



Collin County Historical Commission  
7117 CR 166  
McKinney, TX 75071

Date: 01.28.21

Zoom Meeting  
6:00 PM

Mary Kaye Adams, County Cruises\*  
Dave Cornette, Allen  
Candace Fountoulakis  
Joy Gough, Tax Abatement  
Linda Hess, Farmersville\*  
Donna Jenkins, Vice Chair  
Diann Jones, Anna\*  
Colin Kimball, McKinney\*  
Diane Miller, Melissa  
Paula Ross, Chair  
Jan Samuels, Public Relations  
Janet Stovall  
Jan Thatcher, Secretary/Treasurer  
Marianne Wells, State Markers, Cemeteries  
Nathan White  
Jane Yancey, Plano  
Brittany Yurkovich  
Jennifer Rogers, Liaison\*  
Judy Florence, Liaison\*

\*Absent

**Call to Order and Welcome new Commission Members:** Paula welcomed our newly appointed members to the Collin County Historical Commission. The new members are: Candace Fountoulakis, Janet Stovall, Nathan White and Brittany Yurkovich. Each new member then shared information about themselves.

**Public Announcements:** Paula reminded all members to go online for the Open Meetings Course put out by the State Attorney General's Office. Contact Tim Wyatt with Collin County when completed.

Allen Heritage Guild is planning a Railroad History Scavenger Hunt on February 27, 2021. The information is posted on the Allen Heritage Guild website.

Brittany Yurkovich shared that the City of Weston is having Heritage Day in May.

**Grants, A Final Report:** The Heard Craig Center for the Arts Executive Director, Karen Zupanic, presented her Final Report to the CCHC. The Final Report is the last step in the Grant process. The grant awarded to the Heard Craig Center, was a continuation of Oral Histories. This project was started in 2017 with a list of citizens and has continued through 2020. The citizens chosen are ones who have spent years living in Collin County and are willing to share what life was like years ago. Plans are for oral histories to continue as long as there are willing participants.

**Minutes/Roll Call:** Minutes were approved as presented. Total volunteer hours reported were 406.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented. With the budget of \$49,900, \$981.25 was expensed and \$520.00 encumbered, leaving a balance of \$48,398.75. We are in balance with the County.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Grants:** The Grant application has been updated and on the County website. One major change is all applications will be submitted electronically. Our County Liaisons, Judy Moody and Jennifer Rogers, will be available for questions and concerns from applicants who are challenged by this new procedure.

To start the Grant program off, the Mandatory meeting will be Thursday, February 4, from 3-5 p.m., via Zoom. Jan Thatcher sent out Zoom meeting information to previous participants this afternoon.

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

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

**Speakers Bureau:** The Chair position is open for anyone interested.

**State Markers:** *Saigling House (Plano):* The marker is in the hands of the Road and Bridge Department with no installation plans at this time.

*Throckmorton Supplemental Plaque (Pecan Grove Cemetery, McKinney):* The plaque to update the location of the settlement is being shipped to the County.

*McLarry Cemetery (Bloomfield Road, McKinney):* The John Abston Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) restoration team refinished the marker, and also trained members of the John F. Greer NSDAR chapter in Anna to refinish markers. This is a project that many DAR chapters across the country do. Marianne Wells suggested the CCHC members form a team also. She and the committee have fine-tuned the process; three or four people can usually refinish a marker in 2 ½-3 hours. Marianne pointed out there are over 50 markers in need of refinishing before moving forward with updating the 2011 State Marker Book and finds this procedure to be a great outdoor pandemic project.

**Website:** The Marker webpage has been updated with links to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) Atlas, marker application, research toolbox, as well as a detailed explanation of the program.

**State Marker Application:** Submission dates for applications will be from March 1-May 15, 2021.

**State Marker Narratives for 2022:** Due October 1, 2021, for committee review fact checking. The date is posted on the website.

**Historic Cemeteries:** *Ross Cemetery (McKinney):* The Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation is in process.

*Lair Cemetery (Anna):* Jane Yancey and Marianne Wells are completing the HTC designation application. It has been an extremely tedious exercise trying to find a deed and speculate why none was filed. Marianne hopes to have the designation submitted by the next CCHC meeting.

*Horn Cemetery (McKinney):* Candace Fountoulakis, Dave Cornette, Jane Yancey and Marianne Wells met with a descendant of Elder Horn at the cemetery this week. Candace is heading up the HTC application project and anticipating few to no issues, since the cemetery is so well documented.

*Kennedy Cemetery (Princeton):* The committee continues to monitor the development around the cemetery which is south of Myrick Lane. Marianne Wells sent a descendant a copy of the proposed routes for the Hwy 380 connector which will go very near the cemetery. She also sent scheduled TxDot hearing dates to the individual.

*Cannon Cemetery (Melissa):* The “For Sale” sign is down but no development has started. Marianne will follow up with the attorney and realtor.

*Master THC Database of Cemeteries:* Marianne has submitted more updates of GPS coordinates for the Atlas.

*Website:* Marianne has updated information for Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) applications, cleaning markers, and cemetery law along with links to other helpful websites.

**County Markers:** Paula Ross, Chair, explained for the new member’s benefit, the reason there is a County Marker program. She stated the application process for a Texas State Marker can be difficult and the sites would not qualify on the State level. These sites are significant to the County history and this is the Historical Commission’s way of acknowledging and preserving Collin County’s past. Six County markers are in process for this fiscal year.

**Educational Programs:** Donna Jenkins has met with Collin College Professor Pam Gaiter (Wylie Campus) about the Service-Learning Project, Professor Gaiter is heading. Due to Covid-19, the work planned last fall semester fell through. Now with the spring semester and the pandemic still going strong, the project is still on hold. Donna continues to email Professor Gaiter and plans to meet the end of summer to start fresh in the fall semester. Professor Gaiter is very interested in the Oral History Project.

Brittany Yurkovich has been added to the committee and shared an idea that she has used for her quarterly newsletter for Weston, TX. She suggested students contribute articles of the students choosing as a way to engage students in the history of the County.

**Historic Assets Survey (HAS):** Donna Jenkins and Joy Gough are working to complete the work started last year on schools of Collin County. As soon as the County will allow face to face meetings, Donna will arrange a meeting with Joy, Jane Yancey, Dave Cornette and Janet Stovall to discuss writing s narrative and filling out the survey.

No work has been done with adding cemeteries to the interactive map because of the pandemic.

**Communications:** The Chair position is open for anyone interested.

**Public Relations:** Covid-19 has hampered plans to distribute the updated brochures, “The Museums of Collin County, TX” and “Cruising Historical Collin County” to hotels, motels and other museums. When restrictions are lifted, Jan Samuels plans to continue with distribution.

**Tax Abatement:** The Tax Abatement program started in 1970. It allows qualifying structures a break on County taxes. Residential housing is given 100%, commercial properties 50%. The process involves

filling out an application and submit it with a history of the property. The deadline for submitting the application and history is October 31<sup>st</sup> of any given year. Once submitted and approved, the applicant does not need to apply every year (as in the past) and the tax abatement status continues on, if the property changes hands. A new owner must continue to maintain the property to receive the tax abatement. If a property is denied for three consecutive years, tax abatement will be terminated. After that time, the owner must correct all issues and reapply, submitting a new application and history in order to be considered for the tax abatement.

**Oral Histories:** Colin Kimball is Chair of this new committee. Colin's goal is to recognize Blacks and Hispanics who contributed to Collin County.

**Workshops:** Paula Ross gave new members a description of the Workshop Committee and is open for suggestions for future workshops. One suggestion mentioned, was to make a video showing the steps in the restoration process of State Markers.

**Preservation Celebration (PC):** Anna Area Historical Society has agreed to host this year. It was the plan for Anna to host last year but was cancelled because of Covid-19. The PC committee is hoping this event will take place sometime within the year.

Nathan White suggested a theme of celebrating our State's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Donna Jenkins suggested a virtual Preservation Celebration, much like the Murphy Chamber of Commerce event, if a gathering is not allowed.

**Awards:** There is nothing to report at this time. Awards are dependent upon the Preservation Celebration.

**Adjourn: 7:40 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Thatcher, Secretary