



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

Date 06.25.15

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 6:30.

Public Comments: Loydell Seward mentioned that Farmersville will be celebrating Audie Murphy Day Saturday, June 27, 2015.

Ted Wright was named Interim Director of the Old Post Office Museum in McKinney.

With the ongoing effort to save the Collinwood home, Janice Quick relayed Candace Fountoulakis' request, asking the CCHC to suggest Judge Self take a tour of the property. Eric Nishimoto reported that Judge Self has previously been contacted about the home and therefore the CCHC decided not to intervene.

Michael Mendenhall shared that he knows a Boy Scout who is looking for a project. The Scout is looking for a 2 day project. The Celina community was mentioned as a possibility and specifically the Celina Colored Cemetery.

The Collin County Historical Commission received the Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Historical Commission.

May Minutes were accepted and approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Year to date: Out of the now adjusted budget of \$51,909.00 for the Historical Commission; \$14,176.76 has been paid out or encumbered for future payment. This leaves a balance of \$37,732.24. We have spent 27.13% of our budget. We are in balance with the county.

Naomi Emmett reminded the board that the new fiscal year starts October 1 and no purchase orders will be accepted after September 1.

Committee Reports:

Grants: There were 2 grant presentations at the meeting. The first was John Lewis representing Wylie. With the grant money a self-guided tour brochure was printed. The presentation included the process of the Wylie Historical Society went through from compiling an asset survey and participation of the city. The brochures may be found in the library, city hall, the Chamber of Commerce and at local merchants. The hope is to also incorporate it on the website.

The other grant presentation of the night came from the Heritage Farmstead's M'Lou Hyttinen and Kathy Strobel. The grant money went toward improvements to the former blacksmith shop, now referred to as the Farm Shop which more accurately reflects the true meaning of the building. Improving air quality with better ventilation, added lighting for better visibility for observers and signage to enhance interpretation were the goals. They worked closely with the North Texas Blacksmith Association and had some of the labor donated.

County Markers: Murphy Grocery and John Leiter Brown home applications have been submitted. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church and an Iron Bridge are in the pre-application process.

Workshops: One workshop is in process. With this workshop, the budget allowance will met.

Tax Abatement: Joy and Janice boxed and mailed 100 medallions. Comments were positive and a few questioned what they were about. It was suggested to include a note to explain the reason for the medallion. 50 more medallions are left to ship.

Historical Assets Survey: Anna continues to submit information for the interactive map. Joy Gough is asking the Anna Historic Preservation group to submit information not only on the property but also the family that lived on it.

Preservation Celebration: Since Collin McKinney's 250th birthday celebration is scheduled throughout 2016, the city of McKinney was chosen as the host city. This will also be the 10th year and the thought was to go back to the beginning. Possible venues mentioned were Chestnut Square, Heard-Craig Auditorium or Dyer Hall at the Methodist Church. May 7th is the tentative

date. The theme of 2016 will be “Stories of Collin County, Born Around the Campfires of Our Past” (A takeoff of the Bullock Museum’s “The Story of Texas”). Using that theme, collecting stories from all around the county would be compiled into a book. The best stories would be presented at the Celebration. The story writing could be coordinated with McKinney 3rd graders studies, tying it in with Collin McKinney’s birthday. There are two Collin McKinney families still in the area, which would be a possible source.

Texas Film Round-Up: Janice Quick reports that the committee is viewing the collected film footage that represents Collin County specifically. She will bring it in to share when she completes the task.

Children’s Education: Taking the summer off but will resume in October.

Lakes Trail: There is funding through December. The big battle in Texas is rural verses urban. The Trails bring economic growth to small Texas towns and there is a need to support them. They need to organize to compete with the big cities. The Trails next meeting will be August 26 in Granbury.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Thatcher, Secretary