

Milam County Historical Commission
St. John's United Methodist Church
1700 Hillcrest Dr, Rockdale
August 12, 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 June 10, 2019 Minutes**
- 5. Treasurer's Report – John Pruett**
- 6. Committee Reports**
 - a. **Archaeology Month** – Randy Billingsley
 1. MCHC received positive recognition from via social media from THC for outstanding Archaeology Month presentation in 2018.
 - b. **Bridge Committee** - Jack Brooks
 1. Bridge Park dedication and Texas Calaboose book signing have been postponed.
 - c. **Cemetery Committee** - Jack Brooks
 - d. **CLG** – Brenda Pruett
 1. City of Cameron is considering becoming a CLG
 2. CLG grants - Applications accepted until November 4th. Letters of Intent are due Sept. 30th
 3. Sergio and Melinda Iruegas have submitted second draft of National Register nomination to THC
 - d. **El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail** – John Pruett
 1. Report of July MTC meeting
 2. The next MTC meeting will be September 12th at 10:00 am.
 3. The next ELCAT meeting will be October 11-12 during ELCAT Annual meeting in Milam County.
 4. Renewal of Membership to ELCAT.
 - e. **Heritage Tourism** – Joan Ratliff
 1. Milam County Economic Summit for heritage tourism planned for November 2019
 - f. **Marker Committee** – Lynn Young
 - a. Thanks to all who attended the dedication of the San Andres Masonic Lodge marker
 - b. Rockdale has expressed interest in a historical marker for the Vogel Building
 - c. Dr. Donny Hamilton is researching information on the Beard House for a marker
 - d. Marilyn Willie has drafted an application for the Lawrence House in Cameron
 - g. **Preservation Grant Fund** – Holly Jentsch
 1. Lucy Hill Patterson Library has received funds
 2. The County and the City of Rockdale have included Preservation Grant funds in proposed budgets.
 - h. **Public Relations** – Beth Brooks
 - i. **Other Committees**
- 7. Old Business:**
 - a. Courthouse – Lynn

The emergency repairs to the Courthouse have begun.
 - b. We will transition to the County website within the coming months.
 - c. Upon recommendation of THC, we are transitioning from our Facebook Group to a public Facebook page. Please like and follow the new page:
https://www.facebook.com/MilamCountyHistoricalCommission/?ref=br_rs
 - d. Other Old Business
- 8. New Business:**
- 9.**

a. Lynn was contacted by Mike Rhodes of TXDOT regarding relocation of Bryant Station marker on Hwy 36 near Bell County line.

10. Other New Business

11. Announcements:

a. Registration is Open for the THC Real Places Conference January 29-31 in Austin. The registration fee increases \$100 after September 30.

<https://web.cvent.com/event/4c8adf82-83fe-4c3f-aab8-e0b99e78e289/summary>

b. THC Training:

Upcoming Webinars (must register in advance)

Application Process - Thursday, August 15, 2019, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Online Training Videos re Markers

Introduction to Official Texas Historical Markers

How to fill out the marker application

c. Future meeting dates:

o October 14 – First Baptist Church, Cameron

o December 9 – San Gabriel Baptist Church

11. History of St. John’s United Methodist Church – Rev. John Seaton

12. 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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Milam County Historical Commission
St. John’s United Methodist Church
1700 Hillcrest Drive, Rockdale, Texas
August 12, 2019 – 10:00 AM

The Milam County Historical Commission met at the St. John’s United Methodist Church in Rockdale, Texas on August 12, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Chairperson Lynn Young.

The **Pledges of Allegiance** to the United States of America and Texas Flags were led by Chairperson Lynn Young and recited by members and guests. The list of volunteer hours was circulated.

Hosts and Guest(s) were introduced: Melissa Willams, Bryn McClaren, D’Ann Williams, Marilyn Willie (Lawrence-Hubert House), and Pastor John Seaton. In deference to the pastor, the program about the history of St. John’s Methodist Church was presented prior to the business meeting of the Commission.

The **minutes** of the meeting on June 10, 2019 were distributed prior to the meeting. Dr. Estell made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Brenda Pruitt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The **Treasurer’s Reports** for May, June and July were distributed prior to the meeting. John Pruett, treasurer, explained the reports. The May 1 beginning balance was \$19,449.57; income in May was \$5,223.37; expenditures were \$7,180 for an ending May 31 balance of \$17,180 of which \$4,000 is dedicated funds for the Rosenwald School. The beginning May 1 balance for the Preservation Fund was \$23,056.42; Revenue for May was \$47.11. With no disbursements, the ending May 31 balance in the Preservation Fund was \$23,103.53.

The beginning balance on June 1 was \$17,492.94; income in June was \$1,949.65; there were no disbursements in June leaving a balance of \$19,442.59 of which \$4,000 is dedicated funds for the Rosenwald School. The

beginning June 1 balance for the Preservation Fund was \$23,103.53; income in June was \$52.78; disbursements were \$8,000 leaving a June 30 ending balance of \$15,156.31 of which \$2,416.31 is available.

The beginning balance on July 1 was \$19,442.59; income in July was \$41.53 with no disbursements. The ending balance on July 31 was \$19,484.12 of which \$4,000 is dedicated funds for the Rosenwald School. The July 1 balance of the Preservation Fund was \$15,156.31; income was \$145.80. With no disbursements, the ending July 31 balance was \$15,302.11 of which \$2,562.11 is available.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archaeology Month – Randy Billingsley. MCHC received positive recognition from via social media from THC for outstanding Archaeology Month presentation in 2018. Mary Neely reported that she had received an email to order posters from THC which she will share with Geri Burnett. Lynn Young noted that Randy and Geri annually share with each 4th grade class in all the school districts in Milam County a program of tales and artifacts during this recognition month.

Bridge Committee - Jack Brooks shared that the Bridge Park dedication and Texas Calaboose book signing have been postponed. He noted that the Historic Bridge website has some fascinating information. He shared an old photo of the Wires Bridge between Davilla and Rogers and told of the descriptions of driving over the bridge.

Cemetery Committee - Jack Brooks and Holly Jentsch gave updates on the various Milam County cemeteries including: Prospect Cemetery vandalism alleged perpetrator is scheduled for an October 28 arraignment; Port Sullivan Cemetery has about 30 percent of plots still damaged/unrepaired from the April tornado; the Beal Cemetery is still needing a visit; the old Gause Cemetery is pending access; the Pin Oak Cemetery still needs some graves marked; the Nashville Cemetery is currently inaccessible because of brush; and progress is being made on locating the old Tracy Cemetery on property owned by Tommy Coffield.

CLG – Brenda Pruett reported that the City of Cameron is considering becoming a CLG. CLG grants - Applications accepted until November 4th. Letters of Intent are due September 30. Lynn asked several members to work with the Cameron representatives and Melanie Reed: Mary Neely, John Pruett, Brenda Pruett, and Lucille Estell.

Lynn reported that Sergio and Melinda Iruegas have submitted second draft of National Register nomination to THC.

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail – John Pruett gave an update on his committee and the liaison of the association which is supported by the National Park Association. The July (Model Trail Community) MTC meeting focused on information resources, the sites, and shared stories of the settlers and Indians. Judith Lane shared some of her memories with the Commission members of tales from her grandfather. The next MTC meeting will be September 12th at 10:00 am.

The next ELCAT meeting will be October 11-12 during ELCAT Annual meeting in Milam County. A subcommittee of the MTC is planning the meeting. They hope to have a dedication of signs on the San Gabriel River at Apache Pass. Tom Byrd is president of ELCAT will give a presentation of one of the characters of the mission sites. The El Camino Master Naturalists are working to produce a brochure of flowers along the trail for this meeting.

John reported that it is time for the membership renewal to ELCAT. John made a motion, seconded by Jack Brooks, to authorize the MCHC membership renewal for \$100. The motion carried.

Heritage Tourism – In Joan Ratliff's absence, Lynn reported that Joan has been participating in planning of a Milam County Economic Summit for heritage tourism planned for November 2019. More information will be available this later.

Marker Committee – Lynn Young expressed appreciation to all who attended the dedication of the San Andres Masonic Lodge marker. She shared that Rockdale has expressed interest in a historical marker for the Vogel Building; Dr. Donny Hamilton is researching information on the Beard House for a marker; and, Marilyn Willie has drafted an application for the Lawrence-Hubert House in Cameron.

Preservation Grant Fund – Holly Jentsch reported on the status of the various grants: Lucy Hill Patterson Library has received funds; The County and the City of Rockdale have included Preservation Grant funds in proposed budgets. Both the County and Rockdale governments are anticipated to continue funding. Thorndale has been generous in the past without restrictions and it is hoped they continue.

Public Relations – In Beth Brooks' absence, Jack Brooks shared the many examples of articles and broadcasts of MCHC news and events.

OLD BUSINESS:

Courthouse – Lynn Young reported that the emergency repairs to the Courthouse have begun. In addition, the cupola clock will be repaired and the exterior of the building will be cleaned.

Website: The Commission will transition to the County website within the coming months. Upon recommendation of THC, we are transitioning from our Facebook Group to a public Facebook page. Members are encouraged to "like" and "follow" the new page:

https://www.facebook.com/MilamCountyHistoricalCommission/?ref=br_rs

Distinguished Service Award: Lynn congratulated the members upon receiving the Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Historical Commission. Only 80 counties in the state received this recognition.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lynn was contacted by Mike Rhodes of TXDOT regarding relocation of Bryant Station marker on Hwy 36 near Bell County line. The marker will be in storage until the relocation of the park is completed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.

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Respectfully Submitted

Eunice Stigall, Secretary

Lynn Young, Chairperson, Milam County Historical Commission