

**Milam County Historical Commission  
First Baptist Church, Cameron  
October 14, 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 August 12, 2019 Minutes**
- 5. Treasurer's Report – John Pruett**
- 6. Committee Reports**
  - a. **Archaeology Month** – Randy Billingsley  
Randy and Geri will make a presentation on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at the Lucy Hill Patterson Memorial Library in Rockdale.
  - b. **Bridge Committee** - Jack Brook
  - c. **Cemetery Committee** - Jack Brooks
  - d. **CLG** – Brenda Pruett
    1. CLG grants - Applications accepted until November 4<sup>th</sup>. John and Geri met with Melanie Reed of the Cameron Chamber regarding the proposed historical resources survey.
    2. The CLG Committee plans to refinish markers this fall.
  - d. **El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail** – John Pruett
    1. Report of September 5<sup>th</sup> MTC meeting
    2. The next MTC meeting will be November 14 at 10:00 am.
    3. Report on ELCAT Annual Meeting and tour October 11-12 in Milam County.
    4. MCHC has received a reorder of El Camino Real books. The retail cost is \$20.
  - e. **Heritage Tourism** – Joan Ratliff
    1. Milam County Economic Summit for heritage tourism and historic preservation planned for November 20, 2019 and all members are encouraged to attend. It will be held at the Little River Event Center. There is no cost but reservations are required. Please let Lynn know if you would like to attend.
  - f. **Marker Committee** – Lynn Young
    1. Marilyn Willie has drafted an application for the Lawrence-Hubert House in Cameron
    2. The Foundry which THC has used for over 50 years to manufacture the markers has been sold and will not be making markers in the future. However, they will complete the ones previously approved by THC. The Historical Commission is seeking a new vendor and marker applications will not be accepted until the vendor is selected and the cost of the markers are known.
  - g. **Preservation Grant Fund** – Holly Jentsch
  - h. **Public Relations** – Beth Brooks
    1. Meetings have been promoted via newspaper and Facebook.
    2. The ELCAT Annual Meeting has been promoted on Judge Young's radio show, newspaper and Facebook
  - i. **Other Committees**
- 7. Old Business:**
  1. Courthouse – Lynn  
The roof repairs are almost complete. The exterior of the Courthouse is being cleaned.
  2. The revised MCHC website is currently in progress.
  3. Thanks to all who helped with the First Friday Coffee on October 4<sup>th</sup>.
  4. Other Old Business
- 8. New Business:**
- 9. Other New Business**

**10. Announcements:**

- a. Registration is Open for the THC Real Places Conference January 29-31 in Austin.  
<https://web.cvent.com/event/4c8adf82-83fe-4c3f-aab8-e0b99e78e289/summary>
- b. Future meeting dates:
  - o December 9 – San Gabriel Baptist Church

**11. History of First Baptist 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.

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**Milam County Historical Commission  
First Baptist Church, Cameron  
October 14, 2019 – 10:00 AM**

The Milam County Historical Commission met at First Baptist Church in Cameron, Texas, on October 14, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chairperson Lynn Young.

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

**Recognition of Hosts and Guest(s)** included Roy Boutwell and Joan Wise of Cameron and Jane Schwarz of Thorndale.

**Minutes** of the August 12, 2019 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. Mary Neely made a motion, seconded by Elaine Baumann to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

The **Treasurer’s Report** was given by John Pruet. The beginning balance on August 1, 2019 was \$19,484.12. Revenues were \$71.79; disbursements were \$100 leaving an ending balance on August 31, 2019 of \$19,455.91 of which \$4,000 is dedicated for Rosenwald School. The cash on hand on August 31 was \$15,455.91. The beginning balance on August 1, 2019 of the MCHC Preservation Fund was \$15,302.11. The revenue was interest income of \$32.64. There were no disbursements resulting in an ending balance on August 31 of \$15,334.75 of which \$2,594.75 funds are available.

The beginning balance on September 1, 2019, was \$19,455.91. Revenues were \$38.93; there were no disbursements leaving an ending balance on September 30, 2019, of \$19,494.84 with \$4,000 dedicated to the Rosenwald School. The cash on hand on September 30 was \$15,494.84. The beginning balance on September 1, 2019 of the MCHC Preservation Fund was \$15,334.75. Interest income was the revenue of \$30.60; disbursements were to the Rockdale Historical Society Grant for 2018 in the amount of \$4,200 resulting in an ending balance on September 30 of \$11,165.35 of which \$2625.50 funds are available.

Joan Ratliff made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report. Jack Brooks seconded the motion which carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Archaeology Month** – Randy Billingsley, Mary Neely and Geri Burnett will make a presentation at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 24 at the Lucy Hill Patterson Memorial Library in Rockdale. It has been added to the THC’s Archaeology Month calendar. They have offered to make presentations to all county 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Cameron and Buckholts ISDs have no responded. In addition Gause ISD has asked to include their 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes in the presentations.

An update on the ECR Tour to Rancheria Grande and Sugarloaf was given by John Pruett. He recognized Rainbow Courts, Master Naturalists, Rockdale ISD, Kit and Linda Worley, as well as the committee for the success of the event. He noted that the National Parks Service is the founder of the trail and their representatives attended a good portion of the event. He noted that the Cameron Museum has a collection of photos of the trail.

**Bridge Committee** - Jack Brooks reported that there had been very little activity for this period.

**Cemetery Committee** - Jack Brooks gave an update on the San Andres cemetery cleanup. The Prospect Cemetery has received information from the District Attorney's office concerning the upcoming trial beginning October 28 of the person charged with the damage to the cemetery. Melissa Williams of the Cameron History Club has invited Jack to be responsible for a presentation on cemeteries and jails on November 24. The Long Cemetery near Sugarloaf was mentioned by the game warden on the ECR tour. Jack will follow up.

**CLG** – Brenda Pruett noted that CLG grant applications are due by November 4. John and Geri met with Melanie Reed of the Cameron Chamber regarding the proposed historical resources survey. Also, the CLG Committee plans to refinish markers this fall, but are awaiting better weather.

**El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail** – John Pruett reported that the September 5 meeting was totally consumed by the tour planning. The next MTC meeting will be November 14 at 10:30 am. The report on ELCAT Annual Meeting and tour October 11-12 in Milam County was previously given under the archeology month report. The signs to the Mission sites have been replaced. MCHC has received a reorder of El Camino Real books. The retail cost is \$20.

**Heritage Tourism** – Joan Ratliff discussed the connectivity between tourism and economic development. The Milam County Economic Summit for heritage tourism and historic preservation is planned for November 20, 2019 and all members are encouraged to attend. It will be held at the Little River Event Center. There is no cost but reservations are required. Please let Lynn know if you would like to attend.

**Marker Committee** – Lynn Young shared that Marilyn Willie has drafted an application for the Lawrence-Hubert House in Cameron. All are invited to see the restoration and the grand opening of the Bistro when it occurs. Lynn also noted that the Foundry which THC has used for over 50 years to manufacture the markers has been sold and will not be making markers in the future. However, they will complete the ones previously approved by THC. The Historical Commission is seeking a new vendor and marker applications will not be accepted until the vendor is selected and the cost of the markers are known.

**Preservation Grant Fund** – In Holly Jentsch's absence, John Pruett shared a spreadsheet of the status of 2017, 2018 and 2019 MCHC preservation grants. There is a carryover of \$1,000 each of 2018 grants for the Milam County Historical Museum, Rockdale Model Train Restoration, and El Camino Real (total \$3,000). A total of \$8,000 has been paid out to 2019 recipients out of the \$13,200 in grants.

**Public Relations** – Beth Brooks. Meetings have been promoted via newspaper and Facebook. The ELCAT Annual Meeting has been promoted on Judge Young's radio show, newspaper and Facebook. Lynn shared that a couple from Corsicana joined the ELCAT tour after seeing one of Beth's publicity articles.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Courthouse Repairs** – Lynn reported that the roof repairs are almost complete and that the exterior of the Courthouse is being cleaned.
- The revised **MCHC website transition** is currently in progress. The good news is that it will be easier to update.
- **Thanks** to all who helped with the First Friday Coffee on October 4th.
- Reminder that we are transitioning from the MCHC private Group Facebook page to the open page. Please like, follow and share the new page.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Lynn recognized Mr. Boutwell from Cameron who spoke about the Benjamin Bryant Station marker. He gave a history of the Station, the Robertson colony and efforts of Mexico to control the invasion of migrants into Texas crossing the El Camino Real in the 1820's. He noted that Bryant's home was a licensed Indian trading post. He was concerned about the disappearances and movement of the

marker. Lynn expressed appreciation of his knowledge, his sharing of concerns, and that currently the highway widening has resulted in the marker being temporarily stored. She will continue to monitor the situation.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Registration is Open for the THC Real Places Conference January 29-31 in Austin.

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

Future meeting dates:

- December 9 – San Gabriel Baptist Church

Jack Brooks gave an interesting history of First Baptist Church.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eunice Stigall, Secretary

Lynn Young, Chairperson, Milam County Historical Commission