

Calhoun County Historical Commission
Regular Meeting of January 14, 2014
6:30-8:00 p.m. at Calhoun County Library
200 W. Mahan, Port Lavaca, Texas

Minutes of the Secretary

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by CCHC Chair Mary Belle Meitzen.

Invocation:

The invocation was given by John Kassner.

Pledges to the Flags:

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

Quorum:

John Kassner certified that there was a quorum present. Those in attendance were as follows:

John Foester	John Kassner	Steve Koch	John Meitzen
Mary Belle Meitzen	Jim Munro	Gary Ralston	Walter Spiller
Tommy Schulte	Phil Thomae	Sue Thomae	

Order of Business: The agenda as posted at the Courthouse and on the website was adopted, there being no objection.

Approval of the Minutes of October 8, 2013:

Secretary Sue Thomae stated that the minutes of the meeting of October 8, 2013, were posted on the CCHC website: www.calhouncountyhc.org. The minutes were approved as posted, there being no corrections or additions.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Phil Thomae reported that the treasurer's report was posted on the CCHC website. There being no corrections or additions, the report was accepted as posted.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Marker Committee: John Foester, Chairman, presented 4 items for discussion by the Commission. Those matters were as follows:

- **The Sergeant William Barnes Marker.** The marker for Sgt. Barnes will be dedicated in a joint program with the Juneteenth Celebration on June 21, 2014. Chair Meitzen discussed those arrangements with the Juneteenth Committee so that the presentation could be part of the general celebration.
- **The World War II Marker.** The dedication of this marker will be part of the Memorial Day celebration which is an annual presentation done jointly by the military organizations of Calhoun County. The date of that observance is May 31, 2014.
- **The Chihuahua Trail Marker.** Chair Meitzen stated that the marker is already set up at the cistern at Indianola. Jim Munro moved that the marker dedication be held on July 12, 2012; Gary Ralston seconded and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.
- **The Ed Bell Marker.** Chairman Foester reported that the Ed Bell marker was damaged in December when a car backed into it. Marty Strakos repaired the marker free of charge.

Cemetery Committee: Chairman John Kassner reported the following:

- A grave marker sign had been attached to fence around Little Mary's grave.
- Clean-up around the Linnville marker and the camel statue had been done.
- The committee had helped with installing the Ed Bell marker at Indianola, as well as assisting in setting up the facilities at the Bauer Exhibit Building for the dedication.
- Jody Brett, Gary Ralston, John Foester, and John Kassner had spent 4 hours cleaning up the Stiernberg cemetery.
- In a related discussion, Chair Meitzen stated that the deed research for Little Mary's grave is still in progress.

Web Site: Gary Ralston discussed the current activity on the website. He has updated pictures on the site. Also, the site has had 546 unique visitors, 829 visits, and 2729 page views.

Bricks from the Old Jail: Tommy Schulte reported that Formosa had donated 35 plastic pallets for use in transporting the bricks removed from the demolition of the old jail from their present location at the dump to Russell Cain's warehouse. Plans called for inmates from the jail to be provided by the Sheriff; these inmates would stack the bricks for removal by the crew supplied by Vern Lyssy, County Commissioner. Jan Regan and Mary Belle Meitzen would designate those bricks suitable for transfer. The date of the transfer was set for Wednesday, January 15, at 9:00 a.m.

Museum Committee: Mary Belle Meitzen, Chair CCHC, reported that she and George Anne Cormier, curator of the museum, had discussed the need for updating the oral history archives at the museum.

Old Business:

Chairman Meitzen reviewed the following projects of the Commission:

- The Indianola Home Tour, prepared by Joe Brett, has been moved to the web site.

- Meitzen has completed the Texas Historical Commission End-of-Year Report which included, along with a detailed examination of Commission activities, the listing of endangered properties; identifying the historic resources in Calhoun County that have been demolished, focusing on the Grace Montier Rogers home; and the identification of Alice O. Wilkins as a Rosenwald School, schools established by Julius Rosenwald, one of the founders of Sears Roebuck and Co., for the education of the children who were the descendants of slaves.
- Meitzen has completed the Calhoun County End-of-Year Report, which will be presented to the Commissioners Court at 10:00 a.m. on February 11, 2014.

New Business:

The CCHC considered the following projects for 2014:

- **Sculpture**: Gary Ralston detailed the proposal to commission a silhouette similar to the camel one at Indianola. The sculpture would depict an artillery battery to commemorate the bombardment of Fort Lavaca during the Civil War. The cost of the sculpture would be approximately \$3,600. Because the site is located on city property, it was proposed that a committee be appointed to discuss the project with Bob Turner, city manager, to find a suitable location as well as possible sharing of funding. Phil Thomae and Gary Ralston were appointed by the Chair to act as that liaison.
- **Historical Scavenger Hunt**: John Foester presented a proposal for a historical scavenger hunt that would teach kids the local history of Calhoun County. Such an activity would encourage parents and kids to work together, and it would encourage people to explore local historical sites. Foester presented examples of the clues that could be published. He also discussed the various aspects of the composition of the scavenger hunt, as well as incentives, such as offering prizes for solving the clues and winning the hunt. John Kassner made the motion that the Commission undertake the historical scavenger hunt, with Jim Munro offering a second; the motion was approved on a unanimous voice vote. A committee consisting of the following commission members was appointed to develop the idea: Jim Munro, John Kassner, Gary Ralston, and Mary Belle Meitzen

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the CCHC will be Calhoun County Public Library on February 11, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. The program at that time will be a presentation by Tommy Schulte on GBRA's Texas Heritage Trail program detailing German immigration.

Submitted by the Secretary, Sue Thomae

Sue Thomae

Calhoun County Historical Commission