

**Calhoun County Historical Commission**  
Regular Meeting of March 19, 2013: 6:30-8:00  
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 Chairman Mary Belle Meitzen at 6:30 p.m. Twenty members were present, meeting the requirement of 10 for a quorum. Members present were as follows: Joe D. Brett, Margaret Charnetski, Michael D. Clay, George A. Cormier, Buelah Cox, John Foester, John Kassner, Robert Loflin, John Meitzen, Mary Belle Meitzen, Joe L. Mireles, Myrtle Montier, Joe R. Peña, Rose E. Peña, Gary Ralston, Avril Sassman, Tommy Schulte, Walter Spiller, Phil Thomae, and Sue Thomae. [The sign-in sheet is available from the Secretary.] There was one visitor: Jim Ward.

**Invocation:**

The invocation was given by Avril Sassman.

**Pledges of Allegiance:**

The pledges of allegiance to the United States and the Texas flags were led by Sergeant-at-Arms/Parliamentarian John Kassner.

**Approval of the Minutes of the February 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

Secretary Sue Thomae stated that the minutes of the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were posted on the Calhoun County Historical Commission website. There being no additions or corrections, the minutes were accepted as posted.

**Approval of the Treasurer's Report:**

The report from the Treasurer Phil Thomae was approved as posted on the CCHC website, there being no additions or corrections.

**Standing Committees Reports:**

1. **Caboose:** Phil Thomae, Treasurer, reported that he had presented the key to the caboose to Mayor Jack Whitlow at the regular meeting of the Port Lavaca City Council on March 11, 2013, completing the transaction of donating the caboose to the City. The caboose, designated as SP 4006, was originally donated to the CCHC by the Southern Pacific Transportation Company on January 30, 1986, and accepted by then Chairman George Fred Rhodes on June 30, 1986.
2. **Marker Committee:** John Foester, Committee Chair, reported the 2012 markers now at the foundry which should ship in April are as follows: Calhoun County Participation

During World War II, Ed Bell, Sgt. William Henry Barnes, The Chihuahua Road.

Foester also reported that the 2013 markers which were approved in 2012 and which have been paid in full are as follows: The Great Camel Experiment, Port O'Connor Cemetery, Howard Gallemore Hartzog, Sr., Don Martin De Leon, Sunlight Girls Club, Dr. Edward Fred Knipling.

Foester also reported that the next application period for historical markers would be September 1-November 15, 2013, but that the research process should begin now. Also, the undertold markers call for candidates will be from May 1 through June 15, 2013. Applications forms are available from the THC website. [The Marker Committee Report is posted as an attachment on the CCHC website.]

3. **Cemetery Committee:** Chair John Kassner reported that the Cemetery Committee would meet on March 21, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. in the meeting room of the Calhoun County Public Library.
4. **Museum:** George Anne Cormier, Museum Director, reported that her book, Images of America: Calhoun County has been published and is available now. Cormier stated that there would be a book signing on March 20, 2013, at the museum. Cormier listed places in the county and surrounding areas where the book could be purchased.

#### **Committee Organization for County Historical Commissions:**

Chairman Mary Belle Meitzen discussed the THC committee organization as listed in the Texas Preservation Handbook. In a PowerPoint presentation, Chairman Meitzen listed the aims and activities of the committees the CCHC will have during the 2013-2014 term.

Those committees are as follows: Archaeology, Archives/Photography, Cemetery, Endangered Properties, Heritage Tourism, History Appreciation, Markers, Oral History. Members were urged to select a committee and sign up to work.

#### **Recognition of Historical Heritage Group:**

Chairman Meitzen said that the CCHC had presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Seadrift Centennial Committee on the occasion of their celebration of Seadrift's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on February 18, 2013.

#### **Requests from Non-Profit Organizations for CCHC Funds:**

1. **Explanation of Requirements:** Treasurer Phil Thomae explained the requirements that must be met by any organization requesting funds from the CCHC since it is a county agency. Those requirements must be met prior to the submission of any such requests for donations. Thomae presented a PowerPoint that explained those requirements as delineated by the County Auditor, Cindy Mueller. He pointed out that the CCHC

operates through the County Auditor and the Commissioners. Rose Peña and Joe Mireles requested printed copies of this communication from Mueller.

- 2. Rose Peña's Request for Funds from the CCHC:** Rose Peña requested \$2,000 from the CCHC for the Calhoun County Cultures and Cuisines Committee for its March 16 celebration of the diverse culture of the county. The Treasurer explained that the CCHC pays only from invoice, not from a request for a donation. Also, the requesting organization needs to execute the interlocal agreement as outlined in the Auditor's explanation of the necessary procedures for an organization claiming 501(c)(3) status, as well as providing a line item analysis of the costs of the project.

Peña stated that the Calhoun County Cultures and Cuisine Committee operates under the auspices of the Port Lavaca Main Street Inc. which has 501(c)(3) status. Peña then moved that the CCHC allocate \$2,000 to the CCHC. The motion was deemed premature without the line item information and an interlocal agreement required by the procedures as outlined by the Auditor. The request was tabled and will be made an item of old business at the next meeting. Peña withdrew the motion.

Rose Peña stated that she and Joe Peña would prepare all the required information and data to support the request for funds by the CCHC and that material would be provided to Chairman Meitzen two weeks prior to the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Request for a New Election of Officers:**

Parliamentarian John Kassner explained the points of order regarding the conduct of a vote. He stated that a point of order must be raised immediately following the announcement of the voting results and before another matter has been introduced. The reference for this point is *Roberts Rules of Order*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition, page 251.

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, the election of officers was announced and there was no immediate objection, i.e., a call for a division. The elected officers took their places immediately following their election, as prescribed in the CCHC bylaws. The CCHC Chairman was appointed by the Commissioners Court and the officers' names were approved at the same meeting, January 24, 2013.

Rose Peña requested that her letter as presented to the CCHC on February 12, 2013, objecting to the procedure of the election of officers at the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting be read aloud. Secretary Sue Thomae complied with that request. [The letter is posted under the minutes of January 8, 2013, as an attachment.]

Chairman Meitzen ruled that Rose Peña's request for overturning the election of officers was out of order and the election stands.

#### **Commission Input:**

Rose Peña asked if members of the CCHC had been notified individually of their election to the Commission. The answer was that the Secretary had sent a list of the members to the full Commission, as well as posting the list on the CCHC website and submitting it to the County Judge.

Peña then asked for an explanation of the procedure to be followed in the event a member withdraws from the Commission. There is no provision in the bylaws for replacing members within the current term. Members are elected in January of odd-numbered years for a two-year term.

Michael Clay brought up the role of re-enactments as a valuable part of history appreciation and his own participation in such activities, such as role-playing as one of the Buffalo Soldiers.

Joe Mireles read an e-mail from José Antonio Lopez, writer and participant in the March 16<sup>th</sup> celebration by the Calhoun County Cultures and Cuisines Committee. In his e-mail, Lopez objected to a curriculum guide for Texas history which emphasizes the role of Anglos in events such as those of 1836 while minimizing or ignoring the contributions of the Spanish-Mexican settlers whose arrival in Texas was much earlier and whose achievements were varied and lasting.

Mireles mentioned that there would be a conference in May celebrating the role of Tejanos in Texas history. Chairman Meitzen asked that he bring more information to the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:**

The CCHC will have its next general meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup> in the meeting room of the Calhoun County Public Library.

**Adjournment:**

Phil Thomae moved that the meeting be adjourned, with Joe D. Brett seconding. The motion was approved on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sue Thomae, Secretary