



Collin County Historical Commission  
7117 CR 166  
McKinney, TX 75071

Date: 09.24.2020  
6:00 p.m. Zoom Meeting

Mary Kaye Adams, County Cruises\*  
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:** 6:02 p.m.

**Chair's Remarks:** Chair Paula Ross opened the meeting with praise and thanks to all members of the Collin County Historical Commission for their time and efforts to make this past year a success in spite of our limitations with the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Public Comments:** Congratulations to Donna Jenkins and the Murphy Historical Society on the dedication ceremony of the McMillen Marker located on the NW corner of Murphy Rd and Betsey Lane.

Frisco Heritage Museum will hold a virtual Shawnee Trail on September 26 at 11am. It may be found on the Frisco Heritage Museum YouTube channel.

**Minutes/Roll Call:** The minutes were accepted with corrections. Volunteer hours for the month totaled 326.

**Treasurer's Report:** Of our budget for the year, the Historical Commission spent \$11,980, encumbered a totaled \$35,305, leaving \$2615 of the budget unspent. The entire budget of \$49,900 was not spent due to restrictions the Historical Commission faced this year with the outbreak of Covid-19 and concerns for the public's safety. The treasurer's report was accepted and approved.

**Committee Reports-Carryover:**

**Grants:** The Grants were approved by the Commissions Court at the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Jan Thatcher sent notification by email to the recipients and explained the procedure of the Court signing the contracts, the County Accounting Department given the approval for the checks to be issued and, finally, mailing the checks to the various organizations. As of this date, the checks have not been received by any of the recipients. Jan sent an email to Judy and Jennifer late this afternoon asking for any information about the checks.

**Communications:** There is a need for a Chair to head this committee. There is nothing to report at this time.

**Brochures:** There was discussion about updating the driving tour, "Cruising Historical Collin County." It is a substantial brochure with 12 pages. Updating will take time and money. The question was raised as to the possibility of the County printing it. Further research is needed.

**Vision for committees, goals for upcoming year, financial requests.** This replaces the traditional planning session of the committees.

**Speakers Bureau:** Chair, Justin Simmons, has made no plans for the upcoming year. No budget funds are requested.

Justin announced to the Historical Commission his resignation from the Commission, due to a recent career change and relocation to San Antonio.

**Film Preservation:** Committee members include Colin Kimball, Chair, Diane Miller and Jan Thatcher. Plans include reaching out to the communities to contribute videos and recordings of like as it once was in Collin County. Collin mentioned that Ken Burns made movies out of photographs and is thinking along those lines also. The budget request is the same as last year.

**Collin County Cruise:** Members of the committee include Mary Kaye Adams, Chair, Diane Miller, Jan Thatcher and Dave Cornette. In the absence of Chair Mary Kaye Adams, Jan Thatcher, suggested the budget request of \$1800, the same amount as the previous year.

**State Markers:** Members of the committee include Marianne Wells, Chair, Joy Gough, Paula Ross, Jan Samuels, and Colin Kimball. Budget request is \$7750, which includes cemetery application fees and cleaning supplies for markers in need of refurbishing. Goals include three State Markers, two Historic Texas Cemetery designations (possibly four), a state marker for Orenduff Cemetery, identify any possible areas where minorities might have been overlooked in the past, and correction plaques for incorrect state markers.

**County Markers:** Committee members include Paula Ross, Chair, Joy Gough, Diane Miller, Jane Yancey, Colin Kimball and Linda Hess. Funding request: \$7740. The committee hopes to produce 6 county markers 6 @ \$1290 = \$7740.

***Vision and goals include*** preserving Collin County history by marking significant people, places and events for the public to see and learn. This year's goals not only strive to establish markers in each quadrant of the county, but to also focus on Black and Hispanic history.

**Public Relations:** Jan Samuels, Chair. There is no request for budget funds. Jan's goal is to distribute the brochures featuring the updated "Museums of Collin County" and "Cruising Historical Collin County" to local libraries, museums, hotels and motels within the County.

**Tax Abatement:** Members include Joy Gough, Chair, Diane Miller and Jan Thatcher. No funds requested from the budget with mailing and printing handled by the County. Joy plans to meet with Judy Moody, CCHC Liaison for any updates and advisement.

Joy has received eight new applications as of this date. The deadline is October 31, 2020.

**Historical Asset Survey (HAS):** Committee members include Donna Jenkins, Chair, Joy Gough, Co-Chair, responsible for submissions to county mapping, Jane Yancey and Dave Cornette.

***Vision and goals for the committee include:***

1. To continue to identify historical places and events in Collin County and add to the interactive map.
2. Complete the task of adding schools from 1845-1950 to the record. Approximately 80 schools need to be researched, narratives written, and submitted to the interactive map.
3. All county and state markers need to be submitted to the committee to include the historical marker information and HAS (Historic Asset Survey). County and state marker applications may be sent to Donna Jenkins, who will copy the history and bibliography, fill in the application form for HAS and submit the information to Joy Gough, who will forward HAS to be included on the map. Joy keeps a record of all the Historical Markers to add to the Marker Books.
4. 2020-2021 goals are to research the county cemeteries from 1845-1950. Joy has much information in her cemetery book but not all cemeteries are in HAS.
5. Next year's goal will be to work on farms in the county.
6. At least two committee meetings will be required. The first meeting will be scheduled in October. Committee will meet to learn how to fill out HAS paperwork and divide jobs. The second meeting will be held in January to check on progress.

***Workplan or timeline:***

1. Start immediately researching, writing, and submitting in October.
2. Complete schools and then start on current state and county markers.
3. Begin on cemeteries starting in January.

**Education Committee:** Members include Jan Samuels, Chair, Diann Jones, and Colin Kimball. The budget request is \$300. As new Chair, Jan will be meeting with previous Chair, Donna Jenkins. Goals include continuing the program started last year but was cancelled because of Covid-19.

**Historic Cemeteries:** Committee members include Marianne Wells, Chair, Diane Miller, Joy Gough, Jane Yancey and Dave Cornette. Budget request: \$

These are the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) application projects the committee continues to work on:

***Lair Cemetery (Anna):*** Review work to date. Outline search that has been done for deeds (none found), assign additional questions for answering and researching it. Research cemetery in newspaper databases.

***Ross Cemetery (McKinney):*** Combine past research and finishing application. Marianne Wells has asked one of the "cemetery sleuths," who wants to write the narrative for a state marker, to write a couple of

paragraphs for the designation application. The advantage of having the designation is that the cemetery board or landowner's permission is not necessary to apply for it.

**Old Settlers Cemetery (McKinney):** Colin Kimball is helping with this project. The committee will have to do oral histories in the historic McKinney African-American community to identify potential sources. Questions include memories of any wooden grave markers, any stories from family members about the cemetery and who is buried there. If enough information is gathered, Marianne would like to recognize the area as an African-American Cemetery by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). City approval is not necessary here to set the record straight.

Other goals this year include: Updating contact information for all cemeteries. Updating information for the THC's database of county cemeteries and identify cemeteries of marginalized communities for the THC. The committee is aware of Ross Cemetery and if more information can be found on the Old Settlers Cemetery located on Wilson Creek Parkway in McKinney to satisfy the THC it could be included. Marianne believes it will need to be renamed.

**Davis Cemetery** located in the Douglass Community in Plano is relatively recent and next to the Dart Rail track.

**Celina Community Cemetery** (aka Colored Cemetery of Celina).

**Branch Cemetery (?)** near Bratonia Park at Lake Lavon. The committee needs to explore it. Joy Gough has never heard of it. It was referenced by an Allen man Paula Ross knows, who was a friend of several members of the Allen African-American community.

The committee is open to hear of any cemeteries anyone knows about that may be added to the present list.

The committee will continue to partner with the John Abston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to refinish all faded state markers in the county. Marianne has asked Bob Brinkman with the THC for guidance on the markers that Road & Bridge Department would like to straighten but fears damaging the marker. Marianne would also like to identify a welder who will help the committee with damaged markers. (A marker at Cottage Hill in Celina is strapped to its post.)

**Historic Preservation Celebration:** Committee members are Jan Thatcher, Chair, and Paula Ross, and the Anna Area Preservation Society. Budget request: \$3500. Anna has agreed to host in 2021 since Preservation Celebration 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19.

**Preservation Celebration Awards:** Members include Colin Kimball, Chair, Linda Hess, and Jan Thatcher. Budget request is \$425 for plaques and frames.

**Workshops:** Committee members include Paula Ross, Jan Thatcher, Donna Jenkins, Justin Simmons, Diann Jones and Dave Cornette. Funding request: \$800.

The workshop committee would like to plan for at least 3 workshops for 2020-2021, assuming life will return to "normal." Vision and goals are to bring about a better partnership within the historic community and to share ways to make preservation easier and fun!

**Cemetery workshop:** With new guidelines for cleaning, the committee would like to have the Texas Historical Commission come to present and demonstrate cleaning headstones. Possibly late spring.

**Oral History workshop:** Some groups have started some of this but for our benefit as well as other, to host a workshop to share how to go about getting oral histories, how to ask questions, how to follow through and write a narrative. The timeline for that would be next summer.

**"Best Practices Day":** Plan to host another multi-county to share ideas, information and build relationships with other historic commissions within the surrounding counties. In the past, some groups have come to us to sponsor a workshop and we are open to those requests.

**Finance:** Members of the committee are: With the resignation of Catherine Casavant, Chair, a new Chair will be announced at a later date. Other members include Linda Hess and Donna Jenkins. In addition to committee expenses there are other areas to consider for the budget. State Conferences, Monthly meetings at the Heard Craig Center for the Arts Carriage House, memberships to national and state historical organizations, along with new marketing brochures. Donna Jenkins has recommended a wish list for year-end expenditures. Included would be additional memberships to other national and state organizations, additional conferences, and a possible “Cloud” expense to store information.

**Adjourn: 6:54 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Thatcher, Secretary