



Collin County Historical Commission
7117 CR 166
McKinney, TX 75071

Date: 10.31.19
Heard Craig Carriage House
205 West Hunt St., McKinney
6:30 PM

Mary Kaye Adams, Dallas
Becky Airhart-Smith, Valdasta*
Alfredo Arias, Communications/Media
Catherine Casavant, Treasurer
Chris Krupa-Downs, Plano
Joy Gough, Tax Abatement
Linda Hess, Farmersville*
Donna Jenkins, Vice Chair
Diann Jones, Anna
Lolisa Laenger, CCHC Emeritus*
Diane Miller, Melissa
Kim Peat, Anna
Janice Quick, Film Preservation
Paula Ross, Chair
Jan Samuels, Fairview
Justin Simmons, Plano*
Jan Thatcher, Secretary
Marianne Wells, State Markers, Cemeteries
Jane Yancey, Plano
Jennifer Rogers, Liaison
Judy Florence, Liaison*

*Absent

Call to Order: 6:32 pm

Welcome Guests: Jennifer Rogers, our new liaison.

Public Comments: Thank you Janice Quick for dinner.

Farmersville will have a "Night at the Museum" Benefit Gala November 2, 2019 at the Onion Shed. Doors open at 6 pm. Tickets are \$35.

Our own Diane Miller was part of the 2019 Texas Family Land Heritage Program held at the Texas State Capitol on October 30, 2019. The Texas Department of Agriculture's Family Land Heritage Program honors families who have owned and operated a continuous agriculture operation for 100 years or more. Congratulations, Diane.

Chris Krupa-Downs reminds us to vote on Tuesday, November 5th and vote "Yes" for Amendment #5, which earmarks the sales tax from sporting good sales to benefit the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Collin County Genealogy Society meets the second Wednesday of every month, 6:30 pm at the Haggard Library in Plano. The next meeting is Wednesday, November 13. Guest speaker is Ari Wilkins, genealogist and library associate with the Dallas Public Library, speaking on "Funeral Home Collections."

The Collin County History Museum and Society will host a Veterans Day event on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 6:30. Demand was so high, a second date was added and will be held Monday, November 18.

Alfred Arias has a group of 20 men that are willing to help clean up after the tornado and is looking for an organization that needs the help. Joy Gough suggested Young Cemetery.

We are losing Becky Airhart-Smith, Chris Krupa-Downs, Lolisa Laenger and Janice Quick as of December 31, 2019. Please encourage anyone who is interested in history to please apply to the Historical Commission.

Our county liaison, Jennifer Rogers, will take on the duty of updating and printing the CCHC brochure from Eric Nishimoto, her predecessor. Jennifer will make the few changes requested and will send it out for approval.

Our last meeting for 2019 will be held on Thursday, December 5th.

Minutes and Roll: The minutes were accepted with corrections. Total hours for the month: 459

Treasurer's Report/Financials: The Finance Committee Budget for 2019-20 is as follows:

Grants: \$25,000; Emergency Grants: \$1000

Awards: \$400

Cruise: \$1800

Film Preservation: \$475

County Markers: \$5925

State Markers: \$7600

Preservation Celebration: \$3500

Educational Programs: \$200

Workshops: \$700

Marketing Brochure: \$500

Cemeteries: \$465

Historic Assets Survey: \$100

Meeting Places: \$1135

Memberships: \$500

Commission Conference: \$600

The budget was approved.

Committee Reports:

Grants: Kim Peat representing the Anna Area Historical Society (AAHS) presented the AAHS final report for the \$500 grant awarded. The grant funds helped finish the interior of the Anna Train Depot.

The date for the 2020 grant mandatory meeting has been moved to Monday, February 17, 2020. The change is to accommodate the county's fiscal year. Email notices stating the date change will be sent out in November.

There was a request for an emergency grant from the Young Cemetery. The Dallas area was hit by 10 tornadoes on Sunday October 20. The Young Cemetery sustained severe tree damage, damage to the fence and damaged headstones. Branch removal and clean-up is necessary to determine the full extent of the damage to the cemetery.

State Markers: *Saigling House*-Marianne Wells is working on what she hopes will be the final revisions to the inscription.

Production of Markers-There is still no announcement on a new foundry for manufacturing state markers.

Marker Restoration-Marianne and committee have supplies and will be working with the John Abston Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) to restore the marker in the Old Settlers Park in east McKinney this Sunday.

Cemeteries: *Bethlehem (Farmersville)*-the Texas Historical Commission (THC) questioned whether the property to the right of the church might have been an early burial ground. Marianne drove by and thinks not.

Brinlee (Anna)-With Jane Yancey, Marianne returned to the cemetery to measure the area to the north of the cemetery where the landowner took down the fence and buried his wife. The THC thinks that this area may make up the shortfall in square footage between the deed and the fenced area of the cemetery.

Cannon (Melissa)-The release of liability with the landowner's approval has been sent on to the Sheriff's Department for scheduling inmates to clear the area around the graves.

Chapman (Farmersville)- Jane and Marianne went to this cemetery north of Farmersville to see if they could locate wooden stakes outside the cemetery fence to the north. Marianne received a call that the stakes were known locally to mark the graves of African Americans. The area was so overgrown that

they did not attempt to go in. They did not see any stakes but alerted the THC. The THC will make a note in their database that there is a high probability there are graves outside the fence.

Clear Lake (south of Princeton)-The Lake Lavon Cleanup Group has announced on their Facebook page that they will be cleaning up the cemetery. No date has been set.

Coffman (Anna)-Marianne drove by to look at the marker that is tilting. She has requested Road & Bridge straighten it, before it is restored.

Kennedy (Lowry Crossing)-There is no visible road to access this cemetery. The parcel which borders the cemetery on the north and east is very overgrown and not passable in a vehicle. Marianne sent a registered letter to the landowner to the south of the cemetery asking permission to cross his land. He agreed but would require walking a half mile and suggested Marianne talk with the realtor who has the property to the east listed for sale since it may be more drivable. Contacting multiple landowners is a slow process. She will continue to investigate alternatives.

League Cemetery and nearby Indian Burial Ground (east of Anna)-Marianne drove by the League Cemetery on CR 424. It is very close to the road and fenced but not maintained. About $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east on 424 on the east bank of Sister Grove Creek, locals have said there are Indian graves.

Young (Plano)-The tenth tornado identified in last week's storm damaged the cemetery, its fence on two sides and at least one of the stones. Damaged limbs are still hanging from the trees making work in the cemetery dangerous until removed. The cemetery association is applying for an emergency grant.

County Markers: the Cowskin Community marker is in and awaits placement instructions from Linda Hess.

Liberty Church marker for Mantua is waiting on a road issue to be resolved before it will be installed. There is a question as to where the road will be.

Educational Programs: Donna Jenkins and Diann Jones have decided to try to use parts of "Carry Along Collin" this summer. They also will continue to talk with college classes about the CCHC.

Communications: Twitter has 442 followers with the most popular tweet regarding Ariel Club (Denton TX), read 180 times and shared 14 times. Facebook has 231 followers. The most popular post was the Saturday at the Museum post for the Frisco Heritage Museum with 320 views and shared 66 times. Other information: 77% of our followers have shared at least one of our posts outside of Collin County. 40% of our followers are active at least once a day on social media and our worst demographic is males 18-44 with only 11%.

Throughout the month November, Churches of Collin County will be highlighted. In December, Christmas in Collin County, highlighting events of the past and will include Thanksgiving and New Year's also.

If there are any events to be posted to FaceBook or Twitter, please pass along to Alfred Arias and he will see that they are posted. Alfred's goal is to have 1000 FaceBook and Twitter followers.

Tax Abatement: Last month letters were sent out. Ten came back which were addressed to an individual. Of those ten, only one was returned when readdressed to the address.

There are 5 new additions to the tax abatement list. All are in McKinney. Checklists were distributed to volunteers who were willing to drive around and inspect the addresses. The Appraisal District wants the information before March and needs to go through the Commissioners Court process prior to the Appraisal Districts process.

Historic Assets Survey: Donna Jenkins and committee continue to research and will hopefully have something to show next month. Joy Gough continues to work with Bret Fenster to correct information omitted the last time the website was updated.

Workshops: Paula Ross has three goals for this year. She would like to contact Stacy Kemp for a meeting to discuss a workshop on researching county records. Paula will contact the Texas Department of Highways for a possible workshop. She learned they work with the Texas Historical Commission on issues and might be a good source of information. And in June, Paula would like to host a workshop with all surrounding county historical societies to share information, much like our Quarterly Coalition meetings. She is also open to suggestions from anyone.

Film Preservation: There is a need for a chair on this committee. Present members are willing to remain but not to chair the committee.

Speaker's Bureau: Justin Simmons was named Chair.

Adjourn: 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Thatcher, Secretary