



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

Date 09.26.15 Yearly Retreat

Heard Craig Carriage House
205 West Hunt, McKinney
9am-1pm

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*

Public Comments: Paula Ross read her statement of appreciation and sincere thanks to the members of the CCHC for their work and dedication.

Linda Hess shared that there will be a marker dedication October 24, 2015 for the Spring Hill Community at 10am, Hwy 380 in Farmersville. Reception following will be hosted by Ken Roose, whose mother was a member of the CCHC. About a State Marker designation for the Farmersville Post Office (a federal building), Linda shared that this federal building needs to be first added to the National List of Historic Places. The same information required for a Texas State Marker is needed for the national designation, so the work has been done. And with her Washington DC contact, she found out that Main Street in Farmersville has 9 buildings for national designation consideration, one of those is the Farmersville Post Office.

Minutes: The minutes from the August meeting were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: The remaining funds from this past year's budget were returned to the county to help fund the Collin McKinney Sestercentennial celebration next year. Our budget for the 2015-16 year is \$49,900.00.

Paula's goal this year is to emphasize the Collin County Historical Commission Mission Statement:

- *Initiate and conduct programs and activities as may be suggested by the Commissioners' Court or the Texas Historical Commission for the preservation of the county's historical heritage*
- *To mark, interpret, preserve and accumulate information on the history and landmarks of Collin County*
- *To serve as an umbrella organization for all public and private historical and heritage groups operating in the county, in order to encourage, support and promote the activities of these groups*

The question was posed: How do we involve more people?

Alfred Arias suggested we establish Twitter and Instagram accounts. With that, our brochures would need to be updated with those logos. Social media will put the message out there. It must go through Eric Nishimoto for approval first. Naomi suggested tidbits of history, short blurbs with a link, for more information. How often? Maybe weekly? It was noted that our Historic Assets Survey would greatly benefit from this. It was also suggested that we invite church leaders and Hispanic leaders.

Also mentioned was involvement of student groups such as the Allen High School History Club and the Junior Historians at the Heritage Farmstead to get involved with the Collin McKinney 250th birthday celebration. Alfred Arias mentioned a program he was aware of, Orange County High School offers scholarship incentives to get students involved. The process includes students signing up for volunteer hours at specific events. Each hour of community service equals one credit. Credits are added up quarterly or yearly with the top credit earner awarded a scholarship. It started in 2010 with a \$1500 scholarship and now awards five \$1000 scholarships. The challenge is getting the word out to the student groups in schools, churches, and Scout troops.

A formal outreach would be helpful but since we are under the umbrella of the county, we are not allowed to have our own website.

Janice Quick asked why our workshops are free yet cruises have a cost? It was suggested we increase our budget for the cruises. As far as the workshops were concerned it was suggested a nominal fee be charged to cover the cost of lunch.

Markers: It was suggested we increase the number of county markers from 3-4 per year to 6 or 7 for this year. Future county marker suggested include Boggy School north of Farmersville, Cowskin, Alexander Cemetery in Allen and 1 or 2 in Anna. Three State Markers were turned in last year. Potential State Markers include the Allen Dam and the Methodist Church in Allen.

Donna Jenkins tells us the Murphy Family Cemetery, after a four year effort, has received its designation. The Portal of Texas History has accepted pictures of early Murphy. UNT is scanning them. Donna was the one who collected the images and wrote descriptions.

Alfred Arias stated Prosper and Celina need to be more represented. He mentioned there is a need for training sessions to educate the citizens on what it takes to get a historic designation. He mentioned a meeting in November. There are no churches on the list and there are 4 or 5 houses that would qualify. He also said there is an Afro-American cemetery that needs help. It was suggested that a Boy Scout Troop or an Eagle Scout may be helpful with the task.

Workshops: \$2000 was budgeted in the past. Suggestions included a cemetery workshop geared toward children, a tour of the county clerk's office or since all deeds are online, a lesson on how to use the system and the different ways to find the information. Suggested time would be 2 hours. Other suggestions include a lecture with the Texas Historic Commission representative, Rebecca Shelton, who serves this area, on log cabin building, since a replica of the Collin McKinney homestead is in the plans. Another was having Guy Giersch speak on window restoration.

Alfred also suggested a hands on, kid oriented archaeological dig. There is a program in Celina called "I Dig Celina" where 4-6 graders get to look for artifacts. There are 5 stations consisting of 2 sections of buried items, the others are "free" digs. Possible dig sites could be the Collin McKinney homestead and the Wysong Blacksmith Shop across from the Hiland Cemetery.

Another suggestion for a workshop would be one that would include surrounding counties and any historic groups. A May/June workshop was suggested with a possible topic of oral histories. Budget was estimated to be \$1000.00.

Cruises: A spring 2016 cruise is being planned for the March or early April timeframe. A few ideas were mentioned, such as a walking tour of McKinney or riding the McKinney Trolley. A suggestion was made to travel to the Van Alstyne cemetery where Collin McKinney is buried.

Tax Abatement: A random tour of Medallion recipients was made and discovered the owners have not installed them on the side of the house. It was suggested to ask owners to take a picture, after installation and send it to us for publication. It would be great publicity for the Tax Abatement program.

Texas Film Roundup: Janice Quick shares that TAMI (Texas Archives of Moving Images) gets forty thousand hits per month on its website. Twenty-five percent are school teachers and students. This year Janice and the committee will continue to view films Collin County residents have submitted. A public viewing of these films would be a thought. An estimated cost is \$750 to cover the venue and flyers to advertise. The venue would need to be equipped with WiFi and a screen. Suggested locations would be community libraries, the Police substation near the Davis Library in Plano and the McKinney Courthouse.

Preservation Celebration: Donna Jenkins and committee will follow schedule set by Carole Lowe.

Committees need to get together before the next board meeting to work on budget requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Thatcher
Secretary