



Collin County Historical Commission
Collin County Courthouse
2100 Bloomdale Road
McKinney, TX

Date 04.30.15

Heard Craig Carriage House
205 West Hunt, McKinney
6:30 PM

Becky Airhart-Smith, Valdasta*
Alfredo Arias, Celina*
Michael Black, Vice Chair, Workshops*
Janice Cline, Tax Abatement*
Larry Collins, Grants
Naomi Emmett, Treasurer
Joy Gough, State Markers
Linda Hess, Josephine*
Donna Jenkins
Clyde Kerley, Lakes Trail
Lolisa Laenger, Cruises
Michael Mendenhall, Plano
Diane Miller, Melissa
Janice Quick, Plano
Paula Ross, Chairman
Loydell Seward, Historic Assets Survey
Jan Thatcher, Secretary
Eric Nishimoto, Liaison

Absent*

Meeting was called to order by Paula Ross at 6:32.

Public Comments: Joy Gough mentions on Friday, 05.08.15, the Plano Conservancy will hold a cemetery workshop and tour of Plano's Old City Cemetery, located at 1106 H Ave, from 9-4. Cost is \$30.

The March minutes were accepted with changes, and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Year to date out of the now adjusted budget of \$51,909.00 for the Historical Commission; \$13,565.27 has been paid out or encumbered for future payment. This leaves a balance of \$38,343.73. We have spent 26.13% of our budget. We are in balance with the county. Approved.

Committee Reports:

Grants: Larry reports there will be two grant presentations scheduled for the June board meeting. The 2015-2016 Grant Program will start with a mandatory meeting on Thursday, 05.07.15 at the Heard-Craig Carriage House in McKinney at 7pm. Emails were sent out to all Coalition members.

State Markers: Schimelpfenig Store Marker was delivered.

Tax Abatement: Of the three assessment denials, one is protesting. It was denied because of basic upkeep. Owners plan to appeal to the Commissioner's Court. It was decided that the ceramic property medallions, given to those property owners who have applied for county historical recognition, will be mailed to home owners. The plan is to number them and write an acknowledgement on the back.

Historical Assets Survey: Loydell Seward reports 60 more sites have been added to the Survey. Joy Gough enters the information into the system. The Collinwood house, located at 5400 Windhaven Pkwy, has been added to the Historical Asset Survey. Found in the house is the carved name of James H. Bell and the date of 1861, which would make it the oldest building in Collin County. It was part of an active farm but had been neglected for 50+ years. Efforts are being made to save the house which sits on city property in Plano and is no longer in the city's development plan for the property. It is in danger of demolition.

Cruise: A capacity crowd joined the latest cruise, touring the northern part of the county which is still very rural. Westminster, Melissa and Anna were the destinations. Stops included the site of Westminster College, Elm Grove Cemetery where Bill Haynes spoke of his great grandfather who was one of the Immortal 600, a band of Confederate prisoners, brought to the Charleston, SC area for a prisoner exchange and used as human shields. Also stopped in at the Rosamond Church to hear history of the church and school that was once in the area. On to Anna to visit the First Christian Church and Lair Cemetery. Lunch was at Luscombe Farm, where Page Thomas shared treasures found while excavating the site of the Wysong Blacksmith Shop directly across the road from the Highland Cemetery. The final stop on the tour was the Christian Church in Melissa. The event was a success and everyone enjoyed the tour.

Preservation Celebration: Held on Saturday, 04.25.15 at the Murphy Community Center, was a success. There were approximately 120 guests. Among the award recipients were Historical Commission members Loydell Seward and Lolisa Laenger for their years of dedicated service to historic preservation. Next year's celebration will be held in McKinney. McKinney was chosen for the 10th year of Preservation Celebration, revisiting the first city to host and to coincide with Collin McKinney Sestercentennial celebration.

Children's Education: The committee is working with all the museums in the area to get "Carry along Collin" brochures in the museums. All the museums contacted have been all on board. Libraries, home schooling organizations and even senior centers are also being contacted.

Lakes Trail: Clyde Kerley reports that there are some of the Texas Historic Trails regions that are in financial trouble. Lakes Trail, Fort Trail, Plains Trail and Forest Trails are in good shape. Federal funding has been cut but there was advance warning that it would happen.

Clyde also passed out booklets of the LaBelle, a French merchant ship that has been salvaged from the Gulf floor and preserved. After many years of restoration it will be on permanent display at the Bullock Museum in Austin, which was designed to house the LaBelle. Clyde also shared this tidbit: For every dollar spent on historical travel, within the state, eight dollars comes back.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Thatcher