

Aransas County Historical Commission (ACHC)

December 9, 2014 – Minutes

The meeting convened at 5:31 p.m. in the Justices of the Peace Courtroom in the courthouse. Chair Collin Jackson presided and declared a quorum.

**Commissioners present:** Kitty Angell, Dolly Close, Kathy Gribble, Greg Harlan, Collin Jackson, Gail Johnston, Letha Kieffer, Sally Reynolds, Betty Stiles, Pam Stranahan, Janet Taylor, Carol Thompson, and Kam Wagert.

**Commissioners not present:** Linda Garcia, Sue Travis.

**Minutes** of September 22, 2014 were corrected by Pam who noted that there is not a State and National Historical Society (see Cemeteries, first sentence). Motion by Pam to accept the minutes with this correction, second, passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report-** Letha Kieffer

Letha noted that there is about \$2,100 left in our account. She reminded everyone to submit their invoices for expenses. All marker expenses have been paid. Motion by Betty to accept the treasurer's report, second, passed unanimously.

**Committee Reports**

Executive-Collin Jackson: Collin stated that our by-laws need to be in line with the state's statutes. Our by-laws should state that we will meet at least quarterly; commissioners should be appointed in odd-numbered years; commissioners would be allowed to return to the commission after staying off for one year, instead of two years. Collin stressed that we need to be in compliance with the THC. Collin asked who would like to serve on a by-laws committee. Betty, Sally, and Kitty volunteered to be on this committee and report back at our next meeting what changes need to be made to our by-laws so that we are in compliance with the THC.

Kam Wagert stated that the nomination committee had met, nominated, and contacted the following persons who have accepted their nomination: Geoff Bywater, Veronika Camehl, and Gene Harrison. Sally Reynolds stated that the committee nominated (to return to the commission for another term) Collin Jackson, Letha Kieffer, and Betty Stiles. All three have accepted their nomination. Motion by Pam to accept all of the nominations and take the names before the commissioners' court in January, second, passed unanimously.

Collin noted that our yearly volunteer hours are due for the THC. Each volunteer hour (spent at anything that is related to history) is valued at \$20.00 per hour (in kind).

**Preservation and Public Policy-**Pam Stranahan

Pam stated that the Cedar's property has been approved for windstorm exemption. This will now go to the city of Rockport to be filed.

Pam reported on a meeting she attended concerning St. Peter's Episcopal Church. The current building is not going to be moved when the congregation relocates to its new site. At the meeting, Pathways was asked if it was interested in the building. Pathways administrators stated there was no money for this. Pam said that the building was moved to its present site in 1954; there is currently a subject marker for the congregation. She noted that the building cannot be on the Register of Historic Places as it has been moved from its original site. Pam related that a committee will be meeting to determine how the building could be used and how to sustain it. The congregation needs to sell it for some fee. Pam said that the fee is negotiable. The congregation does want to leave the building where it is.

#### **Historical Markers-Kitty Angell**

Kitty noted that we had three marker dedications in 2014: the McLester Family Cemetery; the Harper House; and the re-dedication of the Lamar Cemetery. She stated that we have three marker applications in to the THC. They are: the Hynes-Balthrop House; the Rockport Volunteer Fire Department; and the Jackson Family Maritime Companies. Kitty said that all three have received \$100 invoices, which were paid. She noted that this does not mean acceptance of the applications. It does mean that the subjects' material is complete, and they should receive favorable scrutiny. Kitty said that Pam will be writing a marker application for the Rockport Air Force Station. She asked for suggestions for other markers.

#### **Collections-Letha Kieffer**

Letha stated there was nothing to report about the collections. But she suggested we use the remaining funds in our budget for preservation materials. Motion by Betty to use our remaining funds for 2014 to purchase preservation materials and supplies, second, passed unanimously.

#### **Cemeteries-Betty Stiles**

Betty related that the rededication of the Lamar Cemetery marker was very nice. The crowd first met at the new Lamar fire station and then went to the cemetery for the unveiling of the new marker.

**Old Business-** Gail showed the label which will be attached to the Aransas County Historical Society calendars that are given to local fourth graders. The label shows that the calendars were given by the ACHC. Betty said that \$8,000 had been approved for the ACHC for 2015 by the county commissioners. Kitty stated that the larger-sized historical markers are wanted for the Jackson Family Maritime Companies and the Rockport Volunteer Fire Department markers. Sally reported that volunteers from the local genealogical society will photograph graves in Lamar Cemetery and post to "Find a Grave". Betty said she will help with this project.

**New Business-** Betty said that airport manager Gene Johnson is about to retire. She noted that there is a wealth of history in the airport, which would make a great exhibit for the History Center. Sally suggested that an oral interview be made with Mr. Johnson. Betty then stated that she felt that the ACHC needs a logo, and that she would work on some designs for this. Letha noted that some of the programs that

were handed out at our marker dedications this year did not have the date on them. Pam then passed out the new History Center bookmarks with upcoming events/exhibits for the Center on them.

First Meeting Date for 2015: Collin set the date for January 22, 2015, at 5:05 p.m.

Motion by Betty to adjourn at 6:47 p.m., second, passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Janet Taylor and Kam Wagert (typist)