

**Milam County Historical Commission  
August 3, 2020 – 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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**Access Code:** 908-358-493

- 1. Call to Order - Welcome**  
**Email Volunteer Hours since February to Lynn**
- 2. Approval of the February 3, 2020 Minutes**
- 3. Treasurer's Report – John Pruett**
- 4. Committee Reports**
  - a. **Cemetery Committee** - Jack Brooks
    1. Holly is updating the listing of Milam County cemeteries on the THC Historical Sites database.
    2. At Jack's request, the City of Rockdale sent crews to remove trees in danger of falling on tombstones at the Old City Cemetery
  - b. **CLG – Brenda Pruett**
    1. National Register Nomination – the nomination is being revised as recommended by the State Board of Review.
    2. Report of CLG meeting July 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - c. **El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association**– John Pruett
    1. Report of July 2<sup>nd</sup> Rancheria Grande Chapter MTC meeting: The May meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Chapter met on July 2<sup>nd</sup> via Zoom. As we may not be meeting “in-person” for some time, the Zoom video-conferencing platform will provide us with the means to continue to keep our membership involved and informed during this difficult time. The primary project that we are working on at this time is the collection of oral histories. Zoom is an excellent platform for the invitation of speakers. Their busy schedules are briefly interrupted for their visit with us as there is no time-consuming travel. The next MTC meeting will be September 3 at 10:30 am.
    2. ELCAT Quarterly meeting - The Board met virtually on July 18<sup>th</sup> for the third quarterly meeting of 2019-2020 via GoToMeeting. The Executive Director reported on graphic design work for logos for the Floresville and Rancheria Grande MTCs, and the developing newest edition of a brochure for the trail. He also discussed maintenance needs at Lobanillo Swales, continuing development in Travis County and the Onion Creek metro park. The National Park Service informed the Board that the funding agreement for 2020-2021 had been signed. Finally, Apache Pass interpretive panels may be forthcoming by the end of the calendar year.

3. Annual Meeting - The Board of Directors approved a motion that for the Annual Meeting the association will issue a print edition newsletter to ELCaT members with updates and developments from the Association and National Park Service, and ballots for board positions and any potential bylaw changes. This became necessary due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as it would be impossible to meet in-person

4. Motion to renew ELCAT Membership at Pioneer level - \$100.

d. **Heritage Tourism** – Joan Ratliff

1. Motion to use approximately \$12,000 of the \$20,000 received from the County for historical tourism to pay for needed repairs at Sugarloaf/Faubion Bridge if the Count reaches a lease agreement with the owners of Sugarloaf Mountain.

e. **Marker Committee** – Lynn Young

1. Three marker applications were submitted to THC and we should know next week of they are approved:
  - i. Lawrence-Hubert House (RTHL)
  - ii. Worley Bridge (RTHL)
  - iii. San Gabriel Baptist Church (Subject)
2. Two markers will be dedicated in Rockdale this fall:
  - i. Old City Cemetery
  - ii. The rock building in which the Rockdale Chamber is headquartered.

f. **Preservation Grant Fund** – Holly Jentsch

1. Pin Oak Cemetery has completed their grant for tree removal - \$600
2. Outstanding Grants:
  1. Milam County Historical Museum - 2018 (\$1,000) & 2019 (\$700)
  2. The Kay Theater
  3. Gause Cemetery Association
  4. Gause Baptist Church
  5. MCHC Cemetery Committee
  6. Milam County Railroad Museum – withdrew request for 2019 grant.

g. **Public Relations** – Beth Brooks

1. Meetings have been promoted via newspaper and Facebook.

h. **Other Committees**

**5. Old Business:**

a. Courthouse – Lynn

1. The repairs for the emergency grant have been completed. Lynn is preparing a final report for submission to THC in order to receive reimbursement.

b. The revised MCHC website is currently in progress.

c. Lynn attended the Preservation Texas Cultural Landscape 3-day Symposium in Waco and at Basset Farms.

d. STOCH - A person has expressed interest in buying/leasing the Old City Hall and restoring it to its former glory. Under the terms of the agreement, they have a limited time in which to restore the exterior.

**6. Other Old Business**

**7. New Business:**

- a. The MCHC received the Distinguished Service Award from the THC and it was presented by County Judge Steve Young on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Milam was one of 79 counties in the state to receive this designation.

**8. Nominating Committee**

- a. Geri Burnett, Mary Neely and John Pruett have agreed to serve. They will report at the October meeting.

**9. Other New Business**

- a. Motion to postpone selling chances on the one remaining stained-glass window from the Wallis House until next year.

**10. Announcements:**

- a. Dr. Estell was honored by the Commissioner’s Court on Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all who attended.
- b. THC Real Places Conference will be online Feb. 3-5, 2021  
<https://www.thcfriends.org/realplaces>
- c. Future Meetings:  
October 5, 2020 - Little River Church, Cameron  
December 7, 2020

**11. MCHC is scheduled to host the First Friday Coffee at the Rockdale Library on October 2nd**

**11. Adjourn meeting**

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

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Lynn Young, Chairperson, Milam County Historical Commission

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Milam County Historical Commission**

**August 3, 2020 – 10:00 AM**

The Milam County Historical Commission met virtually using global.gotomeeting.com on August 3, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Lynn Young.

The flags were acknowledged but the **Pledges of Allegiance** to the United States of America and to the Texas flags were suspended by consensus since all participants were in virtual attendance.

The **Minutes** of the meeting on February 3, 2020 were distributed prior to the meeting. Joan Ratliff made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. Holly Jentsch seconded the motion. The motion carried. Note: there were no minutes for the April or June meetings because these were suspended due to the Corona Virus 19 pandemic restrictions.

The **Treasurer's Report** was presented by John Pruett. Lisa Benford-Roberts made a motion to approve the report as presented. Joan Ratliff seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The beginning balance in the general funds on January 1, 2020 was \$19,415.87; revenues were \$30.69; disbursements were none; leaving a balance on January 31, 2020, of \$19,446.56 of which \$4,000 was designated for Rosenwald School. The beginning balance in the MCHC preservation Fund on January 1 was \$12,225.85 with revenue of \$18.87; disbursements of \$3,000 leaving a balance of \$9,244.72 of which \$3,704.72 is available.

The beginning balance in the general funds on February 1, 2020 was \$19,446.56; revenues were \$20,050.49 (\$20,000 of which is from the Milam County Heritage Tourism); disbursements were \$59.99; leaving a balance on February 29 of \$39,437.06 of which \$4,000 is designated for Rosenwald School. The beginning balance in the MCHC Preservation Fund on February 1, 2020 was \$9,244.72; revenues were \$5,018.44 (of which \$5,000 is from Milam County); no disbursements; leaving a balance on February 29, 2020, of \$14,263.16.

In March, in the general funds, beginning balance was \$39,437.06, revenue was \$40.55; disbursements were \$300.00; leaving a balance on March 31, 2020, of \$39,177.61 (of which \$4,000 is designated for Rosenwald School). In the MCHC Preservation Fund, the beginning balance was \$14,263.16, revenue was \$16.58; there were no disbursements; leaving a balance on March 31, 2020, of \$14,279.74 (of which \$2,290.54 was available).

In April, in the general funds, the beginning balance was \$39,177.61, revenue was \$43.61; no disbursements; leaving a balance of \$39,221.22 of which \$4,000 is designated for Rosenwald School. In the MCHC Preservation Fund, the beginning balance was \$14,279.74, revenue was \$15.86, no disbursements; leaving a balance of \$14,295.60 of which \$2,306.64 is available.

In May, the general fund beginning balance was \$39,221.22, revenue was \$24.19 with no disbursements giving an ending balance on May 31, of \$39,245.41 of which \$4,000 is designated for Rosenwald School. In the MCHC Preservation Fund, the beginning balance was \$14,295.60, revenue was \$8.81 with no disbursements leaving a balance on May 31 of \$14,304.41 of which \$2,915.21 is available.

In June, the beginning balance of the general fund was \$39,245.41; revenue was \$25.00; no disbursements; leaving a balance on June 30, 2020, of \$39,270.41 of which \$4,000 is designated for Rosenwald School. In the MCHC Preservation Fund, the beginning balance was \$14,304.41; revenues were \$9.12; disbursements were \$600.00 leaving an ending balance on June 30, 2020, in the amount of \$13,713.53 of which \$2,324.33 is available.

### **Committee Reports**

**Cemetery Committee** – Jack Brooks, chair. Holly Jentsch reported that she is updating the listing of Milam County cemeteries in the Texas Historical Commission (THC) historical sites database. At Jack's request, the City of Rockdale sent crews to remove trees in danger of falling on Tombstones at the Old City Cemetery. Jack added that Paul Luckey of Rockdale Memorial donated granite markers for the African American section of Fulcher Cemetery which is adjacent to the Old City Cemetery in Rockdale.

**CLG Committee** – Brenda Pruett, chair. The CLG met on July 23 via Zoom. Despite the technical learning curve, the committee had a quorum and was successful in identifying some activities which could be accomplished during the pandemic restrictions. Lynn Young provided an update on the status of the Rancharia Grande National Register nomination. It is being revised as recommended by State Board of Review. Once approved by the THC, the nomination will go to the national board.

**El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association (ELCAT)**– John Pruett. John reported that the May meeting of the Rancharia Grande Chapter MTC was cancelled in compliance with the pandemic restrictions. The Chapter met via Zoom on July 2. The primary project at this current time is the collection of oral histories. Zoom is being used as the platform for the invitation of speakers. More detailed information was previously distributed in the minutes of the committee meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for September 3 at 10:30 a.m.

John reported that in quarterly meeting the ELCAT board shared updates on the logos for the Floresville and Rancharia Grande MTC's, new edition of the Trail brochure and maintenance and development of various parks. He noted that Apache Pass interpretive panels may be here by the end of the calendar year.

Because membership renewal is required, John made a motion, seconded by Geri Burnett, to renew ELCAT membership at the pioneer membership level. The motion carried.

**Heritage Tourism** – Joan Ratliff. Following an update on tourism, Joan made a motion, seconded by Geri, to use \$12,000 of the Heritage Tourism Fund (given to MCHC by the County) for the repair of the Faubion/Sugarloaf Bridge. The motion carried.

**Marker Committee** – Lynn Young. Lynn shared that three marker applications from Milam County had been submitted to the THC: Lawrence-Hubert House (RTHL); Worley Bridge (RTHL); and San Gabriel Baptist Church (Subject). Also, two markers will be dedicated in Rockdale this fall: Old City Cemetery and the rock building which currently houses the Rockdale Chamber of Commerce.

**Preservation Grant Fund** – Holly Jentsch. Holly reported that the Pin Oak Cemetery has completed their grant for tree removal. Updates on other grantees included: 1) work is in progress at the Milam County Historical Museum (the issue being worked includes a supplier who is no longer in business); 2) Kay Theater will soon have a campaign to use to pay operating expenses in addition to the grant which is to be used for maintenance; 3) Gause Cemetery Association for which supplies have been purchased for use in the grant activity. Other grantees include Gause Baptist Church, MCHC Cemetery Committee, and Milam County Railroad Museum (withdrawn).

**Public Relations** – Beth Brooks. Meetings have been promoted via newspapers and Facebook.

### **Old Business**

**Courthouse** – Lynn Young. The emergency grant repairs have been completed. Lynn is preparing the documentation for reimbursement to go to the THC. Also, the MCHC website is currently in progress.

**The Preservation Texas Cultural Landscape Symposium** was attended by Lynn.

**STOCH** – a person has expressed interest in buying/leasing the Old City Hall in Rockdale and restoring it to its former glory.

**Stained-Glass Window Raffle** – Joan Ratliff made a motion, seconded by Geri Burnett, that we postpone until next year the selling of tickets for the one remaining Wallis House stained-glass window fund raiser. The motion carried.

### **New Business**

**Distinguished Service Award.** The MCHC received the Distinguished Service Award from the THC. Judge Steve Young presented the award on July 13. Milam County is one of 79 counties in the state to receive this designation.

## **Nominating Committee**

Lynn announced that Geri Burnett, Mary Neely and John Pruett have agreed to serve. They will report their recommendations in the October meeting.

## **Announcements:**

Dr. Estell was honored by the Commissioner's Court on Monday, February 10.

The THC Real Places Conference will be online February 3 – 5, 2021, at <http://www.thcfriends.org/realplaces>

The next MCHC meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2020 at Little River Church in Cameron.

Our last meeting for MCHC in 2020 will be December 7 at a location to be announced.

The MCHC is scheduled to host the First Friday Coffee at the Rockdale Library on October 2, 2020.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eunice Stigall, Secretary