

Minutes of the Williamson County Historical Commission

A regular meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held on **Thursday, April 2, 2009**, in the District Courtroom of the Williamson County Courthouse at 710 Main Street in Georgetown, Texas. Chris Dyer served as Chair and Clare Easley, upon request of the Chair, served as secretary. Members in attendance: Clare Easley, Chris Dyer, Nancy Faulkner, Margie Fullen, Ed Lansford, Milton Liese, Marietta Mugford, Laura Sue Smith, Irene Varan, David Voelter, Mervin Walker, Tommy Walker, Elsie Waller, and Wayne Ware. Guests present were John Gurley, David Hollingsworth, Larry Quick, George Meyer and Mike Fowler.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Members Chris Dyer and Margie Fullen noted the following corrections to the March minutes; the location of the meeting room needed to be changed to the Commissioner's Courtroom, in paragraph 4 in the Treasurer's Report drop the word "contribution", under the 5th bullet on item A add "with the WCHC focusing on", under Commissioner Reports and Announcements change Nelma Faulkner to Nelma Wilkinson and drop "with names of all the heroes buried in Texas". Margie Fullen made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Elsie Waller seconded. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

David Voelter gave the Treasurer's report. Fees have been paid for 4 WCHC members to attend the annual Texas Historical Commission preservation conference in Lakeway. Members attending are Laura Sue Smith, Charlene Jordan (Associate), Chris Dyer, and Clare Easley. The report was accepted as information.

Chris Dyer moved **New Business, Item C, Cemetery Map Update**, up on the agenda to accommodate David Hollingsworth's schedule. Hollingsworth reported that he has completed the first draft of the updated cemetery map. Sections of the map were provided to the WCHC membership for review and edits. Hollingsworth asked for the following items to be addressed by the membership; Are the cemeteries in the right place? Are any missing? Hollingsworth asked that feedback be completed within 2 weeks. Comments were made concerning placement of historical marker information on the new map. Dyer recommended that historical marker information was not placed on the cemetery map because there were other resources for this purpose already online. Members were directed to the THC and WCHC websites for historical marker information.

Old Business:

Item A: Wayne Ware reported that he is in the process of including information on all the historical markers in Williamson County cities on the WCHC website at www.williamson-county-historical-commission.org. He is also working with the Round Rock Public library to scan historical photographs.

New Business:

Item A: The WCHC considered the amended by-laws distributed via email to the membership for review two weeks earlier. Some discussion followed. Larry Quick suggested that section 2.01a of the by-laws be amended to read, “*support, whenever possible, the programs of the Texas Historical Commission, and when appropriate, communicate and cooperate with similar organizations in the Central Texas region and adjacent counties.*” A motion was made by Chris Dyer to approve the by-laws with Larry Quick’s suggested additions. Laura Sue Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed to approve the by-laws as amended by a unanimous vote.

Item B: Chris Dyer reported that a check for \$200 would be delivered to the Hopewell Junior Historians at their next regular meeting on Monday, April 6 at 3:30pm. He invited other WCHC members to attend. The Hopewell Junior Historians will use the funding to help provide signage for Union Hill Cemetery. Dyer read the funding request letter from the Junior Historians to the membership. Visitor John Gurley, a Baptist Minister from Norman’s Crossing, who in his spare times restores old cemeteries, was invited to say a few words about his work on Union Hill Cemetery and with the Hopewell Junior Historians. Gurley fascinated the WCHC with his tales of his efforts. He described his first effort, a small neglected cemetery across the road from his church. He met the owner who gave him permission to clean it up and he still maintains it. He has also tended Lord’s Cemetery on Shell Road; Gardener Cemetery behind the Circleville Store; Wilson Springs Cemetery; and continues his work on Union Hill Cemetery. He has been aided by Rockdale Monuments and Almighty Rentals of Georgetown. The WCHC membership commended Gurley for his preservation efforts.

Committee Reports:

Historical Marker Committee: Chris Dyer reported on behalf of the Marker Committee. Dyer stated that all 4 checks for historical marker applications for this round have cleared with the THC. These markers include Easley-Sloan Cemetery, Jarrell, New Town Round Rock, and Shiloh Cemetery. The historical marker dedication for Bear Creek Cemetery (also known as Connell Cemetery) located on CR 201 in Liberty Hill will take place at 10:30am on Saturday, May 2. The public is invited to attend.

Commissioner Reports and Announcements:

Mervin Walker reported that the Jarrell Centennial Celebration will take place Saturday, April 11 in downtown Jarrell. This prompted a discussion concerning the rapid development of Jarrell. Some comments followed including the concern of the potential threat to Jarrell’s remaining historic buildings and some ideas on how the WCHC could help.

There was also much discussion about the set 2:00 meeting time of the monthly WCHC meetings and the need to acquire new WCHC members. In order for members who are not retired to attend WCHC meetings, Dyer suggested the WCHC move the regular meeting time to 5 pm. This raised some concern from some members about driving in heavy traffic. The meeting time was changed to 4:30 for the May meeting in an effort to accommodate the schedules of all members.

A motion to adjourn was made by Laura Sue Smith. Marietta Mugford seconded the motion. The chair called the meeting closed at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by **Clare Easley**