

**Calhoun County Historical Commission**  
Regular Meeting of October 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 at 6:30 p.m.

**Invocation:**

The invocation was given by Avril Sassman.

**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:

Cliff Baccus	John Meitzen	Avril Sassman	Phil Thomae
John Kassner	Mary Belle Meitzen	Tommy Schulte	Sue Thomae
Steve Koch	Gary Ralston	Walter Spiller	Flo Windham

**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 September 9, 2014:**

Secretary Sue Thomae stated that the minutes of the meeting of September 9, 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. Chairman Meitzen noted that the Daughters of the American Revolution had contributed to the CCHC in honor of Martha Hartzog's father.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

**A. The Texas Historic Tree Initiative:** Joe Brett absent. No report.

**B. Website/Facebook:** Gary Ralston reported that newly established Facebook page had already had 124 “likes.” He stated that the Hartzog marker dedication and the installation of the Civil War battery metal sculpture had generated a great deal of interest. In addition, he reported that the website had garnered 559 users in a one-year period, with 2, 299 page views in that same amount of time.

**C. Museum:** In George Anne Cormier’s absence, Mary Belle reported that the museum had hosted a “Crafts of the Past” workshop in conjunction with Texas Archaeology Day on October 11. Meitzen reminded members that the Museum would be hosting a blacksmithing demonstration by Stone Spear, a practicing blacksmith, on October 18 and members were urged to attend.

**D. Markers:** Mary Belle reported on the progress of the following markers:

1. Sunlight Girls: The marker is in the Museum. The school district will install the marker during the week of October 25 adjacent to the Wilkins School marker. A dedication ceremony will take place in conjunction with the Juneteenth celebration in 2015.
2. Port O’Connor Cemetery: Mary Belle and John Kassner met with the POC Cemetery Association to consult with them on doing a marker dedication.
3. Edward Knipling: The marker is presently located at Commissioner Galvan’s warehouse.
4. Martin de Leon: No work as yet has been done at the Six Mile location of the marker, although a concrete platform is planned.
5. Camels: The dedication is pending, awaiting a visit from the camels. Mary Belle noted that Gwen Salyer had trimmed around the camel sculpture, as well as generally cleaning up the area and applying weed-killer. Ms. Salyer had initiated the clean-up effort and carried it out.
6. Hartzog Marker: The dedication ceremony is set for Saturday, October 25, in the courthouse upstairs at 2:00 p.m. Members discussed the preparations necessary for the ceremony itself, including tasks that needed to be completed on the Friday previous to the dedication. Refreshments will be served at the Museum after the dedication. Meitzen also reported that the Executive Committee had authorized letters of appreciation to Russell Cain for his contributions, as well as to Glenn Hegar, State Senator, for the preparation of a proclamation honoring Hartzog.
7. Marker Stories: Mary Belle reported that there are several marker stories in preparation at this time. Gary Ralston suggested a marker story for Henry Huck, a judge, who in 1844 provided from his own resources help for the German immigrants to the county survive.

**E. Cemetery Committee:** No report.

- F. **Calhoun County Fair Exhibit:** Phil Thomae reported that exhibit had been put up and consisted of both the new banner and the one from last year to detail the accomplishments of the CCHC. The exhibit has been featured on the website.
- G. **Half-Moon Reef Lighthouse:** No report.
- H. **Silhouette:** The metal sculpture of the silhouette of the Civil War battery has been installed at the bayfront. The pouring of the concrete for the silhouette by the City of Port Lavaca will be done soon. Gary Ralston reported that the sculpture is quite impressive in its location.
- I. **Kiosk:** The kiosk at the beach needs repair, reported Steve Koch.
- K. **Green Lake:** Tommy Schulte reported that the county and the grant contractor for funding are seeing public input on the development of the area as a park. Two meetings are scheduled for that input, one at Seadrift School on November 17 and another at the Bauer Exhibit Building on November 18, both beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Also, he reported that there is a survey on the website devoted to the Green Lake project. Members were urged to complete the survey, and Mary Belle asked that CCHC members make suggestions that the area emphasize local history.

In addition, Schulte reported that the help of state agencies such as Texas Parks & Wildlife and GBRA help in the development of the park and in the seeking of funding, since all plans are dependent on getting adequate funding.

### **Membership 2015-2016**

Chairman Meitzen reported that she would be appointing a nominating committee for officers at the November 2014 meeting. She also discussed the process of indicating willingness to serve another term, which would be simpler, instead of having a form completed. Members agreed.

### **Awarding Member Emeritus Status:**

The Executive Committee had discussed the awarding of Member Emeritus status to past CCHC Chairs. Gary Ralston moved that the CCHC award them such status. After discussion, the names of Phil Ellenberger, Cherre Cain, and Larry Nichols were included in the motion. After a discussion of the requirements of Article 3, No. 5, of the bylaws, John Kassner withdrew his second of the motion, and the motion died for lack of a second.

### **Commission Input:**

1. Walter Spiller reported that he is preparing an account of the history of West Main in Port Lavaca. In addition, he reminded that Melvin Rosenbaum, a former teacher at Calhoun High School, has written a memoir of growing up in Calhoun County, entitled Scissortails in the Morning, which spans the Depression and World War II. The county library is planning to have Mr. Rosenbaum down for a book signing.
2. CCHC members were reminded of the Hartzog marker dedication on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, at which Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the General Land Office, will speak. He will be introduced by Judge Mike Pfeifer because of Patterson's help in conservation efforts in Calhoun County.
3. Mary Belle reminded members of the blacksmith demonstration at the Museum on October 18.

**Adjournment:**

There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m. by the Chair.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the CCHC will be November 11, 2014, at the Calhoun County Public Library at 6:30 p.m.

**Submitted by the Secretary, Sue Thomae**

*Sue Thomae*

Calhoun County Historical Commission