

Minutes of the Williamson County Historical Commission

A regular meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held on **Thursday, Nov. 12 at 4 P.M.**, in the District Courtroom of the Williamson County Courthouse at 710 Main Street in Georgetown, Texas. Chris Dyer served as Chair and in Clare Easley's absence Yvonne Beever served as secretary.

Members in attendance: Chris Dyer, Bob Brinkman, Yvonne Beever, Mildred Davis, Kandy Dipprey, Ed Lansford, Milton Liese, Larry Quick, Larry Rydell, Laura Sue Smith, Gary Spivey, P. J. Stevens, David Voelter, and Wayne Ware. **Guests present:** Barbara Glasscock, Dena Hill, and Diane Goodwin. Ed Lansford noted that George Meyer had a medical appointment and sends his regrets for missing the meeting.

Chris Dyer called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Dyer noted that the minutes from the October meeting need to be amended to properly reflect that David Voelter was in attendance. David Voelter moved the minutes be accepted with this amendment. Larry Rydell seconded. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

David Voelter gave the treasurer's report. There were 3 transactions last month including \$3.69 interest, memorial contribution \$25, and \$91.98 to purchase archival materials. \$11,520.47 is the current fund balance. Dyer moved to approve treasurer's report as information. Kandy Dipprey seconded. Passed unanimously.

There was no old business.

New Business.

Kandy Dipprey gave a report on the WCHC Holiday party. Party will be held on the next regular meeting date but at 6pm. Dyer said the WCHC by-laws do not require the group to meet every month, but we can conduct a quick meeting before dinner if needed. Everyone will pay for their own dinner. Laura Sue Smith suggested El Patron has a meeting room, and an open bar. Dyer noted that El Patron is pretty affordable. Dyer also said to bring spouses, or potential members. After some discussion the group agreed on El Patron for the party location. Members will RSVP to Kandy Dipprey by Nov. 30 and she will make reservations.

Committee Reports

a. Marker

- i. Crystal Falls – P.J. Stevens and Chris Dyer have reviewed the project and said there is no indication that historic properties will be adversely affected. Milton Liese moved approval for Dyer and Stevens to sign the report stating the affirmative. Ed Lansford seconded. Passed unanimously.

Dyer mentioned a new development project, Kenney's Fort, City of Round Rock, that might potentially impact the historic site. He noted the developer's website, kenneysfort.com. Dyer sent this information to Bob Brinkman and the City of Round Rock planning office for review.

ii. Marker Dedications & Applications – Shiloh Cemetery dedication: George Meyer, Wayne Ware, Clare Easley, and Yvonne Beever attended on behalf of WCHC. Wayne Ware added a page about the dedication to the WCHC website. There are no other dedications scheduled at this point.

iii. Land Cemetery Marker Application in Jarrell – Dyer moved that the WCHC pay the \$100 non-refundable application fee for Land Cemetery. Larry Rydell seconded. Passed unanimously. David Voelter will write the check for WCHC.

b. Cemetery

i. Larry Quick discussed the working documents the committee is using. Quick distributed a spreadsheet of all cemeteries, 267 names, separate entities, noting there may be some duplicates. Need to make sure none are skipped. Ex. IOOF in Georgetown. Map references IOOF near Granger/Jarrell. Must be careful with names. If there are any differences in names, we need to keep these entries, can get rid of later (if confirmed to be duplicates).

Quick mentioned that the Saturday workshop with Hopewell Junior Historians was a super experience. These teenagers are highly motivated kids. Representing THC at the event was Anne Shelton, RIP Guardian Coordinator. Quick said that they are trying to find a long term solution for maintaining Union Hill Cemetery and currently entertaining several possibilities.

Some issues with Union Hill Cemetery includes TXDOT work compatible with 4-lane highway; how to design the entrance gate; large trees should not be planted by front fence line; possible second exit; and distribution of unknown graves. The last item for this cemetery for the long term would be to add it as a feature on Google Earth.

The next step for the Cemetery Committee will be an organizational meeting. Wayne Ware is doing photography, GIS, and Quick is compiling database.

Guest Dena Hill asked if WCHC is taking over the care of cemeteries. Quick responded that Historical Commission can't take responsibility, and are looking for someone else. Dyer mentioned that the actual Union Hill Cemetery property ownership is unsure and probably owned by GISD. One solution would be for a trustee from Hopewell could take custodianship.

Dyer suggested that the WCHC should support the Junior Historians annually and they are excited about working with us. Items the Hopewell Junior Historians

need: GPS units to record Union Hill Cemetery and downtown Round Rock, protective gloves, tools, rechargeable batteries, and t-shirts.

Dyer asked that the WCHC contribute \$200 to the Hopewell Junior Historians. Laura Sue Smith formally motioned the same, Kandy Dipprey seconded. Passed unanimously.

The WCHC Cemetery committee will be the liaison group to Hopewell Jr. Historians.

c. Oral History

Bob Brinkman is not in attendance. Wayne Ware reported the group met last week covered the following topics.

- a. Need interviewers who know subjects to interview
- b. How to record and digitize oral histories
- c. Existing oral histories in older formats

Most expensive part of the project is voice-to-video transcription. Need video/audio/computer equipment. Key to success of the project is that Chris Dyer can train interviewers on basic oral history techniques.

The group suggested a few oral history topics to cover at their meeting: School consolidation and integration, 1957 flood, and Interstate 35 construction. The idea is to focus on certain subjects, with several people interviewed per subject; maybe new subjects will come up in course of interviews.

Ware said that the group plans to keep the process simple until they get a technique down. At some point, the WCHC may need to pay someone to transcribe but we have to format interviews so that they make sense to transcriber.

David Voelter suggested the topic of the courthouse façade removal in the 1960s.

Gary Spivey mentioned his oral history collection is in an older format and wants to make it available. Ware will see if we can get Spivey's recordings in digital format. Budget for cameras and recorder was discussed.

d. Membership/Outreach

Kandy Dipprey said committee did not meet this month. She brought a memorial brick sample from Acme Brick in Round Rock. Chris will take sample to the City of Georgetown to see if they will place them for us free of charge around the courthouse. They cost \$15 and WCHC will sell for \$50. Don't need a minimum number of bricks per order. We will limit wording to "In memory of" and "In honor of" plus "Williamson County Historical Commission" on brick. Maybe we can have a bigger brick with Williamson County Historical Commission on each of the four corners. Wayne Waye asked if we need to schedule a time to break bricks, the response was yes, we need to schedule.

Chris Dyer mentioned that Rachel Leibowitz has resigned via email because she is frequently out of state and unable to attend meetings, but we can call if we need help.

Commissioner reports and announcements

Larry Rydell reported that demolition permits have been pulled in Taylor in the National Register District for a building on East Third Street.

Milton Liese reported that the Zion Lutheran sausage supper had the largest attendance ever this year.

Laura Sue Smith reported the Weir Christmas parade will be December 12. Christmas Stroll is the first Saturday in December in Georgetown.

Dyer announced that working with the County and their contractors, they have almost reached their goal of \$10,000 raised for new LED Christmas lights. He invited everyone to the Lighting of the Square on the evening of Nov. 27.

Laura Sue will send out invitations to the WCHC Christmas party.

Dyer adjourned meeting at 5:00.