

Milam County Historical Commission Meeting
St. Monica's Catholic Church – Cameron, Texas

October 3, 2022

Call to Order: Chairperson Joan Ratliff called to order the meeting of the Milam County Historical Commission on October 3, 2022, at 10:00 am. The meeting was held at the St. Monica's Catholic Church in Cameron, Texas.

Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag. The pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America was led by the pastor of St. Monica's Catholic Church.

Recognition of Hosts and Guests. Joan Ratliff welcomed all attendees and asked members to report their volunteer hours. She then recognized Monica Schiller, church historian and the Pastor of St. Monica's Catholic Church to give a presentation on the historical church.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting on August 1, 2022 were distributed via email prior to the meeting. Lynn Young made a motion, seconded by Elissa Benford, to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion carried.

Approval of Treasurer's Reports: Geri Burnett gave treasurer's reports.

The beginning balance on July 1 for the General Fund was \$62,571.90. We had revenue of \$334.43 from the sale of ELCAT books and memorial donations. There were no disbursements leaving a balance on July 31 of \$62,906.33 which includes \$4,000 designated for the Rosenwald School.

The beginning balance on July 1 for the Preservation Fund was \$12,195.35. There was interest revenue of \$14.24 and no disbursements leaving a balance on July 31 of \$12,209.59.

The beginning balance on August 1 for the General Fund was \$62,906.33. We had revenue of \$101.11 and disbursements for name tags of \$29.50 leaving an ending balance on August 31 of \$62,977.94 of which \$4000 is designated for the Rosenwald School.

The beginning balance on August 1 for the Preservation Fund was \$12,209.59. There was interest revenue of \$19.65 with no disbursements leaving an ending balance on August 31 of \$12,229.24.

The motion to approve the treasurer's reports was made by Elissa Benford and seconded by Jennifer Patton. The motion carried.

Committee Reports

Certified Local Government Committee (CLG) – John Pruet. John shared the CLG committee activities were slow during the summer. He received from Geri Burnett information on the Rosenwald school. He will continue to do research to find a resolution for the situation.

John also shared information about George Sessions Perry and read one of his stories "Tales of the Foolish Farmer" from 1949 in the Saturday Evening Post. It was based on Cap Haynes family from Liberty Hill community.

John also reported that he was now the contact resource for the Freedom Colony project for Milam County.

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historical Trail - Lynn Young. Lynn shared that the report for the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historical Trail committee had passed the first

level of review and we are now awaiting to find out any corrections or additions we need to make to go further. Also, the annual fees are now due. Paula Sisco made a motion to pay the the dues for the ELCAT National organization membership of \$100. The motion was seconded by Doug Kleypas. The motion carried.

Standing Committees

Cemetery Committee - Holly Jentsch. Holly shared the following:

- She has received an inquiry that the Cameron Rotary club might be interested in cleaning up Cameron pioneer cemetery. She will speak to the group on their Wednesday luncheon.
- She was researching the Simmons-Jones Cemetery was is on formally Alcoa property.
- Researching a grave on the formally T 7 ranch. The grave was for a worker from a neighboring ranch who was building a fence in an area disputed by the landowner around 1900. The worker was black and buried without law enforcement notification. The story was passed down in the family. The current ranch manager knows the story but is appears to be reluctant to discuss the story.

Marker Committee - Lynn Young. Lynn Young shared that there is a program on Saturday at 6 at the Rockdale Old City Cemetery for the dedication of the historical marker for the Cemetery. There will be a unique program for the event. Volunteers are asked to be there at 5 to help set up. We will also need volunteers for program event. Joan said she had contacted the school to see if some students might like to volunteer but has not heard back so MCHC members were asked to volunteer if needed.

The Bistro marker dedication held in Cameron was a good success.

For other approved applications, the San Gabriel Baptist Church marker has been shipped and planning for a dedication would soon begin. The Worley marker has not been shipped yet. The Marker for the Gause Baptist Church has been approved. The Bryant Station marker was removed by the state for the construction on Highway 190 and will be returned when it is complete.

Preservation Grants - Holly Jentsch (administers MCHC funded grants and oversees accountability of recipients). The following Preservation Grants have been awarded for 2022:

- The Kay Theater Foundation \$2700.
- Milam County Railroad Museum 4136.00
- Samuel Park Storyboard \$3000.00
- The 1895 Project: \$5000.00 (Geri Burnett will routinely share progress on this project)

All grantees have work in progress and most are nearing completion but she has not heard from the Train depot so will contact Mr. Larson to see if they have purchased their cabinets. Elissa Benford reported that the storyboard is finished and hopefully will be installed this next week.

Archeology Committee: Geri also reported that they were not going into schools to do the history presentations yet. Hopefully they can next year but she was ordering new posters and Texas Archeology handbooks to give out to the teachers.

Old Business

Nominating Committee - Lynn Young reported the nominating committee which consisted of her, Geri Burnett and Eunice Stigall recommend the following nominees for the next term:

Holly Jentsch - Chair
Eunice Stigall - Vice Chair
Jennifer Patton- Treasurer
Lynn Young – Secretary

A motion was made to accept the recommendations and approve them as the officers for the next period. The motion passed unanimously.

1895 Old City Hall Preservation. Geri Burnett reported on The 1895 Vision Historic Preservation Foundation Project. The tower will be built on the property and the bricks were coming. There was also a star gazing event that was successful recently.

New Business

First Friday Coffee is this Friday the 7th at the Rockdale Library. A sign up sheet was passed around for volunteers, etc. Please bring the items slightly before 8 or the day before. We will be selling books and postcards.

Strategic Plan. Joan said she would be working on the Strategic Plan with the executive committee. She announced the THC annual conference is Feb 1-3rd and encouraged all to attend if they could. Lynn Young Jentsch stated she was attending virtually.

Next Meeting. Our next meeting is Dec 5, 2022 and there will be invitation made to the County Judge and commissioners to join us. Refreshments will be served. The location has not been decided yet.

Adjournment

We appreciate Holly Jentsch for taking the notes required for the minutes of today's meeting.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Eunice Stigall, Secretary

