will be taken in early 2025 and will include some videos of interviews and the March 2023 items retrieved at that time.

Dale Dexheimer made a motion to adjourn; 2nd by Nita Redmon; Meeting Adjourned

Amy Nichols, Secretary