



Collin County Historical Commission
Collin County Courthouse
Bloomdale Road
McKinney, TX

Date: 09.27.18
Heard Craig Carriage House
205 West Hunt, McKinney
6:30 PM

Becky Airhart-Smith, Valdasta*
Alfredo Arias, Communications/Media*
Catherine Casavant, Plano
Larry Collins, Grants
Chris Krupa-Downs, Historic Assets Survey
Naomi Emmett, Allen*
Joy Gough, Tax Abatement
Linda Hess, Josephine
Donna Jenkins, Vice Chair*
Clyde Kerley, Lakes Trail*
Lolisa Laenger, CCHC Emeritus
Diane Miller, Melissa
Kim Peat, Anna
Janice Quick, Film Preservation
Paula Ross, Workshops
Jan Thatcher, Secretary
Marianne Wells, State Markers
Eric Nishimoto, Liaison

Absent*

Call to order: 6:30 pm

Chairman Remarks:

Collin County Historical Commission Chairman's Report
September 27, 2018

YOU ARE THE BEST!!!!

Good evening and welcome to the 2018-19 Historical Commission planning session. I am looking forward to serving as your chairman and working with you this year.

I want to tell you that I think all of you are some of the finest volunteers in the County! We all come from different backgrounds, experiences, and professions and yet we come together with a common cause—to preserve the history of Collin county. I know everyone will work tirelessly to achieve that, and I thank you in advance for your dedication. This commission has distinguished itself on the state level—year after year—due to the efforts of you all. The Commission is known for fine programming and achievements. Congratulations! Our grant programs and the Coalition promotes comradery and good will around the county. This helps preserve our history as we build relationships with preservation groups.

This will be another stellar year for the commission, I'm pleased to be a part of this group and with everyone's help—we can do great things for the county! You are the best!! The executive board met on Sept 17 to discuss the year and build our relationships—we discussed the website and a brochure about what the commission does, and discussed who might head what committee—we did not place people on committees.

Public Comments: Thank you, Kim Peat, for our meal tonight.

The next Coalition Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 18, at the Old Courthouse, at 7pm.

Linda Hess shared that the Nevada Baptist Church, gymnasium and land has been purchased with plans to renovate and use it as a wedding venue.

The Texas Historical Commission is holding a conference, "Real Places 2019", January 16-18, 2019, in Austin.

Larry Collins reminds us of McKinney's celebration of Octoberfest is coming up. And the Great State Fair of Texas opens 09.28.18.

Minutes/Roll Call: Minutes were approved with corrections. Of the members reporting volunteer hours, 240 hours were contributed to CCHC service and other organizations benefited with 149 hours of volunteer service.

Treasurer's Report/Financials: Year to date out of a revised budget of \$52,975 for the Historical Commission; \$46,166.09 has been paid out or encumbered for future payment. This leaves a balance of \$6,791.01. We have spent 87.18% of our budget. The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Committee Reports:

Grants: Members for the Grant Committee 2018-19 are: Larry Collins, Catherine Casavant, Joy Gough, Linda Hess and Jan Thatcher. There is nothing to report at this time.

Awards Committee: Members of the Awards Committee 2018-19 are: Catherine Casavant, Larry Collins, Naomi Emmett, Lolisa Laenger and Diane Miller.

County Cruise (Tour): Members of the Cruise Committee 2018-19 are: Donna Jenkins, Lolisa Laenger, Diane Miller and Jan Thatcher.

Plans for a tour of Sam Rayburn's House & Museum in Bonham in the spring of 2019 is in the works. We will be looking for a bus upgrade with a budget request of \$2000.00.

State Markers: Members of the State Marker Committee 2018-19 are: Larry Collins, Linda Hess, Paula Ross and Marianne Wells.

There are new guidelines from the Texas Historical Commission. All verbal sources need to be certified by another member of the committee. The document must be signed and notarized.

It was suggested that the marker for the Gallagher house, in Wylie, be erected close to the house since future road improvements include taking part of the yard.

State Markers are property of the state and are maintained by the state of Texas.

County Markers: Members of the County Marker Committee 2018-19 are: Joy Gough, Linda Hess and Kim Peat.

The Cattleman's Cafe marker has been erected. Kelly and Steindam markers are in process.

Orphan Cemeteries: Members of the Cemetery Committee 2018-19 are: Chris Krupa-Downs, Diane Miller and Marianne Wells.

It was suggested that "Orphan Cemeteries" be retitled as "Cemeteries" to include all cemeteries within the county.

The Ross Cemetery in McKinney, has a drainage problem with an estimated 20' drop into a ditch on the eastern boundary of the cemetery. Emails have been sent to the city of McKinney about the concern. Through the city, it was discovered that Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) owns the land east of the cemetery's boundary and therefore the city can do nothing.

Education Programs: Members of the Education Programs 2018-19: Open.

Volunteers are needed to distribute "Carry Along Collin" to libraries and schools.

Communications/Media: Chair of the Communication Committee 2018-19 is: Alfred Arias.

Preservation Celebration: Members of the Preservation Celebration Committee for 2018-2019 are: Becky Airhart-Smith, Catherine Casavant, Larry Collins, Chris Krupa-Downs, Lolisa Laenger and Jan Thatcher.

The Preservation Celebration date is Saturday, April 27.2019. It was suggested that the Party Barn owned by Rutledge Haggard be considered as a possible venue for the event. Marianne Wells will contact Rutledge about the facility.

Historical Assets: Members of the Historical Assets Committee 2018-19 are: Joy Gough, Donna Jenkins and Jan Thatcher.

On 09.21.18, Joy Gough, Paula Ross and Loydell Seward (former chair) visited the GIS (Geographic Information System) Department located in the county administration building. The current batch of historic sites was recorded with the map department. When this current collection of sites is entered onto the county map, the sites will total 582.

When talking with the department head, Bret Fenster, he shared his desire to change the way the data is presented to the public, with the possibility of cross referencing for category searching: i.e. Churches, schools, historical markers, etc.

The Historic Assets project was started around 2011. The computers at GIS, both software and hardware have changed many times since, but the application process has remained the same. The Entry template is antiquated. Bret was asked to update the template that will make things easier for his department and he will be working on that task.

Eric Nishimoto asked Joy if she saw the end in sight as far as the mapping was concerned. The answer was no. Even though there are 582 sites on the map, there could be several hundred more. About half of the cemeteries and half of the schools are on the map. Also missing are most of the historical markers, both state and county. Just those three categories could number about 300 sites.

In looking at the map, the sites resemble a doughnut with a hole in the middle. The hole is located west of Hwy 75, Central Expressway and covers areas of west McKinney, west Allen and west Plano.

Anyone wishing to submit sites for the map may send the information to Joy Gough at: jfarago@verizon.net or historicassets@aol.com. Since the entry template is changing, omit the form and send the name, street address and GPS, plus your name on page one of the histories.

The new map address is: <https://gis.collincountytx.gov/cchistorical/main.html>.

Tax Abatement: Members of the Tax Abatement Committee 2018-19 are: Joy Gough, Diane Miller, Kim Peat and Jan Thatcher.

Film Preservation: Members of the Film Preservation Committee 2018-19 are: Naomi Emmett, Diane Miller, Kim Peat, Janice Quick and Jan Thatcher.

Worked on plans for the next fiscal year. To recap the accomplishments for 2017-18: Preserved eight videos (VHS or U-matic tapes). One digitized copy was given to the donating museum and one copy for the CCHC as backup and for future use. The following is a list of the historical organizations and contents of the videos:

Collin County History Museum: Candace Montgomery Trial and “Texas Day” event.

Collin County Farm Museum: Sign-language tour of the museum.

Allen Heritage Guild: 1950’s Allen Christmas Parade.

Also digitized were 24 audio cassette oral histories provided by the Collin County History Museum, representing communities of McKinney, Murphy, Altoga, Melissa, Lovejoy and Anna.

Speakers Bureau: Members of the Speakers Bureau Committee 2018-19 are: Janice Quick and Eric Nishimoto.

A new speaker was added to the CCHC Speakers Bureau web page, author Becky Villareal, who speaks and writes about engaging children with family history. The total number of speakers is nine with 41 topics. The Speakers Bureau may be found on the Collin County Historical Commission’s website at: http://www.collincountytx.gov/historical_commission/Pages/CCHC-Speakers-Bureau.aspx.

Workshops: Members of the Workshops Committee 2018-19 are: Clyde Kerley, Lolisa Laenger, Kim Peat and Paula Ross.

With Clyde Kerley’s connections while representing the CCHC at Lakes Trail meetings, the committee plans to include other historic groups from the surrounding counties in some of the future workshops.

A future workshop topic the committee is working on is the process for establishing a 501(3)c, the federal tax exemption for non-profit organizations and 501(13)c designation for cemeteries. The committee is open for suggestions for future workshops.

Finance: Members of the Finance Committee 2018-19 are: Catherine Casavant, Larry Collins and Clyde Kerley.

Lakes Trail: Based on Clyde Kerley's recommendation, it was decided the CCHC will not renew membership with the Lakes Trail organization this year. The Lakes Trail association is taking a direction that no longer benefits the CCHC.

Planning Session: Visions for committees, goals for upcoming year, financial requests. Committees that need this time can have it, and then the Historical Commission will "brain storm", have open discussion for new opportunities/goals for the Commission. Determine changes if any.

Adjourn: 7:49 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Thatcher, Secretary