

**Aransas County Historical Commission (ACHC)**  
**September 22, 2014 – Minutes**

Meeting convened at 5:30 pm and was held in the Commissioners' Courtroom in the Courthouse. **Chair Collin Jackson presided.** A Quorum was declared.

**Commissioners Present:** Kitty Angell, Linda Garcia, Greg Harlan, Collin Jackson, Gail Johnston, Letha Kieffer, Sally Reynolds, Betty Stiles, Pam Stranahan, Janet Taylor, Carol Thompson, and Kam Wagert. **Commission Advisors Present:** None. **Guests Present:** Sandra Gregory Bridges. **Commissioners Not Present:** Dolly Close, Kathy Gribble, and Sue Travis.

**Minutes** of July 15, 2014, were unanimously approved after a motion was made by Betty and a second by Kam.

**Treasurer's Report – Letha Kieffer**

Letha distributed the August 2014 financials (attached), and the balance at the end of August was \$5,591.70. We will be buying the 2015 calendars from this year's budget. Also the cost for the two marker dedication/re-dedication invitations and programs, as well as the application fees for the three new markers will still need to come out of the budget from this year. After a motion by Kitty and a second by Greg, the Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

**Committee Reports**

**Executive—Collin Jackson:** Collin distributed a proposed **Memorandum of Understanding** between the Friends of the History Center and the Aransas County Historical Commission. After a discussion on the contents, Pam made a motion which was seconded by Sally to approve the MOU subject to final approval by the Friends of the History Center. After the full vote of the Commission, it was unanimously approved.

**Preservation & Public Policy—Pam Stranhan:** Pam presented a Windstorm Exemption Program Application (attached) for John R. Hendrick for 1203 S. Water St. #1 (Cottage #1 of The Cedars) which has been in existence for 86 years. Pam reminded everyone that anyone having a windstorm exemption means that the property would be tagged by FEMA to be preserved and not torn down in the event of a hurricane. The Windstorm Exemption Certificate Application for this address was unanimously approved after a motion by Sally and a second by Janet.

**Historical Markers—Kitty Angell**

Kitty handed out a Marker Report of Upcoming Marker Dedication/Re-Dedication and 2014 Marker Applications. Regarding the dedications, the **Harper House** Dedication is scheduled for 10:00 am on October 18, 2014 (located at 806 Live Oak—the big yellow house). The **Lamar Cemetery** Re-Dedication is scheduled for 10:00 am November 15, 2014. We will need invitation and programs for both of them. For the Lamar Cemetery re-dedication, Betty will give remarks and will ask Doris Ruttiger of the Lamar Women's Club to do the unveiling. After a motion by Greg and a second by Betty, it was unanimously approved to expend funds for both dedications.

There was brief discussion on each of the new marker applications for 2014. For the Rockport Volunteer Fire Department, although Kitty has talked with Danny Cox, that application must get Rockport City Council Approval first and they will next meet on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Regarding the Jackson Family Maritime Companies, there was brief discussion on placement of the marker. After a motion by Linda and a second by Letha, it was unanimously approved to accept nominations for three new marker applications: **1) Rockport Volunteer Fire Department, 2) Jackson Family Maritime Companies;** and **3) Hynes-Balthrope House.** Kitty should have all applications submitted by the November deadline.

**Collections—Letha Kieffer**

Letha showed the bookplate designed for the books displayed at the History Center.

**Cemeteries-Betty Stiles:**

Betty introduced our guest, Sandra Gregory Bridges. Sandra passed around a pamphlet from the Texas Cemetery Restoration LLC and a Quarterly Bulletin from the Association for Gravestone Studies. She gave a brief presentation of efforts to get local groups interested in cemetery preservation. Her email is [Sandra\\_gregory2000@yahoo.com](mailto:Sandra_gregory2000@yahoo.com) for anyone with question.

Betty then discussed the information she received regarding veterans from all wars at the Lamar Cemetery. She also discussed locating unique markers.

Pam mentioned that the History Center will hold a civil war exhibit next fall and hope to have all locations of all gravesites of veterans in the County and hopes to make it an annual event.

Sally, who works with the Genealogy Society, would like to work with both the genealogy group and the historical commission for a joint cemetery project for the purpose of taking pictures of the tombstones.

Betty also talked about three graves at Matagorda Island that it is hoped can be located.

Kitty mentioned a program presented annually in Nueces County that she attends called "Talking Tombstones". All in all, the commissioners were presented with great information and many ideas to ponder.

**Old Business:** There was no old business.

**New Business:**

There was discussion on 2015 membership and officers. Janet, Greg, Sue and possibly Letha will all be going off the Commission next year. Sally, Janet and Kam volunteered to be on a Nominating Committee to recommend 2015 officers and new members during the December meeting. After a motion by Linda and a second by Gail, it was unanimously approved to accept Sally, Janet and Kam for the Nominating Committee.

The next meeting was set for December 9, 2014, at 5:30 pm at the Courthouse.

There being no further old or new business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm after a motion from Greg and a second from Kitty.

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Respectfully submitted, *Linda Garcia*, Secretary