

**Calhoun County Historical Commission**  
Regular Meeting of November 11, 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 at 6:30 p.m.

**Invocation:**

The invocation was given by Jim Munro.

**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	Nelson Marek	Jim Munro	Sue Thomae
John Kassner	John Meitzen	Avril Sassman	
Steve Koch	Mary Belle Meitzen	Phil Thomae	

**Announcement of the 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 14, 2014:**

Secretary Sue Thomae stated that the minutes of the meeting of October 14, 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, as well as being distributed to members via e-mail. There being no corrections or additions, the report was accepted as posted.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

**1. Dedication/Transfer of the Artillery Silhouette:**

- The dedication and transfer of the artillery silhouette will be Saturday, November 22, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. at the Bayfront Peninsula Park. The Chair stated that the Texas Dixie Grays, a Civil War re-enacting group, will participate in the ceremony, bringing a cannon of the Civil War era, which they will fire as part of the ceremony. Gary Ralston, Vice-Chair, has been working with the group to finalize plans. The City of Port Lavaca will handle the set-up at the Bayfront Park, including chairs and sound system. CCHC members will help with registration and handing out programs.
- Chairman Meitzen stated that she and others would be dressed in period costume and asked that CCHC members also do so, especially emulating the Home Guard attire, i.e., dressing like those who were not able to serve actively in the Confederate army.
- Mary Belle also reported on the publicity for the event, which included alerts on websites, such as that of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, contacts with area newspapers, and an appearance of Phil Thomae's photograph of the silhouette as part of the KAVU-TV broadcast with Trey Meynig on the morning broadcast.
- Also, the program will include welcomes by Chairman Meitzen and Port Lavaca Mayor Jack Whitlow, as well as an address by City Manager Bob Turner on the transfer of ownership of the silhouette to the City and the cooperation of the City and the Commission in locating the silhouette on the peninsula. Gary Ralston will then speak on the history of the 1862 event which inspired the silhouette.
- Plans are to then adjourn to Texas Traditions for lunch.

**2. Appreciation to the Trull Foundation:** Chairman Meitzen reported that a letter of appreciation had been sent to the Trull Foundation for their grant of \$1,000 to help defray the cost of the silhouette.

**3. Marker Story for the Original Site of Mission Refugio:** John Foester reported that he had completed a draft of the marker story for the original site of Mission Refugio and sent that draft to members for their perusal. The marker story will then be submitted to the THC, the funds for that submission having already been budgeted by the CCHC. Foester reported also that Mission Refugio was built in 1793 to Christianize the Karankawa Indians and was the last Spanish mission built in Texas. The mission was subsequently re-located to Refugio. Foester recommended that the marker story be submitted and the recommendation was accepted unanimously.

**4. Museum Report:** In the absence of George Anne Cormier, Museum Director, Chairman Meitzen reported the following:

- The museum hosted 25 docents from the Fulton Mansion.
- Members of the French delegation and the Bob Bullock Museum in Austin

- will visit the museum on November 20<sup>th</sup> to view the La Salle artifacts.
- Port Lavaca will be featured again on the repeat of the “Day Tripper” segment of PBS on November 20 at 3:30 p.m.
  - Cormier has requested that CCHC members help with the display of the Singer exhibit at the dedication of the silhouette on November 22.
  - Gary Ralston and George Anne Cormier were interviewed as part of the Texas River Heritage Tour sponsored by the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

**5. Cemetery Committee Report:** John Kassner, Chair, reported that his committee would be making a tour of the Gladney Cemetery, the only black cemetery in Calhoun County, in the next few weeks when Joe D. Brett is available. The cemetery is located in the Long Mott area.

**6. Green Lake Project:** Mary Belle reminded the CCHC that public hearings would be held on November 17<sup>th</sup> at Seadrift and November 18<sup>th</sup> at the Bauer Exhibit Building to hear input on the development of the Green Lake area. Meitzen urged members to attend to give ideas on the elements necessary for that development, including the historical aspect.

**7. Texas Historic Tree Initiative:** Joe D. Brett will be talking with CCHC members and others on selecting a Calhoun County tree to be submitted to this initiative. Numerous trees were mentioned as worthy candidates. John Foester suggested a posting on the Facebook page to advertise for suggestions.

**8. Magnolia Beach Kiosk:** The Chair reported that the Executive Committee had discussed the display on the kiosk and had decided to feature pictures of the historical markers at Indianola in that display. The medium suggested by Phil Thomae, who will take the pictures, was to print the pictures on vinyl banners and cover the display with plexiglas. The expenditure for this project has already been approved at a previous meeting so no motion was necessary. Phil will complete the project in the next few weeks.

**9. Request for Historical Materials:** Chairman Meitzen has received a request for historical materials from the students at Goff Junior High in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. She reported that she is in the process of gathering those materials for the students.

**Old Business:**

1. Chairman Meitzen reminded the members that the process of signifying a desire to serve on the Commission is occurring right now and members need to indicate their

- willingness to serve another term.
2. Meitzen also reminded members that the November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting is the last business one for the year, but that an agenda for the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting would enable members to qualify for service hours. The Secretary has determined that the CCHC members have accumulated 5 more service hours this year than members had accumulated at this same point in 2013. Chairman Meitzen congratulated the members on their good work at reporting service hours, a necessary component qualifying a commission for the distinguished service award from the Texas Historical Commission.

**New Business:**

In accordance with the bylaws governing the CCHC [“Officers” in Article V, Section 2], the Chairman appointed Sue Thomae, Chair, Avril Sassman, and Joe D. Brett to a Nominating Committee to select officers for the 2015-2016 term.

**Commission Input:**

The CCHC Christmas Party will be December 9, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bauer Exhibit Building. The theme for the party will be the First German Christmas in Texas. Invitations will be sent to all the Commissioners of Calhoun County. An award of recognition will be given to Russell Cain for all his help to the CCHC during the year. Plans for the food and the decorations were made with members volunteering to bring various items.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the CCHC will be December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014, for a Christmas party at the Bauer Exhibit Building. Members are urged to complete reporting of service hours before December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Submitted by the Secretary, Sue Thomae**

*Sue Thomae*

Calhoun County Historical Commission