

**Milam County Historical Commission
All Saints Episcopal Church, Cameron
February 3, 2020 – 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 December 9, 2019 Minutes**
- 5. Treasurer's Report – John Pruett**
- 6. Committee Reports**
 - a. **Bridge Committee** - Jack Brooks
 - b. **Cemetery Committee** - Jack Brooks
 - c. **CLG** – Brenda Pruett
 1. National Register Nomination – Gene and Elaine Baumann, Joan and Jerald Wise, Mike and Joyce Connor, Geri Burnett, Lynn Young, Sergio and Melinda Iruegas and Steven Gonzales attended the State Board of Review in Brownsville on January 11th. It was approved by the State Board of Review and will be forwarded to the NPS for final approval later this year.
 2. The Committee plans to refinish markers at the Kay Theater and the Lucy Hill Patterson Library on March 23.
 - d. **El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail** – John Pruett
 - a. Report of January 2nd MTC meeting
 - b. The next MTC meeting will be March 5 at 10:30 am at the Library in Rockdale.
 - c. Report on ELCAT Quarterly meeting
 - e. **Heritage Tourism** – Joan Ratliff
 - f. **Marker Committee** – Lynn Young
 1. The THC should be accepting applications soon for markers.
 - g. **Preservation Grant Fund** – Holly Jentsch
 - h. **Public Relations** – Beth Brooks
 1. Meetings have been promoted via newspaper and Facebook.
 - i. **Other Committees**
- 7. Old Business:**
 - a. Courthouse – Lynn
 - b. The revised MCHC website is currently in progress.
 - c. Lynn attended the Real Places Conference in Austin
 - d. Other Old Business
- 8. New Business:**
 - a. The City of Rockdale and the City of Cameron have accepted crucibles from Alcoa.
 - b. Consider motion to pay registration fee for up to two MCHC members to attend the Preservation Texas Cultural Landscape Symposium from the MCHC Heritage Tourism Fund. The cost is \$425 per person. Feb. 23-26 in Waco
<https://texasculturallandscapes.org/>

c. Other New Business

9. We have one remaining stained glass window from the Wallis House to sell.

10. Announcements:

- a. Dr. Estell will be honored by the Commissioner’s Court on Monday, February 10th at 10:00.
- b. We regret that Jack and Beth Brooks will be moving later this spring to be closer to family.
- c. Future meeting dates:
 - April 6, 2020 – Kay Theater, Rockdale
 - June 1, 2020 – Salty Church, Thorndale
 - August 3, 2020 – Conoley Community Church, Thorndale
 - October 5, 2020 - Little River Church, Cameron
 - December 7, 2020

11. MCHC will host the First Friday Coffee on October 2nd

11. History of All Saints Episcopal Church –

12. Adjourn meeting

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

Lynn Young, Chairperson, Milam County Historical Commission

Date _____

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**Milam County Historical Commission
All Saints Episcopal Church, Cameron
February 3, 2020 – 10:00 AM**

Call to Order: The Milam County Historical Commission was called to order at 10:00 am by Chairperson Lynn Young at the All Saints Episcopal Church in Cameron, Texas on February 3, 2020.

Welcome/Volunteer Hours: Chairperson Young welcomed members and visitors and began circulating the list for recording volunteer hours.

Pledge to the U.S. and Texas State Flags: The pledges were led by Chairperson Young and recited by members and guests.

Recognition of Hosts and Guest(s): Special guests for this meeting included Pam Baker of Holland and Kay Wesson of Bastrop, both Daughters of the American Revolution members. They shared that the portrait of Claudia Wilbarger Norvell (1868-1962) which had been lost during a

renovation of the State Capitol in Austin has now been found and will be unveiled at the Bastrop Museum on Sunday, February 23. Among her many accomplishments, she was best known as “the Savior of El Camino Real King’s Highway”. Norvell raised money with the help of the Daughters of the American Revolution and spent three decades working to have 123 pink granite markers placed along the national historic trail from the Texas border at Mexico to the border at Louisiana. Also present were Shirley Miller Lee and Margia Barkemeyer.

Approval of the December 9, 2019 Minutes: The minutes were distributed prior to the meeting. Randy Billingsley made a motion, seconded by Geri Burnett, to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report – John Pruett. John gave the Treasurer’s report. On December 1, 2019, the general fund beginning balance was \$19,385.52. Revenues were \$30.35 and disbursements were zero resulting in an ending balance on December 31, 2019 of \$19,415.87 of which \$4,000 is identified as dedicated funds for Rosenwald School.

On December 1, 2019, the MCHC Preservation Fund beginning balance was \$11,208.30; interest revenue income was \$1,017.55; this resulted in an ending balance on December 31, 2019, of \$1,017.56 of which \$3,685.85 is available.

John noted that, although the January report is not yet available, we disbursed \$3,000 to the Kay Theatre. He shared that the County is providing for 2020 an amount of \$20,000 for tourism and \$5,000 for preservations. Six grants previously made are still in progress (3 from 2018 and 3 from 2019).

Joan Ratliff made a motion, seconded by Jack Brooks, to approve the reports as presented. The motion carried.

Committee Reports

Bridge Committee - Jack Brooks shared that the issue with the Sugar Loaf Mountain bridge (loose boards) was referred to Commissioner John Fisher. Joan Ratliff shared that the lights have been installed in Bridge Park in Rockdale.

Cemetery Committee - Jack Brooks shared that the St. Andres cemetery has lots of winter grass and wildflowers which are beautiful. He also completed several “find a grave” requests.

CLG – Brenda Pruett and Lynn gave an update on the National Register Nomination. Gene and Elaine Baumann, Joan and Jerald Wise, Mike and Joyce Connor, Geri Burnett, Lynn Young, Sergio and Melinda Iruegas and Steven Gonzales attended the State Board of Review in Brownsville on January 11, 2020. It was approved by the State Board of Review and will be forwarded to the NPS for final approval later this year. Lynn shared an article and photo reporting the event and thanked Elaine for her effort in getting the ball rolling on this initiative more than 5 years ago.

The Committee plans to refinish markers at the Kay Theater and the Lucy Hill Patterson Library on March 23.

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail. John Pruett shared the Report of January 2nd MTC meeting. The next MTC meeting will be March 5 at 10:30 am at the Library in Rockdale. He also reported on ELCAT Quarterly meeting held January 18, 2020. Many administrative activities and projects were discussed including signage, panel inventorying, and model trail communities. A National Park Representative, Aaron Mahr, gave a discussion on stewardship, volunteers, and cooperative

agreements and grants. Volunteer hours in 2019 amounted to more than \$225,000 and several grants have been received for various locations along the trail.

Heritage Tourism: Joan Ratliff shared that with the County's funding there will be more to report later with the work that is in progress.

Marker Committee: Lynn Young shared that the THC will soon be accepting applications for markers. A new foundry has been contracted to make the markers. April 1 through June 15 is the period for accepting applications. No more than 185 will be accepted.

Preservation Grant Fund: Holly Jentsch shared concerns about requests for 2020 grants when previous grants, especially one made in 2018, have not been fulfilled. The exception is the ECR signage at Apache Pass which is subject to the National Park Service. Issues with the Cameron Museum grant were discussed.

Public Relations – Beth Brooks shared that meetings have been promoted via newspaper and Facebook. Coverage also includes Lynn's visit with VP Pence and Dr. Estell on Earth Day.

Other Committees

Hospitality: Geri Burnett thanked all for participating. She shared the signup list again for additional volunteers.

Old Business:

Courthouse – Lynn shared that only one item remains to be completed on the emergency grant repairs.

Revised MCHC website is currently in progress.

Lynn attended the Real Places Conference in Austin. It had excellent workshops on cemeteries. We need to consider undertaking a Cemetery Survey and filing notice of existence for cemeteries on the THC database. THC estimates of the 50,000 cemeteries in Texas have been identified). The THC database include 119 cemeteries in Milam County. Perry Holder's Milam County Cemeteries lists 163. We should note that Utilities have to go through the database before any construction. This database is a significant tool to help us preserve these cemeteries because the greatest threats to them are development and neglect. We need to encourage HTC designations and listings on the TH'C' Historic Sites Database. There are only a few in Milam County and a lot could apply.

There was a discussion of the Texas Freedom Colony project. Dr. Andrea Roberts indicated that there are 7 in Milam County but only 4: Sneed Chapel, Six Mile, and Minerva and one more have been identified. The history of Milam County mentions one in Cameron (see <http://www.thetexasfreedomcoloniesproject.com/>).

The Bryant Station Marker (see October 14, 2019 minutes) issue was followed up by Lynn Young. She shared that if we want the marker moved, we will need to submit a request. It was the consensus of the membership that the marker should be moved as close as possible to the natural setting.

The list of committee assignments was shared with the memberships and members were asked to update, correct, add, or delete their desired participation.

New Business:

Alcoa Crucibles: Lynn shared that the City of Rockdale and the City of Cameron have accepted crucibles from Alcoa.

Upcoming Symposium. Mary Neely made a motion, seconded by Geri Burnett that the Commission pay the registration fee for up to two MCHC members to attend the Preservation Texas Cultural Landscape Symposium from the MCHC Heritage Tourism Fund. The cost is \$425 per person. February 23-26 in Waco (see <https://texasculturlandscapes.org/> for more information). The motion carried.

Cameron Museum. Margia Barkemeyer, from the Board of the Cameron Museum, shared that Jamie Larson (with the Cameron Model Railroad) is now a part time employee of the Museum. The RR Model is an accurate depiction of old Cameron. An accident in the Rockdale RR Depot has prompted a move of insurance to be under the auspices of the County. Museums attract visitors and are an integral part of our heritage and tourism efforts.

Stained Glass. We have one remaining stained-glass window from the Wallis House to sell. Holly Jentsch made a motion, seconded by Randy Billingsley, that we again do a raffle with tickets 3 for \$25 or \$10 each. The motion carried. All other details are to be determined by an ad hoc committee of Joan Ratliff, Gerri Burnett, and Jack Brooks.

Announcements:

Dr. Estell will be honored by the Commissioner's Court on Monday, February 10th at 10:00.

We regret that Jack and Beth Brooks will be moving later this spring to be closer to family. He shared that he is clearing out his library. Geri Burnett will work with Jack to see if Melanie Reed can share in the distribution of some of his holdings.

Elissa Benford-Roberts shared news about Veterans Park. She is part of an effort to raise funds to get a monument to honor each branch of the service in the park. Donations are welcomed. Checks should be made to the City of Rockdale designating Veterans Park Monuments.

MCHC will host the First Friday Coffee on October 2, 2020.

Future meeting dates:

April 6, 2020 – Kay Theater, Rockdale
June 1, 2020 – Salty Church, Thorndale
August 3, 2020 – Conoley Community Church, Thorndale
October 5, 2020 - Little River Church, Cameron
December 7, 2020

County Judge Steve Young joined our meeting to thank the MCHC for our efforts to promote the County. Among the topics he shared included:

- Sugar Loaf Mountain as a County Resource
- Merging of County Museums for insurance coverage
- Realignment of County offices and venues such as the museums, Bea's Kitchen with County offices move to former hospital facilities
- Vitalization of Cameron downtown

- Economic Growth

History of All Saints Episcopal Church – was available for all to read in the various plaques and signage.

Adjourn meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am. Milam County Historical Commission is an appointed arm of the Milam County Government and is subject to the Open Meetings Act.

Respectfully submitted,

Eunice Stigall, Secretary

Lynn Young, Chairperson, Milam County Historical Commission