

**Calhoun County Historical Commission**  
Regular Meeting of September 9, 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 Mary Belle Meitzen, Chair, at 6:30 p.m.

**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:

Jody Brett	Steve Koch	Mary Belle Meitzen
George Anne Cormier	Robert Loflin	Gary Ralston
John Foester	Nelson Marek	Phil Thomae
John Kassner	John Meitzen	Sue Thomae

**Announcement of the Order of Business:** The agenda as posted at the Courthouse and on the website was adopted, there being no objection. In addition, members enjoyed ice cream and cookies during the meeting, courtesy the Chair.

**Approval of the Minutes of July 1, 2014:**

Secretary Sue Thomae stated that the minutes of the meeting of July 1, 2014, were posted on the CCHC website: [www.calhouncountyhc.org](http://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:**

**Lighthouse Repair:** Treasurer Thomaie reported that the Half Moon Reef Lighthouse needs painting of the exterior surfaces, i.e., the exterior walls and the roof. At present he is working on a bid package because of the Chair's request that two bids be solicited. That package requires specifications which have to be developed.

Steve Koch moved that we proceed with the painting; Gary Ralston seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Calhoun County Fair Booth:** Phil Thomaie presented an 8x10 proof of his design for the banner to be placed in the booth. He stated that the cost would be \$135, higher than last year's because of custom dimensions to fit the format of the fair booth. George Anne Cormier moved that the Commission approved the project at the stated cost; Robert Loflin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**Calhoun County Fair Parade/Veterans Parade:** Joe Brett is not able to attend the Calhoun County Fair Parade this year, so the Commission will have no entry in the parade. Joe will be able to drive in the Christmas parade.

**Lavaca Bay Silhouette:** Gary Ralston reported that the silhouette is now being stored at the city barn on George Street, awaiting legs and installation by the City.

**Museum/Texas Archaeology Month:** George Anne Cormier reported that she has been preparing exhibits, including one of a turn-of-the-century kitchen including such activities as making butter and another featuring the work of a blacksmith. These activities will be presented on successive Saturdays during the month of October, which is Texas Archaeology Month.

Also, Cormier will be interviewed for the "Daytripper" series on PBS.

**Markers/Dedications:**

1. **Hartzog Marker:** The Hartzog marker has not yet arrived, but plans are to dedicate it on October 25. Jerry Patterson is the proposed speaker, pending confirmation from his office of his availability. Russell Cain has volunteered to contact people and to do a luncheon with Liz Rudellat catering at the Episcopal Church. Mary Belle Meitzen is working on invitations to the dedication which is set for Courtroom A on the second floor of the courthouse. John Kassner, author of the Hartzog Marker, stated that 400 pages of historical data relating to Judge Hartzog will be displayed. In addition, the Museum's Hartzog Exhibit will form part of the dedication ceremony.

2. **Indianola Diorama:** The sign formerly placed at the cistern blew down and now resides at Commissioner Galvan's office. The Commission proposes to make the sign more stable or re-do it if necessary. Steve Koch suggested that the Commission wait until the kiosk at Magnolia Beach is finished and possibly place it there.

3. **William Barnes:** Mary Belle reported that the CCHC had received a letter of thank you from the Calhoun County Citizens in Action Committee for the Commission's actions in

placing the marker and participating in its dedication at the Juneteenth Celebration.

4. Ed Bell Marker: The marker was re-installed by Clay Brett, Jody Brett, Steve Koch, and John Foester on July 15th.

5. Chihuahua Trail: The CCHC received a letter of thank-you from Vickie Schism on behalf of her group dedicated to the mapping of the Trail.

6. Port O'Connor Marker: The CCHC will attend the POC Cemetery Association meeting to discuss participation by the Association in planning the dedication of the marker. The marker is presently located at Commissioner Finster's office. Mary Belle has contacted Bob Allen and Shirley Harper.

7. De Leon Marker: John Foester met with Vern Lyssy, Precinct 2 Commissioner, to discuss placing the marker at Six Mile Park, after the building of a concrete base for the marker.

8. Camels Marker: The marker was installed by Gary Ralston and John Foester on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Foester reported that the dedication ceremony for the marker needs to be set up.

9. Sunlight Girls Club: The marker is presently stored at the Museum. Chairman Meitzen will seek help from the Calhoun County CIA in installing and dedicating the marker at the Wilkins School location.

10. New Markers: Stories for new markers must be submitted during the September 1-November 15 window.

**Cemetery Committee**: John Kassner, Chair, reported that the Blardone tombstone has been given to Patrick Ryan, representative of the family, to care for.

**TxDot Mitigation**: Jim and Linda Munro were named the CCHC representatives to the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in Galveston to discuss the preservation of significant causeways in Texas. No report was received.

**Magnolia Beach Kiosk**: Steve Koch reported that work on the kiosk is ongoing at this time.

#### **Facebook Page:**

Nelson Marek moved and Steve Koch seconded the proposal that Gary Ralston set up a Facebook page for the Commission. As evidenced by Gary's Indianola page and the Museum's page, the content makes the information about the CCHC accessible and current.

#### **Additional Committee Reports:**

(1) Mary Belle reported on communication from the THC, i.e., the new program specialist, urging the CCHC's cooperation with county officials in featuring their participation. She replied to the communication, stressing the CCHC's role in educating county commissioners and city officials in the Commission's projects of preserving Calhoun County history.

(2) George Anne reported that, on Labor Day, at the Museum, members of the Texas Camel Corps, headed by Doug Baum, visited. This visit with the Camel Corps and participants in the History America tour tracing the route of the camels through Texas resulted in the donation of

\$25 from the group. Doug Baum's Facebook page featured that visit to the county.  
(3) Meitzen reported that the Matagorda Island lighthouse is being re-painted by the group dedicated to that project; the CCHC has not been contacted by the group, Friends of the Matagorda Lighthouse, about this project.  
(4) Mary Belle reported Gary Ralston's been contacted by the Texas Historic Tree Initiative which will document the historic trees in the state. Jody Brett was appointed the CCHC representative to investigate the possibility of such trees in Calhoun County, along with a committee composed of Clay Brett, Mary Belle Meitzen, and John Foester.

**Old Business:** None.

**Commission Input:**

1. The CCHC's permanent mailing address is 202 S. Ann, Suite A, where a mailbox will be located. Also, any materials needed by the CCHC can be generated in the Judge's office.
2. The CCHC was granted the entire amount requested in its presentation to the Commissioners, after the Commissioners' meeting attended by CCHC members. The details are on the CCHC website.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. by the Chair.

**Next Meeting:**

- The next meeting of the CCHC will be October 14.
- The dedication of the Hartzog marker will be October 25.

**Submitted by the Secretary, Sue Thomae**



Calhoun County Historical Commission