



Collin County Historical Commission  
7117 CR 166  
McKinney, TX 75071

Date: 06.24.21  
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  
Eric Hogue, Wylie  
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 Yurkovich  
Jennifer Rogers, Liaison  
Judy Florence, Liaison

\*Absent

**Call to Order:** 6:32 p.m.

**Public Comments:** Thank you, Kristi Taylor for providing dinner.

There will be a Zoom program offered by the Collin County History Museum on the "Collin County Poor Farm-The Face of Poverty's Past." On Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. The 90-minute program will be narrated by Pat Rodgers. Registration is required.

Brittany Yurkovich brought in several copies of the latest edition of the Weston Post-Spring 2021 for all to enjoy and share.

There will be a State Historical Marker dedication at the Saigling House in Plano at 10 a.m. on July 10.

Marianne Wells announced a State Historical Marker will be refurbished on Saturday, June 26, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The marker is located at the First Christian Church, Plano. The John Abston Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will be in charge of the event and welcomes any CCHC members interested in helping and learning the process.

The Heard-Craig Center for the Arts Director, Karen Zupanic, will have an exhibit of her artwork at the Martin Place Gallery in McKinney. The Art Deco Kimono Series uses recycled food boxes and will be available for viewing during the month of July.

Paula Ross announced there will be a Coalition meeting for the first time in over a year on Saturday, July 17, 2021, at MPAC (the old Courthouse on the Square). The meeting starts at 9 a.m. The Coalition meetings are held quarterly and alternate Saturday mornings and Thursday evenings to accommodate all members. The public is welcomed.

**Distinguished Service Award:** Once again Collin County Historical Commission has been recognized by the Texas Historical Commission for its contribution to preserving history in Texas. Congratulations to all members of the Collin County Historical Commission.

**Minutes/Roll Call:** The minutes were approved with corrections. Total volunteer hours for the month are 343.

**Treasurer's Report:** Year to Date: With a budget of \$49,900, a total of \$3213.88 has been spent, \$25,361.88 encumbered, leaving a balance of \$21,324.24 remaining of our budget. We have spent 57.27% of our budget. The treasurer's report was approved.

**Election of a Nominating Committee:** According to the CCHC By-Laws, in June of every year, a nominating committee will be formed to compile a list of candidates for the CCHC Board. From votes cast by attending members, the nominating committee will consist of Paula Ross, Linda Hess and Jan Thatcher. At the July meeting, a slate of officers will be presented by the Nominating Committee. In August, additional nominations will be accepted from the floor and a vote will be taken to determine the 2021-2022 CCHC Board. Those elected will start the new term in September.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Grants:** The requisition for the grant checks has been given to the accounting department and should be mailed out shortly.

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

**Collin County Cruise:** There are no plans for a cruise this fall. The committee will meet to prepare for a cruise in the spring of 2022.

**Speakers Bureau:** Janet Stovall has graciously accepted to Chair this committee. She went online for the present list of speakers and will be sending out an email to all members of the CCHC to see if there is any interest.

**State Markers:** Saigling House (Plano): Road & Bridge is coordinating with the park staff at the City of Plano to install the marker the week of the dedication ceremony. Candace Fountoulakis is working on producing a poster of the 1891 Fuller Birdseye Map of Plano with pop outs of the enlarged Saigling Planing Mill and residence, the residence as shown on a 1921 Sanborn map, and the 1917 newspaper article announcing the beginning of construction on the house. Invitations have gone out. Harold Sickler, the chair of the Plano Heritage Commission and Marianne Wells will speak on the history of the house and the Saigling family during the post-railroad development in Plano.

Throckmorton supplemental plaque (McKinney): The plaque will be installed within the next few weeks outside the main entrance gate at Pecan Grove Memorial Park, on the post below the marker.

Brinlee Cemetery (Melissa) and the First Baptist Church of Lavon: Final marker inscription approvals for both of these sites have been sent to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to be added to the queue for casting at the foundry. There is no estimated completion date given at this time.

Strickland House (Celina): The owners have done a beautiful job of restoring this house which was important to Celina's history. The committee is encouraging them to apply for a Registered Texas Historical Landmark (RTHL) and not a county marker. When sites and structures pre-qualify at the state level, the CCHC should pursue that course. Marianne Wells has asked the THC for a pre-qualification review which should take a few weeks.

City of Blue Ridge: The City is in the process of applying for a Block Grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture's Downtown Revitalization Program. The committee will meet with the City Secretary to discover what exactly the City is proposing for the state marker. The committee informed the City that the THC wants the marker installed vertically, if it is moved. The contractor who moved it the first time is predicting the marker to crack and will need to be reordered. That \$2000 expense will be the City of Blue Ridge's responsibility.

Prosper United Methodist Church: The church is building a new campus and was looking to the CCHC for permission to move the marker themselves. The state marker committee informed the church the marker is state property and is the CCHC's responsibility to move. The church was asked to keep the CCHC informed when the new campus is near completion. The committee will check back at a later date to handle the issue.

Forest Grove Christian Church: The committee is nearly finished with the narrative to support a supplemental plaque correcting the statement that American Revolutionary veterans were among the early members of the church.

Mt. Pleasant Hill Cemetery (Nevada): The committee will prepare an application for a supplemental plaque to correct the name of the church. According to church minutes in forming and disbanding the congregation, the name of the church was Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. The minutes are archived in the Texas Baptist Historical Collection in Waco. The minutes were originally stored in Ft. Worth at Southwestern Baptist Seminary. Even though the denomination is decentralized, they have made a commitment to preserve and centralize source materials of Texas Baptist history. The Christian Church and other denominations that grew out of their tradition, does not have a central archive for denominational research which can pose a real problem for the researcher.

First Christian Church of Plano: Marianne will meet with a marker refinishing team from the John Abston National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning to refinish the marker at the church. ***This would be a great time for Historical Commission members to join us and learn how to refinish markers.***

**Historic Cemeteries:** Ross Cemetery (McKinney): The Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation has been filed in the Collin County Deed Records and sent to the Central Appraisal District. This filing will trigger it being added to all official maps. The committee is working to identify the Ross Cemetery board members for a dedication ceremony after the certificate arrives. Plans are to hold the ceremony at the cemetery, inviting city and county officials.

Buckner Cemetery (McKinney): The cemetery will eventually be surrounded by the 1000 acre Painted Tree community with 3500 residences. The committee talked with the head of the development company and provided him with the (HTC) designation documents and maps on file with the county and Texas Historical Commission (THC). Although they roped off that part of the cemetery which is fenced (.1 acres), they did not realize that there is another .5 acres that is dedicated and adjoins it. They unknowingly created a huge pile of excavated earth on some of the dedicated area and are now moving it all to another location. The committee is meeting with the project manager on Wednesday morning at the site to discuss the issue further. The development company had been talking to the former landowner about the history of Buckner and had been documenting all work with a McKinney City Inspector, but did not have anyone on their team who knew how to find the public historical information about the site.

The committee also informed the development company of the stories surfacing for many years of Spotted Tail is buried somewhere near the cemetery. Spotted Tail is the Kiowa Indian Chief who is said to have protected early settlers in the Buckner settlement from Native American raiders and that all people who are moving earth need to be aware of that. The development company has been advised construction must

stop immediately if a single burial outside the fenced cemetery is uncovered in order for the county coroner to investigate. If a Native American burial is confirmed, the THC has information on their website about Tribal Contacts. Burials of Native Americans are protected by federal law under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. The responsibility for consulting with Native American tribes' rests on federal, state, and local government agencies.

Many thanks to Joy Gough who submitted the application for the HTC designation in 2011. With the official documents and accompanying maps, particularly one with an overlay of the dimensions on a Central Appraisal District (CAD) map, the committee was able to give the developer precise information on the land dedicated for cemetery purposes within a few hours of reaching him.

Pecan Grove Memorial Park (McKinney): The Preston Ridge chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) has expressed interest in working in a cemetery for their national day of service in October. Marianne Wells has suggested cleaning gravestones in Pecan Grove and will work on logistics.

Smith Cemetery (Frisco): Susanne Kerley is working on an HTC designation for this cemetery, which is in the middle of the PGA development and is attempting to gain access to the cemetery to take necessary pictures. The other cemetery on the PGA property, Landrum, is located in Denton County but within the city limits of Frisco. The Denton County Historical Commission (DCHC) has already completed an HTC designation for Landrum Cemetery. The DCHC actually has a member on the commission who is a surveyor and did the site map.

Fitzhugh Cemetery (Lucas): Also known as Forest Grove Cemetery, the Fitzhugh Cemetery wants to pursue an HTC designation and eventually, a state marker. They are on the committee's list to contact.

Kelly Cemetery (Anna): Even though the committee cannot get into the cemetery to take pictures for an HTC designation application, Carlyn Hammons with the THC has said if pictures are taken through the temporary construction fence, the committee can proceed with an application. A great-granddaughter of Collin McKinney who died during the Civil War is buried there. Locals think there are also unmarked graves there, perhaps slaves.

Celina Community Cemetery: Jane Yancey and Marianne met with Mike Green, the Community services Manager for the City, along with Jane Willard and Dwight Cherry, a descendant who has been faithfully maintaining the cemetery for years. An apartment complex is being built right next to the cemetery. A city councilman has taken an interest in this historical African-American cemetery and wants it protected and preserved. Marianne had tried unsuccessfully to reach someone about it a couple of years ago, in attempting to apply for an HTC designation. This allows the committee to move forward.

**County Markers:** Halltown is completed and has been submitted. Greater Moore's Chapel, a black church is in process. Research continues on the Allen Black School. There is a marker for Collin McKinney in process also.

**Historic Assets Survey:** Six of the 93 cemeteries for research have been turned into Joy Gough for further processing. There are many more yet to be researched.

**Educational Programs:** The Essay Contest deadline is 09.30.21. Brittany Yurkovich will reach out to social studies coordinators in public schools, private schools, home schools along with members of the Coalition.

**Communications:** The CCHC has a new FaceBook page. All members are encouraged to "Look," "Like" and "Share."

**Public Relations:** Distributing brochures throughout Plano is nearing completion. Jan Samuel's next task is to notify the local newspapers and libraries about the student essay contest.

**Tax Abatement:** There is nothing to report at this time.

**Preservation Celebration:** Diann Jones attended the Anna Area Historical Society meeting held earlier this afternoon. The event will be held at the First Christian Church in Anna. A caterer for the food has been selected. The Anna Area Historical Society is asking for volunteers and is looking to hire kitchen help. Elden Baker will be the guest speaker. Nathan White has agreed to be the Masters of Ceremonies.

After the Preservation Celebration, the Anna Train Depot nearby will be open. There will also be a dedication ceremony for the newly added Collin McKinney statue.

**Awards:** The deadline for submissions was Friday, June 18, 2021 at 4 p.m. There was one nomination for the Collin McKinney Achievement Award. Excellence in Historical Education had 3 and Leadership in Preservation also had 3. There were no nominations in the categories of Living Legacy of Collin County and Young Visionary Awards.

**Adjourn:** 7:44 p.m.