

## Minutes of the Williamson County Historical Commission

A regular meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held on **Thursday, February 5, 2009**, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room of the Williamson County Courthouse at 710 Main Street in Georgetown, Texas. Chris Dyer served as Chair and Rachel Leibowitz, upon request of the Chair, served as interim secretary. Members attending were: Bob Brinkman, Chris Dyer, Clare Easley, Charlene Jordan, Edwin Lansford, Milton Liese, Marietta Mugford, Larry Rydell, Laura Sue Smith, Irene Varan, Mervin Walker, Tommy Walker, and Wayne Ware. Guests in attendance were: David Hollingsworth, Rachel Leibowitz, Claire Maxwell, George Meyer, and Larry Quick.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

The minutes for the previous meeting were read. Discussion regarding whether or not there were any minutes from the December gathering, which was not a formal meeting. Confirmation that the minutes to be approved were from the November meeting. Mervin Walker moved to accept the minutes. Chris Dyer seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There was no treasurer's report, as treasurer David Voelter was not in attendance.

### Old Business:

**Item A:** Wayne Ware reported on the Williamson County Historical Commission website. There now is a link available for information on the history of Swedish immigration to Williamson County. Minutes of past meetings are also available on the website. The scanning of marker files and National Register files, for posting on the website, was discussed.

**Item B:** Edwin Lansford reported on the completion of the inventory of Williamson County Historical Commission collections. One hard copy of the inventory list—31 single-spaced pages—is maintained at the Williamson County Historical Museum, and another hard copy is available. An electronic copy is also maintained at the museum. The need to make a decision regarding the organization and maintenance of several collections, including World War II-era wire service news sheets, was discussed. This need for a decision will be raised again in future.

### New Business:

**Item A:** The roster for 2009 WCHC membership was discussed. The Chair stressed the necessity for active recruitment to expand the commission's diversity, ethnically and geographically. A discussion followed. Letters of interest for individuals wishing to serve on the WCHC should be forwarded to the County Judge.

**Item B:** A by-laws task force was established: Chris Dyer, Edwin Lansford, Irene Varan, and Bob Brinkman. The need to update the by-laws was discussed. Issues of importance for this task force included question of the need of the WCHC to continue accepting artifacts and documents for collections since a County Museum has been established; the ability to nominate members to the commission throughout the year; confusion about the staggered terms of member and officers; the need to work with junior historians; clarification of residential requirements for membership; a formal plan and scope for the website. The taskforce agreed to meet and report back at the March meeting.

**Item C:** A budget task force was established: Chris Dyer, David Voelter, Milton Liese, and Bob Brinkman. Issues of importance for this task force included the potential purchase of GPS systems and digital cameras for the recordation of historic cemeteries and sites; the updating of the 1999 WCHC cemetery and historical site map; underrepresented topics for historical markers (Barbette; Dan Moody trial); sponsorship of attendance at

the THC annual conference. The taskforce agreed to meet in February and report back to the membership at the March meeting.

**Item D:** A cemetery map update task force was established: Chris Dyer, Wayne Ware, David Hollingsworth, and Bob Brinkman. The taskforce agreed to meet and report back to the membership at the March meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

**Marker committee:** Connell Cemetery marker will be dedicated at 10 am on May 2.

Bob Brinkman noted the upcoming dedications for the Nannie Morrow marker, on March 1<sup>st</sup>; and the Granite for the State Capitol marker on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mervin Walker noted that the Weir historical marker is being relocated from the south side of the FM 971 to the north side of the road.

**Commissioner Reports and Announcements:**

Chris Dyer noted the upcoming events listed on the same page as the meeting agenda.

Tommy Walker announced that the Jonah Chili Supper will be held on February 20, from 5-8 PM.

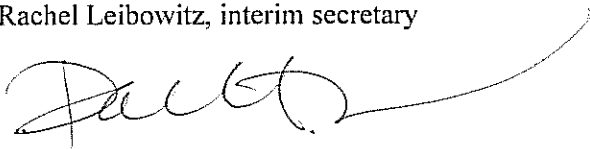
Claire Maxwell announced that the fundraiser for the Dr. Dickey House in Taylor will be at 6PM this Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Taylor High School auditorium.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held at about 2 PM on Thursday, March 5, 2009, in the Williamson County Courthouse.

The chair called the meeting closed at 3:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Leibowitz, interim secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.