



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

Date: 02.22.2018
Heard Craig Carriage House
205 West Hunt, McKinney
6:30 PM

Becky Airhart-Smith, Valdasta*
Alfredo Arias, Communications/Media
Michael Black, Chair*
Catherine Casavant, Plano
Larry Collins, Grants
Chris Krupa Downs, Historic Assets Survey*
Naomi Emmett, Treasurer*
Joy Gough, Tax Abatement
Linda Hess, Josephine*
Donna Jenkins, Vice Chair
Clyde Kerley, Lakes Trail*
Lolisa Laenger, Cruises*
Diane Miller, Melissa
Kim Peat, Anna*
Janice Quick, Plano
Paula Ross, Allen
Jan Thatcher, Secretary
Marianne Wells, State Markers
Eric Nishimoto, Liaison

Absent*

Welcome Guests: Mary & Betty Vamvakas from Snow Hill Cemetery and Mark Whitham from the Military Heritage Collection Museum, Nevada.

Public Comments: Paula Ross mentioned Sam Bass Day Saturday, February 24.2018 from 11-2. Local historian, Warren Johnson will speak with music by Jeannie Clark Fisher & Jim Longley. There will be blacksmith demonstrations, games and free lunch.

Paula also mentions Lakes Trails will host a workshop March 28, 2018. Contact Clyde Kerley for more information.

Janice Quick distributed flyers promoting upcoming dates and guest speakers for the Collin County Genealogical Society. The list includes:

March 14, Eric Nishimoto speaking on the "442nd Regimental Combat Team" (decorated Japanese-American WWII unit). His uncle was in this group and Eric is writing a book on him and the unit.

April 11, Kathleen Murray will be speaking on "Using the Portal to Texas History for Genealogical Research."

May 9, Alfred Arias and "Archaeological Dig at a Family Homeplace."

June 13, CCGS members will hold the Year-End Social with Open Forum (come ask your genealogy questions!)

Eric Nishimoto reminded all that payments go through Teresa Mercer and submissions should be turned in earlier rather than later.

Minutes and Volunteer Hours: The minutes were approved with corrections. Reported volunteer hours totals were 190 for the County, 96 hours for other historic venues.

Treasurer's Report: Of our revised budget of \$52,975, we have spent \$47,921.06 year to date. We have spent 9.54% of our budget. We are in balance with the county. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Special Committee Reports: CCHC Wear: There is nothing to report at this time. Waiting toward the end of the year to see about money in the budget.

Committee Reports:

Grants: The 2018/-2019 grant application is on the county website under the Collin County Historical Commission under the latest news. Go to the historical grant program and find historical grant programs awarded by year and then click on 2009-2018 grants awards summary which is about past grant since 2009. The mandatory grant workshop is May 8, 2018 at the Carriage House and the deadline to submit the application is June 1, 2018.

Grant Reports: The Military Heritage Collection of North Texas received \$3100.00 for air conditioning and humidity control. Mark Witham made the presentation. Three split air 24k BTU air conditioners which provide consistent humidity and temperatures in three buildings were installed. This will give greater long-term protection to historical artifacts. The museum houses a significant number of uniforms, firearms, edged weapons, communication equipment and over 2000 pieces of art.

The Snow Hill Cemetery Association received \$4600.00 for headstone and marker restoration. Betty Vamvakas & Mary Vamvakas gave the report. Texas Cemetery Restoration LLC did the restoration of eleven markers which were in the most need of repair. Many of the markers in the cemetery are over 100 years old.

Awards: The awards nomination form for Preservation Celebration was distributed at the Coalition meeting of January 13, 2018. The awards nomination form is on the county website under the Collin County Historical Commission under the latest news, also. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday,

April 6, 2018. The awards will be presented at Preservation Celebration on Saturday, April 28, 2018, in Frisco.

Cruise (Tour) Committee: The date is set for April 21, 2018. The Military Heritage Collection Museum will be the highlight of the tour. We are still working out the details but planned stops at the John Abston Cemetery (adjacent to Lakeview Cemetery) where the Revolutionary Soldier is buried. Bear Creek Cemetery is another stop to promote our Grant program. It is a wonderful example of what the CCHC Grant program can do. Other possibilities are the Baptist Church in Nevada which was used as a hospital and morgue after a tornado devastated the town. Will be asking Linda Hess for advice on that part of the county.

Film Preservation: There is nothing to report at this time.

County Markers: The county markers committee is getting ready to start the county marker booklet. Right now, in the 2011 Marker book, there are 19 county markers listed. Since that time there have been 30 additional markers. This year we are still planning to add a few, so a new booklet with maps and photos will have approx. 50-55 sites. The committee is beginning to work on the three submissions for this year.

State Markers: An application for a marker has been submitted and approved by the state for a section of the Bankhead Highway which crosses through a corner of Collin County. The Bankhead Highway was the first transcontinental highway from Washington D. C. to San Diego California.

The John Abston Marker (Lakeview Cemetery) will be moved.

Descendants of the Routh Cemetery are voicing concern. It is in the middle of a development south on Plano Rd, in Richardson. Apartments are extremely close to the cemetery's border on two sides. Access to the cemetery is a concern along with the cemetery's present state marker location. The city, Routh Cemetery Association and the apartment complex will have to work together to resolve issues.

Marianne Wells has been in contact with the assistant director of Development Services for the City of Richardson. At the direction of the attorney for the City of Richardson, the assistant director is working closely with the developer/owner and engineering firm to ensure that the historic integrity of the cemeteries is maintained and that the cemeteries are treated as a valued heritage asset of the city. The assistant director shared copies of the plans for the buildings and landscaping and forwarded contact information for the engineer and developer. Marianne and the assistant director set up a date to visit the cemetery.

Marianne Wells would like this to be the first steps in establishing a process to protect similar cemetery's and these kinds of issues.

Speakers Bureau: Potential speakers were notified that the webpage for the Collin County Historical Commission's Speakers Bureau is online and shared the URL:

http://www.collincountytx.gov/historical_commission/Pages/CCHC-Speakers-Bureau.aspx .

An email address has been established for communication: cchcspeakersbureau@yahoo.com. The Speakers Bureau will be continually publicized at CCHC events, Coalition meetings, etc.

Lakes Trails: There is nothing to report at this time.

Educational Programs: Alfred Arias will be at Slaughter Elementary in McKinney in April with his archeological digs and will promote Collin County History and Collin McKinney.

Alfred also mentioned “augmented reality,” where history marries technology. His idea is to adapt augmented reality for “7 days in Collin County History,” choosing important dates from Collin County. The example he gave was 19 Crimes Wine. Google 19 Crimes Wine. The wine promotes 19 famous crimes in Australian history. The person on the label will tell his/her story. It would be similar to the Pokémon reality. The software runs about \$200.00 and his goal is to have it running by June.

Communications/Media: FaceBook has 85 followers, Twitter has 384 and Instagram has 92. An example of the media progress, on November 8, 2017, the Abandoned Cemetery Workshop had 910 hits but it was shared by 742 with 12 adding our page. He shared that 84 were from Canada and 100+ from Australia. Also, he has received 72 emails for the CCHC, which is a Chicago band.

Tax Abatement: The tax abatement list approved by the Collin County Historical Commission will be presented to the Commissioners Court on Monday, February 26, 2018. With the Commissioners approval, the list will go on to the Comptroller.

Historical Assets Survey: There is nothing to report at this time.

Workshops: Paula Ross is working on a workshop for a 501 c 3, which is required to participate in our Grant program. Deborah Kilgore will conduct the workshop.

A possible future workshop on Proactive Cemetery Protection and Preservation. There is a need to protect cemeteries that could be in the path of future development.

Preservation Celebration: The budget for Preservation Celebration is as follows: Food, \$3490.00; Venue, \$500.00; Music/Story Teller, \$900.00; Tablecloths, \$120.00; Invitations, \$300.00;

Total: \$5310.00. Last year’s Celebration totaled \$5600.00. Information about programs and video will come at a later date.

Future Agenda Items: Proactive cemetery preservation. Cemeteries around the county with no development now will be in the path of development in the future. A protocol needs to be developed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Thatcher, Secretary