

Calhoun County Historical Commission
Regular Meeting of August 13, 2013
6:30-8:00 p.m. at Calhoun County Public Library
200 W. Mahan, Port Lavaca, Texas

Minutes of the Secretary

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Mary Belle Meitzen at 6:30 p.m. John Kassner, Sergeant-at-Arms, verified that there was a quorum present.

Invocation:

The invocation was given by Avril Sassman.

Pledges to the Flags:

John Kassner, Sergeant-at-Arms/Parliamentarian, and Chairman Meitzen led the pledges to the United States and Texas flags.

Quorum:

John Kassner certified that there was a quorum present. According to the Secretary's sign-in log, those in attendance were as follows: Jody Brett, George Anne Cormier, John Kassner, Steve Koch, Nelson Marek, John Meitzen, Mary Belle Meitzen, Gary Ralston, Avril Sassman, Debbie Stovall, Phil Thomae, Sue Thomae.

Order of Business:

Chairman Meitzen presented the agenda for the meeting, as posted on the Calhoun County Courthouse website. There were no objections or corrections and the agenda was followed.

Approval of the Minutes of May 14, 2013:

Secretary Sue Thomae read the minutes of the last meeting since they had not been posted on the website: www.calhouncountyhc.org. The minutes were approved as read by the secretary.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Phil Thomae stated the treasurer's report was posted on the CCHC website. No objections were raised, and the report as posted was accepted.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee met on June 25th. The Commission Chair

presented the 2014 budget request from the CCHC to the Commissioners Court on July 10, 2013. According to the Budget Department Worksheet presented by the Chair, the amounts requested was as follows: \$1.00 for Acct. #61280, \$1.00 for Acct. #63470, \$4,000 for Acct. #63920, and \$1,900 for Acct. #70750.

In addition, the Commission Chair reported to Commissioners Court that CCHC members had completed 1131 volunteer hours. With a value of \$22.57 per hour, members' contributions amounted to \$25,820.08, a concrete indication of the dedication of the CCHC to the county and proof of the need for support from the Commissioners Court.

In other financial matters, the final bill of sale for the Southern Pacific caboose from the CCHC to the City of Port Lavaca was completed by the Chair, after which it was signed and notarized, before being returned to the City.

Marker Committee:

Chairman Foester reported that the Seadrift marker had been relocated to the depot in Seadrift.

Chairman Foester reported that four markers are scheduled for dedication: the Ed Bell, Master Story Teller; Sgt. William H. Barnes, 38th USCT; Indianola and the Chihuahua Trail; Calhoun County in World War II.

Foester reported that other marker stories were in progress. He sent two of those to the State as candidates for the Undertold Marker recipient in order to qualify for state funding and save the local CCHC money. The German Immigration Through Carlshafen, written by John Foester, was accepted as a 2013 Undertold Marker recipient from a field of 66 applications.

The Marker Committee reported that Gary Ralston had submitted the story for the Battle of Norris Bridge. Also, the Committee is seeking to augment the information on Mission Refugio for submission.

Chairman Foester reported that the dedication for the Ed Bell marker is set for November 23, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. at the Bauer Exhibit Building. Henry Wolff, whose first published writing was on Ed Bell as a folklorist, will be the speaker for the event, which will culminate in the unveiling at the Indianola Bait Camp. Members need to sign up to help with all aspects of the dedication ceremonies. Chairman Meitzen discussed volunteer assignments with commission members for that marker dedication as well as the others to be done soon.

In other Marker Committee business, Chairman Meitzen reported that she and John Meitzen had attended the THC Marker Workshop in Beeville on June 29, 2013.

Museum Committee:

George Anne Cormier, Committee Chair, reported that she had been in meetings with the THC, the Bob Bullock Museum, and the LaSalle Odyssey museums regarding the items from the museum. The Bob Bullock is taking several pieces from the LaSalle collection but the THC has indicated it will replace those with lesser quality items,

although the Calhoun County Museum will get its own back in four or five years.

Cormier also reported she is reviewing the disposition of the bricks from the old jail/courthouse but does not have a recommendation at this time.

Cormier also reported that the Master Naturalists have been coming to the museum. They have brought some books and a pillowcase from the Wynn Ranch on Matagorda Island; they have also indicated the location of other items which the museum may be able to borrow.

Cormier reported that book sales are going well.

Also, she reported that the museum has been doing bus tours, one of which was a Linnville stop for the Comanche Nation Elders Council from Toyekoyah, Oklahoma.

Cormier invited everyone to the minerals exhibit which commences at the museum in a week from this meeting.

Heritage/Tourism Committee:

Mary Belle Meitzen reported that the CCHC had received a request to support Calhoun County's application to the National Park Service under its Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program to develop a conservation and management plan for Green Lake. As Commission Chair, Meitzen submitted a personal endorsement of the Green Lake Project, since the Commission could not meet in the required time frame in July to formulate a group endorsement.

Also, Chairman Meitzen submitted a personal endorsement in support of the Mid-Coast Naturalists endeavor to obtain the Texas Horned Lizard License Plate Grant in order to garner funding to open the State facilities on the north end of Matagorda Island. The Naturalists would then have provided educational programming and organized public access on Matagorda. Meitzen received notice on August 4, 2013, that the grant was not approved.

In further business of the Heritage/Tourism Committee, the Chair reported that there would be a special dinner, our CCHC Christmas party, on December 10 to observe the Battle of Norris Bridge, at which George Anne will give a special reading. Also, Gary Ralston will present a narrative of the battle. The mayor will provide Confederate flags for the commemoration. Meitzen called for people to volunteer to work on this event and to formulate plans for the event.

History Appreciation:

Debbie Stovall, CCHC member and a librarian at the Calhoun County Public Library, reported that Bet Ison of Minnesota had been doing research on the town of Olivia. Stovall said that she had scheduled a presentation of Ison's pictures of Olivia from the late 1800s and the early 1900s for Thursday, August 15, at 6:00 p.m. at the Library. The program is entitled "Turn of the Century: Olivia, Texas, in Pictures." Members were asked to sign up to bring refreshments for the program.

Also, in History Appreciation matters, Chairman Mary Belle Meitzen and Peggy Dobbins hosted a tour of the Half Moon Reef Lighthouse to 130 third graders from HJM

Elementary School. The students also toured the museum with Director George Anne Cormier and Assistant Buelah Cox, at which time they received the Junior Historian handbook.

In addition, the date for the Archaeology Fair under the direction of Committee Chair Margaret Charnetski will be held October 26, 2013. The Junior Historian handbook will be re-written for 7th graders.

Cemetery Committee: John Kassner stated that there was no report.

Program:

There was no program.

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business.

New Business:

Chairman Meitzen reported that the Calhoun County Historical Commission received the 2012 Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Historical Commission. The CCHC is one of 88 who received the award from the 168 reports submitted. The award will be presented on August 22, 2013, at the Commissioners Court meeting. Every member of the CCHC should be present at that meeting to accept this award.

Commission Input:

- The ice cream social held on July 16, 2013, at the Bayfront Peninsula Park at 7:00 p.m. was enjoyed by all Commission members and their families who attended.
- Possible dates for the dedication marker ceremonies for the markers received were discussed with no determinations set at this time.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the CCHC will be October 8, 2013, at the Calhoun County Public Library.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 7:30 p.m., there being no objection.