

Minutes of the Williamson County Historical Commission

A regular meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held on **Thursday, August 13, 2009**, in the Conference Room of the Williamson County Courthouse at 710 Main Street in Georgetown, Texas. Chris Dyer served as Chair and Clare Easley served as secretary. Members in attendance: Kandy Dipprey, Chris Dyer, Clare Easley, Margie Fullen, Lou Fullen, Ed Lansford, Milton Liese, Larry Rydell, Laura Sue Smith, Gary Spivey, Elsie Waller, Wayne Ware, George Meyer, P. J. Stevens, and Larry Quick. Guests present: Eunice Hastings representing the Rocky Hollow Cemetery Association.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

The membership welcomed Eunice Hastings, President of the Rocky Hollow Cemetery Association (RHCA). Ms. Hastings thanked the WCHC membership for dedicating \$500 in matching funding to help purchase a replacement marker for the cemetery, and presented the group with a check for \$500 from the RHCA to pay for the balance of the marker. She mentioned that RHCA is in the process of constructing a fence around the cemetery and marking unknown grave with plaques.

Minutes from the July meeting were approved by a motion from Margie Fullen and seconded by Ed Lansford. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Chris Dyer gave the Treasurer's report in Treasurer David Voelter's absence. There was little account activity during the past month except for the purchase of archival folders to re-house the WCHC collection and some donations in memorial of Ed McCann. The report was accepted as information.

Old Business:

Item A: Chris Dyer updated the WCHC membership on the fate of the county books that the WCHC membership, led by George and Barbara Meyer, Irene Varan and Ed Lansford, saved many years ago from being discarded. Dyer thanked these individuals for their role in saving the books and updated the membership that the offices of County Clerk, Tax Assessor and County Surveyor had reclaimed most of the books with plans to eventually take custody of the remainder and preserve them.

Item B: Ed Lansford reported that he is continuing his work of reorganizing the WCHC's historical marker files and re-housing them in acid free folders. Dyer commended Lansford for the countless hours he has dedicated to the project.

New Business:

Item A: Dyer announced that the commissioner's court appointed the following individuals to membership with the WCHC; Larry Quick (member), Patrick "P.J." Stevens (member), George Meyer (member), Rachel Lebowitz (member), and Clare Maxwell (associate member). The group welcomed the new and returning members.

Committee Reports:

Historical Marker Committee: Chris Dyer reported on behalf of the Marker Committee. Application for the Rocky Hollow replacement marker historical marker is underway. The THC will accept applications for new historical markers topics starting Sept. 1, 2009. The THC has also accepted applications generated in Williamson County for two under told marker topics; the Negro Fine Arts School at Southwestern University and the Williamson County KKK Trials. The THC will pay for the production of these markers.

Oral History Committee: The group did not meet last month. J. D. Thomas was recommended as a good potential interview candidate.

Cemetery Committee: Larry Quick mentioned that he is continuing work but progress will be slow until the property tax appraisal appeal period has passed.

Outreach & Membership Committee: Kandy Dipprey reported that the committee met and discussed possible membership fees for WCHC members, the need for the WCHC to raise some funding to be more self-sufficient and an annual social event for members. There was some discussion on if it was permissible for the WCHC to raise funding. Dyer said the group could fundraise, but could not offer donors tax incentives. Dipprey discussed ideas for WCHC sponsored projects for Scout and Junior Historian groups in Williamson County. She referred to the list of endangered cemeteries in Williamson County that David Hollingsworth had compiled last year as potential service projects for these groups. Dipprey urged the membership to recruit new members and stressed the need for more of the current membership to volunteer for the outreach committee. Dyer suggested that each WCHC member should try to bring a non-member guest to the monthly meetings.

Commissioner Reports and Announcements:

Chris Dyer invited all WCHC members to attend the Up the Chisholm Trail event in San Gabriel Park on Sept. 11 & 12.

The chair called the meeting closed at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by **Clare Easley**