

Milam County Historical Commission
Perry Community Building, Rockdale
April 8, 2019 – 10:00 AM

- 1. Call to Order - Welcome/Volunteer Hours**
- 2. Pledge to the U.S. and Texas State Flags**
- 3. Recognition of Hosts and Guest(s)**
- 4. Approval of the February 11, 2019 Minutes**
- 5. Treasurer's Report – John Pruett**
- 6. Committee Reports**
 - a. **Bridge Committee** - Jack Brooks
 1. Date for Bridge Park dedication and Texas Calaboose book signing.
 - b. **Cemetery Committee** - Jack Brooks
 - c. **CLG** – Brenda Pruett
 1. NPS grant - Sergio has submitted a draft of the nomination to the THC and NPS.
 - d. **El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail** – John Pruett
 1. Lynn presented to the DRT Texas History 5th Annual History Symposium on March 2
 2. Report of March 6th MTC meeting
 3. The next MTC meeting will be held May 2 at 10:00 am.
 4. Lynn will present a program to the Comal County Historical Commission in June.
 5. Establish ECR Committee for the MCHC.
 6. The next ELCAT meeting will be April 27
 - d. **Heritage Tourism** – Joan Ratliff
 1. The County Judge would like a plan for increasing heritage tourism
 - e. **Marker Committee** – Lynn Young
 - f. **Preservation Grant Fund** – Holly Jentsch
 1. The City of Rockdale has approved the grants for the Kay Theater, Rockdale Historical Society and Rockdale VFD
 - g. **Public Relations** – Beth Brooks
 - h. Other Committees**
- 7. Old Business:**
 - a. The County Commissioners recognized Geri Burnett, Dolores Mode and Jack Brooks at the January 25th meeting. They also approved the appointment of Elissa Benford-Roberts to the Commission. The Commissioners were pleased to receive framed maps of historic cemeteries in Milam County presented by Jack Brooks.
 - b. Save the Old City Hall (STOCH) – Geri Burnett
 - c. Wallis House Stained Glass - Joan Ratliff
 1. Raffle Tickets due before May 31st
 - d. Courthouse – Lynn
 1. The bids for the emergency grant repairs are due Monday, April 15th.
 - e. Summary of concerns about illegal logging and dumping at Prospect Cemetery
 - f. Other Old Business
- 8. New Business:**
 - a. The MCHC was honored as the Organization of the Year at the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce meeting.
 - b. Welcome Curah Beard, Rockdale Marketing Director
 - c. Preservation Texas legislative update
<http://www.preservationtexas.org/advocacy-april1st/>
- 9. Other New Business**
- 10. Announcements:**

- a. MCHC will host the First Friday coffee October 4th, 2019
- b. Future meeting dates:
 - o June 10 – Sts. Cyril & Methodius (Roman Catholic) Church of Marak
 - o August 12 - St. John United Methodist Church, Rockdale
 - o October 14 – First Baptist Church, Cameron
 - o December 9 or 16 – San Gabriel Baptist Church

10. Adjourn meeting

Milam County Historical Commission is an appointed arm of the Milam County Government and is subject to the Open Meetings Act.



**Milam County Historical Commission
Perry & Perry Community Building, Rockdale
April 8, 2019 – 10:00 AM**

Call to Order. The Milam County Historical Commission met at the Perry & Perry Community Building in Rockdale, Texas on April 8, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Chairperson Lynn Young.

The **Pledges to the U.S. and Texas State Flags** were recited by members and guests. The list of volunteer hours was circulated.

Guests were introduced. They included **Judith Lane** of Cameron and **Curah Beard**, Rockdale Marketing Director. Ms. Lane has lived in the area in the past, but recently returned and is now living in the Dee Dee Green house. Ms. Beard was recently employed by the city of Rockdale as the Marketing Director. She discussed her job role and her interest in facilitating information sharing between organizations in the promotion of Rockdale specifically and Milam County in general.

The **February 11, 2019 Minutes** were distributed prior to the meeting. A correction was made in the third paragraph of the discussion of the Treasurer’s report. The change was to delete the word “November” in the paragraph concerning the beginning balance on January 1, 2019. Jack Brooks made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Mary Neely seconded the motion which carried.

The **Treasurer’s Report** was presented by John Pruett. The beginning balance on February 1, 2019, was \$17,467.87. Revenues were \$15,479.70 and Disbursements were \$13,440.00. The beginning balance on March 1, 2019 was \$19,397.57. Revenues were \$93.17 and Disbursements were \$86.00. The balances include dedicated funds of \$4,000.00 for the Rosenwald School and \$2,000.00 for the NPS Rancheria Grant.

The MCHC Preservation Fund had a beginning balance on February 1, 2019, was \$14,531.59. Revenues were \$32.96 and Disbursements were \$1,675.00. The beginning balance on March 1, 2019, was \$12,889.55. Revenues were \$5,027.62 with no Disbursements.

Geri Burnett made a motion to approve the report as presented. The motion was seconded and adopted.

John noted that MCHC Preservation Grant Fund has dispersed \$22,775.00 in previous years and we are administering \$20,400.00 in grants for 2018-19.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bridge Committee - Jack Brooks. Jack reported that the date is still pending for Bridge Park dedication and Texas Calaboose book signing. The bridge over Cotton Wood Creek on CR 304 in Precinct 4 has been replaced. The lighting on the bridges in Bridge Park in Rockdale is installed and working.

Cemetery Committee - Jack Brooks. Jack reported that Commissioner Opey Watkins had an issue concerning fence placement in the Taplin View Cemetery. Riddle Cemetery was also visited where someone had placed AstroTurf but the area still is very overgrown. Jack is currently attempting to identify graves and find relevant obituaries. The Santa Cruz cemetery is to be visited and documented.

Holly Jentsch reported that she attempted work at the old Nashville Cemetery, but overgrowth prevented action until later.

Lynn Young shared she had received a call from Barbara White from Pennsylvania regarding a tree on her relative's grave at the Milam Grove Cemetery in Maysfield. Lynn will request Randy Billingsley to check on the situation.

CLG – Brenda Pruett. Brenda shared that Milam County was not selected as the site for the regional training event. She also shared that Sergio has submitted a draft of the nomination to the THC and NPS. In addition, the CLG is planning to work on historical marker restoration but the date has not been identified. The City of Cameron is interested in designating the downtown area as a Historical District. Lynn gave the City a copy of the Historical Resources Survey completed several years ago. Geri has offered to assist.

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail – John Pruett. John reported that Lynn Young presented to the DRT Texas History 5th Annual History Symposium on March 2. He also reported on the March 6 MTC meeting. Members of the group are going to various locations to check on the status of signs to be repaired/replaced. Lynn donated a book on the Rancheria Grande archaeological research to the Rockdale library. Trail committee members are desired. He shared information concerning the various memberships.

Future events: The next MTC meeting will be held May 2 at 10:00 am. Lynn will present a program to the Comal County Historical Commission in June. The next ELCAT meeting is April 27.

Lynn Young recognized the need to establish ECR Committee for the MCHC. She asked John Pruett to chair the committee and identified Geri Burnett, Lucille Estelle and Elaine Baumann as initial members. Others who are interested in being on this committee are asked to contact John or Lynn.

Heritage Tourism – Joan Ratliff. In Joan's absence, Lynn Young announced that the Milam County Judge would like a plan for increasing heritage tourism. The committee will be meeting to develop a strategy. Curah Beard discussed the idea/opportunity to combine food and cultural heritage together in a tourist event.

Marker Committee – Lynn Young. Lynn reported that Marilyn Willie is researching for an RTHL marker for the old Hubert House in Cameron. Lynn had also emailed Dr. Donny Hamilton about a potential marker for the Beard house. Annabelle Heine had reported that the tornado that struck in San Gabriel caused damage to the Christian Church and other facilities. It also moved the historical marker from the front of the church property to the back.

Preservation Grant Fund – Holly Jentsch. Holly reported that the City of Rockdale has approved the grants for the Kay Theater, Rockdale Historical Society and Rockdale VFD. Funds have been released. The digital scanner/viewer/reader has been delivered to the Library; staff are to be trained.

Public Relations – Beth Brooks. In Beth's absence, Jack Brooks shared clippings from the many articles and pictures concerning MCHC that have appeared in Rockdale, Cameron, and Thorndale papers. In addition, multiple postings have been share on Facebook. Earth Month will emphasize clean up of markers and involvement of children groups.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioners Recognition. The County Commissioners recognized Geri Burnett, Dolores Mode and Jack Brooks at the January 25th meeting. They also approved the appointment of Elissa Benford-Roberts to the Commission. The Commissioners were pleased to receive framed maps of historic cemeteries in Milam County presented by Jack Brooks.

Save the Old City Hall (STOCH) – Geri Burnett. The interest group met in March. Although diminished in size, they are committed to preserving the Old City Hall and will be collecting stories about the facility for posterity. The city will be accepting proposals for a long-term lease of the building.

Wallis House Stained Glass - Joan Ratliff. In Joan's absence, Lynn reminded us that Raffle Tickets stubs, monies, etc., are due before May 31.

Courthouse – Lynn Young. The proposal and request for bids have been sent out. The bids for the emergency grant repairs are due Monday, April 15.

Prospect Cemetery Issues. Holly Jentsch is working on summary of concerns about illegal logging and dumping at Prospect Cemetery.

NEW BUSINESS

- The MCHC was honored as the Organization of the Year at the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce meeting.
- Curah Beard, Rockdale Marketing Director, reiterated her responsibilities and goals as they relate to MCHC. She is very much interested in receiving our input and appreciates our invitation to her to attend our meetings.

Lynn Young gave an update on Preservation Texas legislation and encouraged us to visit the web site:

<http://www.preservationtexas.org/advocacy-april1st/>

Other New Business – Annette Stone, Friends of the Lucy Hill Patterson Memorial Library. Mrs. Stone explained that Rockdale is planning a mural project for various selected buildings. The library wall that is part of the former Vogel building is on that list. The façade of building is still representative of the art deco style of the original Vogel building. Ms. Stone requested the Commission support her position that no mural be placed on the Vogel wall in order to protect the historical integrity of the original Vogel building. It was discussed that the Vogel Building could not be put on a list for historical markers because of the significant architectural changes that have already been made to the building. Lynn encouraged each member to act individually with his or her thoughts on the matter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Curah Beard announced that Rockdale will host a Farmers' Market Day the first Saturday in May at the Rockdale Depot.

MCHC will host the First Friday coffee October 4th, 2019.

Future meeting dates:

- June 10 – Sts. Cyril & Methodius (Roman Catholic) Church of Marak
- August 12 - St. John United Methodist Church, Rockdale
- October 14 – First Baptist Church, Cameron
- December 9 – San Gabriel Baptist Church

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. Jack Brooks then made a presentation on the Old Mundine Hotel and fire and the history of the Perry & Perry Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Eunice Stigall, Secretary