



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

Date: 05.30.2019
Heard Craig Carriage House
205 West Hunt, McKinney
6:30 PM

Mary Kaye Adams, Dallas
Becky Airhart-Smith, Valdasta*
Alfredo Arias, Communications/Media
Catherine Casavant, Treasurer
Larry Collins, Grants
Chris Krupa-Downs, Plano
Joy Gough, Tax Abatement
Linda Hess, Farmersville
Donna Jenkins, Vice Chair
Diann Jones, Anna*
Lolisa Laenger, CCHC Emeritus
Diane Miller, Melissa*
Kim Peat, Anna
Janice Quick, Film Preservation
Paula Ross, Chair
Jan Samuels, Fairview
Justin Simmons, Plano
Jan Thatcher, Secretary
Marianne Wells, State Markers
Jane Yancy, Plano
Eric Nishimoto, Liaison*

Absent*

Call to Order: 6:38 pm

Welcome Guests: Jeff Campbell with the Plano Conservancy

Public Comments: Thank you Kim Peat for feeding us.

Allen Flag Day will be Saturday, June 15 at 10:30.

The CCHC has joined forces with Kathy Lathen from the Sam Rayburn House in Bonham to speak at the upcoming THC conference in January 2020 in Austin.

Alfred Arias has been asked to speak to the Jeanne D'Arc Women's Club about "Hidden Collin County History" on Friday, September 6, 2019 at the Eldorado Country Club at 10:30.

The Herring-Hogge Cemetery marker dedication which was cancelled on May 18 due to weather, is rescheduled for Sunday June 30 from 2-4 pm.

Minutes/Roll Call: The minutes were approved with corrections. Total volunteer hours: CCHC: 367.5; Other Groups: 111.5

Treasurer's Report/Financials: As of this date, we have spent and encumbered \$17,500.00 with \$32,400.00 available. **Catherine's deadline to submit purchase orders is July 31.** Deadline for 2020 Budget requests is June 28, 4 pm. Budget Workshop for outside agencies is August 13, 9 am. Let Catherine know if you want to attend, present or address the Commissioners Court.

The purchase order for the county marker book has been turned in.

A motion was made and approved to ask the Commissioners Court to fund our 2020 Budget of \$49,900.00.

Committee Reports:

Preservation Celebration-Final: Thanks to all who were on the committee: Co-Chair, Chris Krupa-Downs, Catherine Casavant, Lolisa Laenger, Becky Airhart-Smith, and Larry Collins. Special thanks to co-chair, Chris and her vision, organizational skills, keeping the morning running smoothly and saving the day on several occasions. The morning went well. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Next year's Preservation Celebration will be in Anna.

Preservation Celebration Awards Committee: Twenty-two nominations for all categories have been submitted for awards at Preservation Celebration. Plaques and certificates of appreciation were presented on April 27, 2019 at the awards ceremony. The awardees were:

Collin McKinney Achievement Award: Anna Area Historical Preservation Society

Excellence in Historical Education Award: Collin County History Museum and Society

Leadership in Preservation Award: Page Parker

Young Visionaries Award: Chloe Frohock

Living Legacy Award: **Katherine Irwin**

Members of the Awards Committee are: Catherine Casavant, Larry Collins, Lolisa Laenger and Diane Miller.

Grants: The Plano Conservancy for Historic Preservation received a grant of \$2200.00 for a wayside sign at the Bush-Elkin Cemetery. The summary and report were presented by Jeff Campbell. The sign is installed to provide information for visitors and neighbors to learn about the historic cemetery. The sign is a 36" w X 24" h full color fiberglass panel mounted on an aluminum post. The Bush-Elkin Cemetery is located at FM2478 & SH121.

The mandatory grant orientation on Tuesday, May 7, occurred at the Carriage House. Thirty people were present representing nineteen organizations. All grant submissions must be received by 5 pm on Friday, June 7, the deadline. Grant applicant names will be presented for approval by the Collin County Historical Commission on June 27, 2019.

Members of the grant committee are: Mary Kaye Adams, Catherine Casavant, Larry Collins, Joy Gough, Linda Hess and Jan Thatcher.

State Markers: *Princeton Cemetery*-The final edit of the Princeton Cemetery narrative is almost complete. There were a few questions Marianne Wells had about it.

Routh Cemetery-The marker was moved to its new location outside the entrance. The new management company for the apartment complex has been very helpful in providing the cemetery association president with a gate code for parking and access to water. The association president contacted Marianne about sources for grant money to restore the rest of the monuments. The bid from Texas Cemetery Restoration was \$40,000.00 and Marianne's suggestion was to apply for a grant each year until the task is completed.

Refinishing faded markers-Marianne asked Lt. McCullough, coordinator of the SCORE (Sheriff's Convicted Offender Re-Entry Effort) Program, if the inmates could refinish markers as time allowed. She is awaiting a response. The directions are online through the THC and if there is a person or group willing to help with this task, please contact Marianne.

Inventory of faded markers-Jan Samuels is joining Marianne's effort to compile a list of markers coordinates for those in need of refinishing.

This year's deadline for submitting state marker narratives to the CCHC is July 1, 2019.

Cemeteries: Celina cemeteries-Marianne Wells spent a day in Celina with Jane Willard and Jane Yancey, driving by burial grounds that are on private property. The next step is receiving permission to enter the property. Marianne has composed a letter and is waiting on letterhead.

Corinth Cemetery (Weston)-A senior citizen complained to the City of Celina about a pile of concrete in a corner of the cemetery. That led to Marianne discovering a volunteer led the restoration project which started last year in this abandoned cemetery. She invited the initiator of the project, Tim Montgomery, to the next Coalition meeting on Saturday, July 20, 2019. The city has removed the concrete, which was too big of a job for the volunteers.

Brinlee Cemetery (Melissa)-A Brinlee descendant contacted the THC about getting a historical marker. It was revealed that one had been approved nearly 20 years ago by the THC. Joy Gough wrote it. Unfortunately, previous descendants didn't have the funds to pay for it at the time. Now, the rules have changed and in order to receive a state marker, the cemetery must apply for a Historic Texas Cemetery designation before a marker request is submitted. Since the descendant lives in California, Jane Yancey and Marianne went to the cemetery, took measurements and answered the application questions. Marianne hopes to finish the application in a few weeks and hopefully will be able to resubmit the state marker application this fall. If accomplished and submitted, the total number of state marker applications would be 4.

Backbone Cemetery (Culleoka)-Marianne received word that a volunteer who has been working at Bear Creek Cemetery wants to clean up this abandoned cemetery. Marianne has contacted him and is now researching the property owner for permission to enter the property. If it is owned by the Corps of Engineers, CAD (Central Appraisal District) doesn't reflect it. Marianne hopes to visit this site and Lovell Cemetery (Farmersville) in the next few weeks.

Atlas-Marianne submitted her first data to the THC: Cemeteries starting with A-C and received questions back on several which she is researching. She visited the Central Appraisal District's Mapping Department and found that they are working on a similar project. One employee offered to help her research cemeteries on historic USGS (U. S. Geological Survey) maps.

Cemetery Webinar-Marianne participated in the hour-long webinar. She recommends it for anyone interested in learning more about the THC's work to protect historic cemeteries. It has been posted online. As a result of Marianne's questions, Carlyn Hammons is going to advise her on how to proceed with four cemeteries that either aren't currently visible or are on private land but does not have permission to access.

County Markers, Marker Book: The marker book was finished last month. Copies were sent to everyone on the marker book committee. More edits were suggested by these members. An

overlooked page was added: Wysong Corner Post in Melissa, along with other minor edits. The group approved the final copy. Paula sent the copy in for publication. Copies will soon be available for all groups within the county.

Kim Peat received the Cowskin Community narrative and paperwork from Linda Hess. Kim is in the process of having the sign made.

Educational Programs: Donna Jenkins and Jan Samuels have been added to the Educational Programs committee.

Alfred Arias is planning a “I Dig Collin County” event this summer. He has secured volunteers from SMU & North Texas with Home Depot donating some of the supplies. The event will last 3.5-4 hours and will have 4 stations: dig, sift, sort, catalog. There are some details still need to be worked out. The date needs to be chosen. Alfred is looking at either July 12 or 26. The location hasn’t been chosen. Private property is a possibility but a waiver would be required. A city park is another choice. The event will be limited to 15 children between the ages of 7-15. Supplies needed include first aid kit, water, snacks, lunch. Alfred will be advertising this event on social media.

Communications: At this time, we have 436 Twitter followers, 142 for FaceBook. The most popular subject was the Historical Grants with 186 hits and 66 shares followed by Deborah Kilgore with 106 shares.

Alfred Arias had Megan Weaver, one of the top people with social media, review the CCHC’s social media accounts. Her report concluded that 64% were women, 36% men. The ideal goal would be 70% and 30% respectfully. The breakdown by ages: 13-24 5%; 25-34 10%; 35-45 15%; 46-64 40%; 65 and older 30%. The busiest time of day: between 8:30-10:30 pm. 82% access our social media by using phones, 60% of those are iPhones while 10% of users access our social media by laptop.

Our account addresses are as follows: **FaceBook: Collin County Historical Commission Texas.** Twitter: CCHC2015. Instagram: collin_county_historical. Goals for the social media accounts is 200, 200, 100, respectfully. Tip: “like” the site. The ultimate goal would be 500 followers in all categories.

Tax Abatement: On May 20, 2019, the Texas Historical Commission revoked the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark marker for the Burton House at 515 West Hunt Street, McKinney, due to lack of maintenance.

Because of this revocation, the structure at 515 West Hunt Street, McKinney will be removed from the Historic Property Tax Abatement rolls, effective immediately.

Historic Asset Survey: Donna Jenkins sent a list of corrections to Eric Nishimoto to update the website.

Film Preservation: The committee is waiting for approval from Eric Nishimoto for the committee to set up a YouTube channel to display historical videos digitized by the committee. The YouTube channel would use the Historical Commission's name and Collin County logo.

Speaker's Bureau: Two new names have been added to the Speakers Bureau-Kathy Lathen with the Sam Rayburn House in Bonham and Valerie Alvarez with the Collin County Medical Examiner's office in McKinney. Donna Jenkins will be added to the website soon.

Commission Brochure: Work is in progress to create a brochure that highlights the Historical Commission's offerings. Paula Ross started the process with collecting cost estimates. The draft version of the brochure was distributed at the meeting to solicit additional feedback from CCHC members.

Workshops: There are two workshops pending. Mary Carole Strother will be conducting a workshop on preserving family stories.

Justin Simmons will head a training session dealing with setting up a 501(c)(3) for a non-profit entity and 501(c)(13) for non-profit cemetery status.

Cruise: Work is in progress for the September 7 tour of the Sam Rayburn House and Library in Bonham. Jan Thatcher made a trip to scope out a restaurant and other possible stops.

Coalition Schedule: The next Coalition meeting will be Saturday, July 20, 2019 at MPAC. The last meeting of the year will be Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 7 pm, same location.

Adjourn: 7:57 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Thatcher, Secretary