

**Aransas County Historical Commission (ACHC)**  
**January 14, 2014– Minutes**

Meeting convened at 5:30 pm and was held in the Aransas County Commissioners' Courtroom.

**Chairman Greg Harlan presided.**

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

Commission Advisors Present: Carolyn Cauley and Sandy Garrison

**Commissioners Not Present:** Linda Garcia

A Quorum was declared and 2014 members were introduced.

**Minutes** of November 20, 2013 were approved as presented after a motion by Betty which was seconded by Pam.

**The Treasurer's Report – Letha Kieffer**

Letha reviewed the 2013 budget and stated there was a remaining balance of \$41.18. Our budget for 2014 is \$8,000.00. Betty made a motion, which was seconded by Janet, to approve the report as presented. Motion passed.

**Consider Revision of By-Laws- Greg Harlan**

Greg went over the current by-laws for a commissioner's term of office. A commissioner can serve for two consecutive two year terms then must sit out for one term before serving again. It was the consensus of the group to change the amount of time to sit out to one year instead of one term. The nominating committee wanted to bring Sally Reynolds and Linda Garcia back on the board and they had not been off the board for a 2 year term. Betty suggested we amend the by-laws to have a one year absence from the board before returning for another term. Gail seconded the idea. As everyone agreed, it was decided to vote on it at the next meeting as changes to by-laws must be posted on our agenda before changes can be made. The number of board members was also discussed. It was suggested our board be made up of 15 members to match the THC limit of members. Increasing our membership will help us accomplish our goals. The Chair will appoint a committee to work on revising the by-laws.

**VIP Survey of Historic Structures-Pam Stranahan and Janet Taylor**

Pam went over the history of the VIP Survey of Historic Structures. Janet said that she was chairing the Aransas County Historical Society committee which was going to complete the two surveys which were done and get the information on line. Janet stated that she hoped the Historical Commission would partner with the Society to complete the project as it was a THC project and a good way for accumulating volunteer hours. Betty, Gail and Kitty volunteered to help. It was suggested the Leadership Class and the Leadership Alumni might be willing to help also. A committee will be formed soon to start working on the project.

**Liaisons to Other Local Organizations- Collin Jackson**

There was consensus that we should have liaisons to other local groups in our county. Below is a list of the organizations and liaisons to those groups.

Aransas First- Linda Garcia

Aransas Pathways- Betty Stiles

Aransas County Historical Society- Janet Taylor

Friends of the History Center- Pam Stranahan

Daughters of the Republic of Texas- Kam Wagert

Daughters of the American Revolution- Kitty Angell (About 12 AC residents belong to the Corpus chapter.)

Fulton Mansion- Gail Johnston

Texas Maritime Museum- Sally Reynolds

Aquarium- Collin Jackson & Kathie Gribble

**Committee Reports**

**A. Executive—Greg Harlan & Collin Jackson**

ACHC by-laws were already discussed. The importance of recording activities and keeping volunteer hours to include in our annual year end report to THC was stressed. There was a brief summary of the 23 page end of the year report which was submitted to the THC. The 2013 officers of the board will remain officers until the next

meeting when new officers will be elected.

## **B. Preservation and Public Policy**

### **Status of Bruhl Paul Johnson House- Janet Taylor & Kam Wagert**

The main things to be completed are painting the inside and outside of the house and landscaping. Bids for painting are expected to be turned in any day. Blake McDavid, Landscape Committee Chair, has been meeting with landscape designers. The Friends of the History Center will be holding a big yard sale on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is hoped the History Center will be open to the public in March.

### **Presentation of 2014 Historic Calendars to 4 th graders**

Carolyn Cauley said we needed 2 volunteers to present the calendars for the current year. Gail Johnston and Carol Thompson volunteered to present the calendars this year.

## **C. Historical Markers- Sandy Garrison (Advisory Board Member)**

Sandy passed out a summary of our 2013 markers. The McLester Cemetery marker will be dedicated in the spring. We are waiting to receive the text for the Harper House marker which has already been approved by the THC. The Smith-Brundrett House marker application has been accepted as complete by the THC. We should hear soon if the application is approved.

## **D. Collections- Letha Kieffer & Sally Reynolds**

Oral histories are being transferred from cassettes to CDs. The oral histories need to be inventoried and separated. Some belong to the Commission and some belong to the Society. The groups will share the oral histories. Letha accepted some Madden items which Ken Bower gave Janet to give to the Commission.

## **E. Cemeteries- No report**

### **9. Old Business**

Letha made a motion to pay \$163.00 on the sign at the History Center. This was ½ of the amount above what the Leadership class gave the Friends for the sign. The sign has the Friends and the Commission on it. The History Center will also pay \$163.00 for the sign. Janet seconded the motion which passed.

### **10. New Business- No report**

### **11. Set Future Meeting Dates- Tabled until Special Meeting on Saturday**

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm after a motion by Betty, and seconded by Collin, passed.

Respectfully submitted

Janet Haseman Taylor, Secretary