

**June Milam County Historical Commission
Meeting**

June 7, 2021 – 10:00 am

- Call to Order, Welcome and Volunteer Hours
- 2. Pledge to the U.S. and Texas State Flags
- Recognition of Hosts and Guests
- Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting
- Treasurer’s Report – Geri Burnett
- Committee Reports
 - Cemetery Committee – Holly Jentsch
 - CLG Committee – John Pruett
 - EL Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail John Pruett and Lynn Young
 - Marker Committee – Lynn Young
 - Other Committees
- Old Business
 - Courthouse – Lynn
 - Other
- New Business
 - Discuss and approve the MCHC Executive Committee’s recommendation on the process to use the recent donation by City of Rockdale for Rockdale Preservation/Heritage Tourism Projects
 - Other
 - Next Meeting August 2, 2021
 - Adjourn Meeting

Joan Ratliff, Chair Milam County Historical Commission

**Milam County Historical Commission
Meeting
June 7, 2021**

Milam County Court House in Cameron, Texas

Call to Order. Chairperson Joan Ratliff called the Milam County Historical Commission to order at 10:03 am. The meeting was held in the chambers of the Milam County Judge and Commissioners Court.

Welcome/Volunteer Hours: Chairperson Ratliff welcomed members and requested members submit volunteer hours by mail.

Pledges of Allegiance. Those in attendance recited the pledges of allegiance to the flag of the United States and the flag of Texas.

Recognition of Hosts and Guests. Joan recognized our guests Michelle Morgan, Economic Director for Milam County, and Jennifer Patton, of Rockdale.

Approval of the April 5, 2021 Minutes. The minutes were distributed by email to members prior to the meeting. Elissa Benford made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed. Lynn Young seconded the motion which carried.

Approval of the Treasurer's Reports. Geri Burnett presented the reports as follows:

The beginning balance in the general fund on March 1, 2021 was \$40,716.57. Revenue was \$1,023.43 and there were \$50.78 disbursements giving an ending balance on March 31 of \$41,689.16 of which \$4,000 was in funds dedicated to the Rosenwald School.

The beginning balance for the MCHC Preservation Fund on March 1, 2021 was \$11,268.45. Revenue was \$6,48 with no disbursements leaving a balance on January 31 of \$11,274.93 of which \$7,228.46 is available.

The beginning balance in the general fund on April 1, 2021, was \$41,689.16. Revenue was \$101.57 and there were \$1,000.00 disbursements (transferred to the Grant Fund) giving an ending balance on April 30 of \$40,790.43 of which \$4,000 was in funds dedicated to the Rosenwald School.

The beginning balance for the MCHC Preservation Fund on April 1 was \$11,274.93. Revenue was \$1,007.19 (interest and the transfer) with no disbursements leaving a balance on April 30 of \$12,282.12 of which \$7,946.45 is available.

The motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Mary Neely and seconded by Elaine Bauman. The motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cemetery Committee – Holly Jentsch. Holly reported on the various cemeteries she is continuing to visit and work. Cemeteries include the Laughlin, Gause, Richards//Crayton, Mt. Zion Church, Story, and Salem-Wilson. She shared antidotal information about one of the early settlers in Milam County, Jeremiah Monroe Wilhelm. His descendants are buried in several Milam County cemeteries including: Sandy Creek, Salem-Winston, Old City Cameron, and Oak

Hill Cemetery. Holly is also currently involved in digitizing related paper documents in the library.

Preservation Grant Fund – Holly Jentsch. Holly reported on the current grantees: The Kay Theatre – work has begun but rain has delayed anticipated progress; Cameron Chamber – a bid was accepted and they are awaiting dry conditions to do the work. Milam County Railroad Museum – waiting to move which is contingent upon another Milam County department vacating the space. Mural is painted but not installed. MCHC Cemetery Committee – D2 biological cleaner has been purchased. Milam County Historical Museum – has not responded to requests for update.

CLG Committee – John Pruett. The committee is focused on (1) digitizing records in the library, (2) Rosenwald schools (found a blueprint for Nashville from Elissa Benford and discussing with James Bradford finding physical locations), (3) Freedom Colonies. The committee is hopeful to have a member captain for the TAMU led project so that we can upload our histories, and (4) repairing markers (Sugarloaf marker repair is planned for June).

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail – John Pruett/Lynn Young. Both Lynn and John are on committees; John is on the Model Trail Committee; Lynn is an at-large board member whose term is expiring next year. John's term ends this coming October. We will need replacements from Milam County. Any interested volunteers are welcomed. Our chapter is doing a virtual tour for National Trails Day. The tour is starting on the west side at Apache Pass and going to the bridge at Sugarloaf. John requested photos if anyone has them to share.

Marker Committee – Lynn Young. Lynn shared that so far no marker applications for this year have been received. John Pruett shared that the following markers need to be restored or repaired: Lilac Cemetery, Hope Lutheran Church in Buckholts, Val Verde, and Sugarloaf River Bridge. We are awaiting notification for delivery of two markers which were awarded last year.

OLD BUSINESS

Courthouse – Lynn Young reported that the project funded by the grant has been completed. We are still waiting for the funding to be processed.

NEW BUSINESS

Rockdale Donation – Joan shared the discussion of the MCHC committee on the process used to receive the \$10,000 donation by the City of Rockdale. She noted that because the donation is from the HOT (Hotel Occupancy Tax) it must be spent in the city of origin. She noted that Apache Pass is officially considered part of Rockdale.

Old City Hall in Rockdale – several members shared their experience in the recent tour of the Old City Hall given by Curah Beard. Geri Burnett is chair of the Historical Committee to preserve the Old City Hall. Restoration to the 1895 exterior is the goal. The interior goal is to house a restaurant, gift shop, and artist haven. An open house is tentatively scheduled for October 2.

Next Meeting – the next meeting location on Monday, August 2 is probably Commissioners Court again.

Respectfully submitted,
Eunice Stigall, Secretary