



Collin County Historical Commission
7117 CR 166
McKinney, TX 75071

Date: 01.27.2022
Heard Craig Carriage House
205 West Hunt St., McKinney
6:30 PM

Mary Kaye Adams, County Cruises *
Elden Baker, Anna
Candace Fountoulakis, Plano *
Joy Gough, Tax Abatement
Linda Hess, Farmersville
Eric Hogue, Wylie
Diann Jones, Anna *
Colin Kimball, McKinney *
Paula Ross, Chair *
Jan Samuels, Public Relations *
Harold Sickler, Plano
Janet Stovall, Speakers Bureau
Jan Thatcher, Secretary/Treasurer
Marianne Wells, State Markers, Cemeteries
Nathan White, Vice-Chair
Jane Yancey, Plano *
Brittany Yurkovitch, Weston

Jennifer Rogers, Liaison
Judy Florence, Liaison

*Absent

Call to Order: 6:35 p.m.

Public Comments: Thank you, Harold Sickler, for supplying our meal.

The Weston Post is now part of UNT's Portal to Texas History.
The City of Weston is willing to host the 2023 Preservation Celebration if the committee is interested.
Brittany Yurkovitch is 99% sure the First Baptist Church board voted on it (or is about to vote to approve it at the quarterly meeting). Brittany will pass along the information as soon as she hears from the pastor.

Donna Jenkins, with the Murphy Historical Society, will be lecturing on Murphy's history. On February 22, 2022, Donna will cover the McMillen Pioneers, one of the early families in Murphy. Then, on March 22, 2022, Donna will conclude with the City of Murphy and its namesake. All meetings will be held at the Murphy Activity Center, 201 North Murphy Road at 7 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend.

The Thomas J. Rusk Chapter of the Sons of Republic Texas, will have a program on Mrs. Collin McKinney. The public is invited to attend. The date is April 26, 2022, the time is 6 p.m. for the meal, 7 p.m. for the program. Meetings are held at Sonny Bryan's, 1251 W. Campbell Rd., #240, Richardson, TX.

Minutes/Roll Call: The minutes were accepted as written. Total volunteer hours for the month were 411.

Treasurer's Report: With our budget of \$49,900, we have spent \$3221.51, encumbered \$965, leaving a balance of \$45,713.49. We have spent 8.39% of the budget. We are in balance with the county. The treasurer's report was approved.

Committee Reports

Speaker's Bureau: There is nothing to report at this time.

Cataloging Local Histories/Film: Nathan White discussed "The Historical Marker Database" with the group. The website is a search catalog of roadside and other permanent outdoor markers, monuments and plaques with historical or scientific facts. Entries in the database contain photographs, inscription transcriptions, marker locations, maps, additional information and commentary, and links to more information. The Historical Marker Database web address is: www.hmdb.org.

Collin County Cruise: There is nothing to report at this time.

Grants: At the Coalition meeting held on Saturday, 01.22.2022, there were 4 Final Grant Reports presented. ***Frisco Heritage Museum's*** grant was used to fund translating Holocaust survivor's letters between relatives in Germany. Written in Sutterlin script, which was banned by Adolph Hitler when he took office, the personal and business letters were translated to English by Dr. Elke Hedstrom. The Final Report was given by Donna Anderson and Susanne Kerley.

Murphy Historical Society was given a grant for display cases which were installed in Murphy City Hall for the enjoyment of visitors there. The Historical Society will be responsible to change the displays out periodically to showcase artifacts collected over the years. Donna Jenkins presented the report.

Farmersville Historical Society discussed the ongoing effort to replace windows in the Bain-Honaker House, thanks to a CCHC Grant. The report was delivered by Bertie Neu.

The Heritage Guild of Collin County/Chestnut Square received a CCHC grant to create a brochure with QR Codes. The new brochure allows visitors to scan information before they near the house. The previous system had the QR Code placed on the buildings. Anne Quinn and Jamie Seibert were the presenters from Chestnut Square.

Jan Thatcher sent out an email to all the Coalition groups in the county with information about the Grant meeting on 02.07.2022 at the Heard-Craig Cottage House from 7-9 p.m., This is the first step in the Grant application process and the meeting is mandatory.

State Markers: ***Aldridge House (Plano)*** and ***Gallagher House (Wylie)*** markers are in the process of being shipped from the foundry.

Candace Fountoulakis, Harold Sickler and Marianne Wells are proceeding with writing narratives for three markers to be submitted this spring.

Historic Cemeteries: Buckner (McKinney): Candace Fountoulakis has been communicating with Eric Seitz, the developer of a mixed-use development which will surround the old cemetery. She and Marianne met Eric at the cemetery yesterday to hear his plans. He is sensitive to the fact there may be graves outside the cemetery fence and, if there were burials in the 1840's or 1850's in Old Buckner, may have been nearby or elsewhere on the property. Eric is allowing some amateur archaeologists to look for the old blacksmith shop. Eric was unaware if anything is found while excavating, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) needs to be informed. Candace also informed him that if, on the unlikely prospect, someone uncovers what might be a burial for a Native American, the THC will contact the Tribes in Oklahoma to decide what to do. The committee is exchanging information and will stay in touch.

Charles L. Smith (Frisco): Jane Yancey, Candace, Harold and Marianne, the developer and Susan Kerley with the Frisco Heritage Museum, all met at the cemetery to take pictures and gather information for the site plan. Marianne submitted the application for a Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation the first week of January and she is in the process of amending some information on the map that will be added to the deed records in the next few weeks. Gathering all the information is almost complete for the state marker narrative and Marianne plans to have it completed by the end of February. Marianne has spent a great deal of time researching a very early north-south route that the extended family of Charles L. Smith most likely took. The family entered Texas on Trammel's Trace in 1853, which went down to Nacogdoches where two of his wife's brothers had settled in 1846. The Smiths' seem to have left Nacogdoches within a few weeks of arriving in Texas, going north on Trammel's Trace to Jefferson and then west, ending up in Collin County. Tracing the old trails and roads is very interesting. Marianne hopes to come up with a couple of possibilities as to what western route was taken by the family.

County Markers: Moores Chapel and Allen Colored School markers are in from the foundry. When Paula Ross has recovered from her illness, she will go for a final inspection.

Communications/Public Relations: A copy of the February Newsletter was distributed among the members present by Janet Stovall.

Jan Samuels contacted Wylie Chamber of Commerce with the possibility of including an article on Preservation Celebration with the nomination forms and categories for nominations. Jan had hoped to have an article in Wylie's Connections magazine but found the deadline had passed as the magazine is published bi-monthly. Jan will contact the Fairview Magazine for the same possibility. She needs a copy of the 2022 nomination form and the email address to send nominations as well as the nomination deadline.

Tax Abatement: At the December meeting of the Historical Commission, the members voted to accept the 2022 recommendations of the Tax Abatement Committee to approve 193 property inspections and denied 12.

Letters were sent to each of the 12 denied properties informing them of the process to appeal those denials at the January meeting of the County Commissioners Court. Three property owners plan to appeal the denial recommendations.

Of the 3 owners who were appealing, only one appeared at the Commissioner's Court meeting in January. A second owner had COVID and could not attend. As for the third denial, the owner has remained silent since December.

In the past with denials, an owner appealed the recommendation of the Historical Commission, the Commissioners made the decision themselves to approve or deny the tax abatement. This year the Commissioners Court asked the Historical Commission to reinspect the one property and submit a report with a new recommendation for approval or denial.

Upon reinspection of first property, the Tax Abatement Committee decided to recommend the property be approved for tax abatement for 2022.

For the second property, the owner stated via an email, the property was under contract and being renovated. In the past, the Commissioners Court has let a property under contract receive tax abatement. Rather than have the owner come to the Commissioners Court at a later date, the Tax Abatement Committee wrote a report recommending the property be approved for tax abatement for 2022.

The status of the third property has not changed since the owner had remained silent since December. Both of the tax abatement reports are on the agenda for the Commissioners Court meeting in February.

Historic Assets Survey: There are a total of 866 entries on the interactive map. By categories:

Buildings 174

Cemeteries 109

Churches 58

Communities 45

Farms 23

Houses 168

Schools 234

Sites 55

New entries are submitted through the CCHC Yahoo email address (CCHCmail@yahoo.com) or the CCHC County email address (CCHC@co.collin.tx.us) with the subject of "Historic Assets."

Preservation Celebration: Jan Samuels and Janet Stovall met with Jennifer Wakefield with the Wylie Historical Society via telephone conference on January 13 regarding the agenda and budget for the Celebration to be held April 30th in Wylie.

Janet presented the CCHC with a tentative budget and asked for input from the members present.

Educational Programs/Children's Programs: The student competitions are listed on the CHCC website under "News." The committee is considering a separate tab listing competition documents and previous winners with the submissions.

The Education Committee now has a separate email account for new submissions:

CCHCsubmissions@gmail.com for students submitting entries.

Promotion: The committee needs to start promoting the Spring Video Competition (April deadline). Commissioner Darrell Hale plans to include the competition in his weekly online newsletter. He also mentioned Tim Wyatt could possibly include a press release for the competition.

Prizes: The committee is still working on prizes. Diann Jones had a great suggestion of giving winners a ticket on the Collin County Cruise.

Oral Histories: Nathan White mentioned the recent passing of two long time Collin County residents: Sam Roach and George Webb. With that announcement, more names were mentioned: Dixie Clem and Mary Sue Cowen. Nathan stressed the urgency to get more oral histories recorded for this project because of the passing of the people that have the knowledge. With that, it was suggested contacting Collin College as a possible source to help in the oral history area.

Workshops: There is nothing to report at this time.

Future Agenda Items: Considering the revised Throckmorton Proclamation for approval.

Other Comments: A question was raised about changing the February 24, 2022 general meeting of the CCHC due to conflicting events for some members. After much discussion and the absence of the Chair, the Secretary volunteered to inquire about the availability of the meeting location at an earlier time.

Adjourn: 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Thatcher
Secretary