



Collin County Historical Commission
7117 CR 166
McKinney, TX 75071

Date: 03.25.21
Heard Craig Carriage House
205 West Hunt St., McKinney
6:30 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
Paula Ross, Chair
Jan Samuels, Public Relations*
Janet Stovall
Kristi Taylor, Frisco
Jan Thatcher, Secretary/Treasurer
Marianne Wells, State Markers, Cemeteries*
Nathan White
Jane Yancey, Plano
Brittany Yurkovitch
Jennifer Rogers, Liaison*
Judy Florence, Liaison*

*Absent

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

Public Comments: Thank you Paula Ross, Joy Gough and Donna Jenkins for supplying the meal this evening.

Paula introduced the newest member of the Collin County Historical Commission, Kristi Taylor. Kristi has lived in Frisco for 28 years and is a librarian. Welcome Kristi.

Brittany Yurkovitch brought copies of the Weston Post that she and her husband self-publish quarterly. Cartoonist, Patrick Reynolds, has granted permission to use his past Texas Lore cartoons for the publication. The goal of the Weston Post is to bring the small town feel to the growing suburban area.

Nathan White read a proclamation he drafted celebrating Collin County's 175th birthday, occurring on April 3, 2021 and will submit it to Judge Chris Hill. It reads:

Whereas, Collin County was demarked from Fannin County on April 3, 1846, with an estimated population of 150; and

Whereas, Collin County and its county seat were named for Collin McKinney, one of the five drafters of the Texas Declaration of Independence and the oldest of the 59 signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence; and

Whereas, by the mid-1890's six railroads crisscrossed the county, connecting farmers to retail markets throughout Texas; and

Whereas, in 1960, the population of the county was 41,247; and

Whereas, the estimated population of the county in 2021 is 1,095,580 making it the 6th largest county in Texas; and

Whereas, the county little resembles what was settled in the 1840's; and

Whereas, based on median household income, Collin County is the richest county in Texas;

Now, Therefore Be It Proclaimed that the Collin County Commissions Court, hereby commemorates the 175th Anniversary of the establishment of Collin County, arguably the finest county in Texas!

Paula Ross shared an informational handout to all members of the CCHC, taken from the CCHC Bylaws. It included the Purpose of the CCHC and tasks the CCHC is responsible for.

"The purpose of the Collin County Historical Commission shall be the identification, preservation, protection and interpretation of the history of Collin County. The Collin County Historical Commission shall have the authority and shall carry out the duties and responsibilities of a county historical commission as described by law, including Chapter 318, Texas Local Government Code, ...and such other duties and responsibilities as may be directed by the Collin County Commissioners Court." (Chapter 318 deals with laws set by local governments.)

Tasks include:

- Determine the existence of historical buildings and other historical sites, collections of historical memorabilia, or historical features within Collin County, and report the collection data to the Commissioners Court and the Texas Historical Commission and record the information in a County Register.
- Recommend and approve historical sites, events, and organizations for county, state and national markers.
- Make annual report of its activities and recommendations to the Commissioners Court and Texas Historical Commission (THC) at the end of each year.
- Promote activities that advance the knowledge of Collin County.
- Recommend real or personal property that is of historical significance to the Commissioners Court and THC.
- Follow the rules and policies of the Collin County Board and the Commissioners Court.

Minutes/Roll Call: Minutes were approved with corrections. Volunteer hours total 258 for the month of March.

Treasurer's Report: Year to date: With a budget of \$49,900, \$1453 has been spent, \$455 encumbered, leaving a balance of \$47,992 left of our budget. We have spent 3.82% of our budget and are in balance with the County. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Grants: The deadline for accepting grant applications is tomorrow, March 26, by 4 p.m. No exceptions. So far, we have received 7 applications: Routh Cemetery: marker maintenance; Chestnut Square: a walking brochure; Collin County Genealogy Society: digitizing old McKinney newspaper; Heard-Craig: oral histories; Heritage Association of Frisco: translating letters from a local citizen who fled Nazi Germany; Farmersville Historical Society: continued repairs on the Bain-Honaker House; Wylie Historical Society: a pop-up exhibit on the history of Wylie.

Film Preservation: Colin Kimball and Nathan White will travel to North Texas State University to learn more about TAMI, the Texas Archives of the Moving Image.

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

Speakers Bureau: There is a need for a Chair for this committee. If interested, contact Paula Ross. The list of available speakers may be found online on the CCHC website.

State Markers: The Bankhead Highway state marker has been erected near the Royce City Middle School. The committee will plan for a dedication ceremony in the future.

Historic Cemeteries: Jane Yancey shared this discovery after a recent visit to Lair Cemetery (Anna), the Iris bed is in the shape of a cross. Jane also mentioned previous highlighted cemetery activities from the past month.

County Markers: The Cowskin Community marker near Farmersville is still in progress. Research on the Allen Black School and Halltown continues. A future marker is being researched for former CCHC member Diane Miller. Diane has received the State of Texas' Family Land Heritage Program designation. This recognition program honors families who have owned and operated a continuous agricultural operation for 100 years or more. Diane's daughter is doing the research.

There are plans for a total of 6 markers to be finalized by the end of the fiscal year.

Historic Asset Survey (HAS): Last year Donna Jenkins and Joy Gough began researching the names, locations and any information available for all schools established from the 1840's to the 1950's, within the county. Plans call for those schools to be included in the survey.

Using the County Marker Book as a reference, Donna added those markers that had not been posted previously to the Historic Asset Survey and suggest all State and County Marker designations be added. Also, Donna has set a goal for 2021 to include all cemeteries within the county, on the HAS Map as well.

Educational Programs: Brittany Yurkovitch discussed a possible essay contest highlighting history within the Collin County open to students in grades 4-7 who are studying Texas history. Brittany mentioned General Throckmorton as an example. General Throckmorton was revered

by Native Americans who would seek his guidance as the Native Americans negotiated with the US Government. There are a lot of details to work out but it was mentioned the students could be recognized at a future Preservation Celebration and could be included in a future issue of the Weston Post.

Dave Cornette suggested a coloring book for the children. Dave suggests historical groups, cities and towns from around the county submit 2-4 pages to be compiled into a coloring book.

From Jan Samuels who was absent from the meeting but did send a report: The committee has been corresponding by email. The event possibilities have been narrowed down to three. The committee should make a decision soon and should have a complete report for next month.

Communications: The Chair position is open. Please contact Paula Ross if interested in heading this committee.

Public Relations: A lengthy article on the Collin County Historical Commission has been sent to Brittany Yurkovitch for possible inclusion in the Weston Post Newsletter. Now that the pandemic is getting under control and places are opening up, CCHC brochures will be distributed to Chambers of Commerce, museums, hotels and libraries in the area soon.

Tax Abatement: Joy Gough has been working with County Liaison, Judy Moody, to update the website. All applications must be submitted electronically. The deadline for submissions is October 31, 2021.

Oral Histories: Colin Kimball has contacted Jessie McGowen, sister of Audie Murphy, for an interview. Colin is also looking for people to interview about the changes in Collin County over the years. Names mentioned were former Collin County Sheriff, Terry Box; Tom O'Connell, District Attorney for Collin County at the time of the Candace Montgomery Trial in 1980; Hannah Kunkle, former Collin County District Clerk.

Workshops: A possible workshop about Collin County was mentioned since this year is the 175th birthday of Collin County. Nathan White with his research and vast knowledge would share.

Preservation Celebration: Jan Thatcher has contacted Anna Area Historical Society for hosting this year. They are willing to do so, sometime in August or September.

Awards: From the CCHC website: Every year the county historical commission hosts an event that celebrates the historical preservation and education efforts in Collin County. Part of that celebration is the recognition of outstanding individuals and groups that have distinguished themselves in such efforts. The application forms can be found on our website. The awards given are:

Collin McKinney Achievement Award: Recognizes outstanding achievement of a Collin County historical organization or museum that has promoted the heritage of the county with projects, museum education, historical tourism, the erection of tributes to the past and/or the preservation of buildings, publications or records of historical significance.

Excellence in Historical Education Award: Recognizes an individual or organization that has promoted historical education about Collin County, Texas, through teaching and/or preservation programs benefiting schools, community organizations, and/or the general public.

Leadership in Preservation Award: Recognizes an exemplary Collin County city/town, business or developer that has promoted a respect for the county's past through historical projects and/or renovations of historic buildings or sites.

Living Legacy of Collin County Award: Recognizes the outstanding achievement of an individual citizen of Collin County who has significantly enriched our cultural heritage through a lifetime of dedicated service to the ideals of preservation, education and respect of our rich past.

Young Visionaries Award: Recognizes an individual (18 years of age or less) or youth organization that has significantly contributed to the preservation of Collin County, Texas' historical heritage. Noteworthy activities could include: restoration or preservation projects, portrayals of living history, promotion of historical tourism, creation of historical education programs, service hours for a museum, historical organization or program, and/or other related volunteer efforts.

The online due date shows March 26, 2021 by 4 p.m. Jan Thatcher will have the date extended to reflect the delayed 2021 Preservation Celebration in Anna later this year.

Adjourn: 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Thatcher, Secretary