



Collin County Historical Commission
7117 CR 166
McKinney, TX 75071

Date: 06.25.20
Heard Craig Carriage House
205 West Hunt St., McKinney
6:30 PM

Mary Kaye Adams, County Cruises
Alfredo Arias, Communications/Media
Catherine Casavant, Treasurer
Dave Cornette, Allen
Joy Gough, Tax Abatement
Linda Hess, Farmersville
Donna Jenkins, Vice Chair
Diann Jones, Anna
Colin Kimball, McKinney
Lolisa Laenger, Emeritus*
Diane Miller, Melissa
Paula Ross, Chair
Jan Samuels, Public Relations
Justin Simmons, Speakers Bureau
Jan Thatcher, Secretary
Marianne Wells, State Markers, Cemeteries
Jane Yancey, Plano
Jennifer Rogers, Liaison
Judy Florence, Liaison

*Absent

Call to Order: 6 pm Zoom meeting

Public Comments: Due to Covid-19 and the cancellation of Preservation Celebration 2020-Anna, award winners and runners-up were mailed plaques and certificates.

Minutes/Roll Call: Minutes were accepted with corrections. Volunteer hours totaled 366.

Treasurer's Report: Please note the available spending amount after Grants have been approved is \$19,690. Assuming the State Markers committee uses all allotted funds, the total will be \$12,674. Please make sure to review. The deadline for spending is usually August 1. The Finance Committee will be meeting over this next month to reallocate the remaining funds based on need for the CCHC. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Committee Reports:

Speaker's Bureau: There is nothing to report at this time.

Film Preservation: Colin Kimball met with former Chair, Janice Quick, for more insight on the committee. His goal is to catalog the present inventory and make a data base for researchers. He has questions about formats and where the information is stored. He was wondering if photos could be added as Ken Burns' does with his documentaries. Another question is copyrights which Justin Simmons volunteered to look into. Alfred Arias suggested using Dropbox as a tool to store the information. Colin plans to introduce himself to the County department that digitizes information for more insight and help. He also has film footage of Congressman Sam Johnson and would like to contribute to the inventory.

County Cruise: Due to technical issues Mary Kaye Adams was unable to relay any information about a county cruise at this time.

Grants: The Grant Approval and Denial lists that were approved by the CCHC were sent on to our Liaisons, Jennifer Rogers and Judy Moody, to be put on a future Commissioners Court Agenda. Judy Moody is preparing the contracts for the approved organizations to sign when a Commissioners Court date is set. Once the contracts are signed by the organizations, contracts will be sent to the Commissioners Court for the final signing. From there checks will be issued and mailed to the individual organization.

State Markers: *The First Baptist Church of Lavon, Princeton Cemetery and Brinlee Cemetery (Melissa):* Applications were submitted to the Texas Historical Commission. The state commissioners will meet in July to review the marker recommendations and make the final decision. Counties will be advised sometime in August. Payment for the marker application fee (\$100 each) was handled by our County Liaison.

Gallagher House (Wylie) and Aldridge House (Plano): Approval for the marker inscriptions were sent. State Commissioners will determine final approval at the next quarterly meeting in October. The markers were paid for in the year each application was approved.

Community Independent School District (Nevada): Changes to the inscription draft have been sent to the Marker Team.

Marker Refinishing Project: The John Abston Chapter of the DAR has approved organizing two teams to refinish markers. The restoration of the Routh Cemetery marker is scheduled for August 1 and will be used as a training session. The plan is to restore 2 markers a month. With over 50 to restore, it will take several years if no more teams are formed.

Cemeteries: *Clear Lake Cemetery (Lake Lavon):* Marianne Wells sent application information for a Historic Texas Cemetery designation to the family descendant and offered to help with the application. She also included information she recently received on the cleaning and repairing of grave stones.

County Markers: Frisco has approved the marker for the community of Foncine. The information will be sent to All Craft-Wellman, who makes the markers. Paula Ross has been trying to contact the owners of Lavon Farms in east Plano to discuss a county marker but has yet to hear from the owners. Paula also reached out to the Plano Conservancy for any information. The City of Plano has plans for developing this farmland in the future and the hope is to place a marker on the property before the farmland is developed.

Communications: FaceBook: For the month of June, we now have 300 followers. Post Engagements were up 11%. 699 people were reached over a 28-day period, an increase of 15%. Page Likes were up 11%. The most active post in June was the 10th Street Is Bleeding post from June 1, this post chronicled some of the research done on the famous African American neighborhood on 10th St in Dallas. It received 94 views and was shared 10 times.

Twitter: Now has 459 followers. The most popular post was a picture of the Elm Saloon Historical Marker in McKinney, TX. Activity was up 33% as more people are browsing due to Covid-19. Followers clicked from the CCHC Twitter page onto the Collin County website 57 times. That is up 26% from May 2020 and 78% from June 2019.

Public Relations: Information regarding all of the awards winners and runners-up for the Preservation Celebration 2020-Anna were sent to the Star Local Media for distribution to all of the Collin County newspapers under that umbrella. The same information was sent to the Melissa/Anna Tribune newspaper.

Tax Abatement: There have been 3 applications received so far for this year. There have been 3 inquiries. Joy Gough has updated the information packets.

Historic Assets: Joy Gough and Donna Jenkins continue to research and submit information for GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping. This is a good project to do at home since "Shelter in Place" is the new normal now with Covid-19. The downside is needing additional information not available online that libraries and museums would have if those facilities were open.

Workshops: Alfred Arias is looking into creating a CCHC App which would launch a free audio guide of Collin County similar to Historic Charleston Foundation (SC). With the HCF App, 25 locations around Charleston are highlighted with tours running approximately 45 minutes. It would mean more traffic online which would be a win-win situation for all. It could be an option for our County Cruises, it would be a way to feature our State and County Markers. It also could be developed for children's programs or highlight an event. The app could start with one featured city and build from there. The estimated cost is \$1000-\$5000.

Renewal of Brochure: The Museum brochure is being updated by Joy Gough. Updating the Cruising Historical Collin County brochure is next.

Adjourn: 7:11 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Thatcher, Secretary