

**Aransas County Historical Commission
Special Meeting**

September 30, 2013 – Minutes

Meeting convened at 5:45 p.m. and was held in the History Lab. Rm. 15, of the old Rockport School with Chairman Carolyn Cauley presiding.

Commissioners Present: Carolyn Cauley, Diane Dupnik, Letha Kieffer, Sandy Garrison, Greg Harlan, Collin Jackson, Dora McKelvey, Betty Stiles, Janet Taylor, Sue Travis **Commissioners Not Present:** Carol Pina, Sarah Solis

A Quorum was declared.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved with corrections as read. Motion to approve was made by Greg Harlan and seconded by Sandy Garrison.

The Treasurer's Report – Letha Kieffer

Letha gave a review of the 2013 budget. We have a balance of \$5,484.88 of which \$161.08 is encumbered. Sandy suggested that we buy a PA system to use at marker dedications. The treasurer's report was approved after a motion by Diane Dupnik which was seconded by Sandy Garrison.

Committee Reports

Executive—Carolyn Cauley and Greg Harlan

Images of America: Lighthouses of Texas, a book on lighthouses, is currently being written. The Commission received a request for a photo of the Aransas Lighthouse. Carolyn scanned the photo for the author. The book which will sell for \$21.99 will be available the early part of 2014. It was suggested the Friends/ Commission might like to sell the book at the History Center. Carolyn requested that volunteer hours be turned in at least twice a year. Our volunteer hours are a part of the Commission's annual report to the THC. Information about the website to take the Open Meetings Act will be sent to those who haven't taken the training yet. In April, Lonnie Matthew said she needed to resign from the Commission due to surgery. She is being asked to turn in a formal resignation for our records. Carolyn turned in her written resignation because of health issues. Carolyn gave the Commission laptop and printer to Collin. Letha informed Collin that she is not receiving Commission e-mails. Greg informed us of a Marker Webinar that would be good for us to participate in. It takes an hour and a half to complete and once you do it the information will be on your computer. Greg will send us the details.

Historical Markers- Sandy Garrison

Sandy reported that the Stella Maris Marker needed to be relocated where it is more visible. The THC agrees to the moving of the marker as long as it is near the same site. There will be a 20 foot difference to match the new entrance. The Lamar Fire Department will move the sign for a donation. It was agreed that the donation should be at least \$100.00. A replacement marker is needed for the Lamar Cemetery as part of the text is not legible and the marker had been placed on a piece of granite. Therefore, a new marker on a pole is needed. The THC has agreed to minor changes to the text of the marker to make it accurate. Cost of the new marker will be \$1,100.00. The Lamar Woman's Club will partner with the Commission to pay for it. The Marion Packing Plant Marker also needs to be moved. The 1976 marker was knocked over by a car resulting in the marker being knocked off its pole. The sign also needs to be refurbished. The cost will be nominal with the City of Fulton setting new pole and attaching marker. The First National Bank marker should be refurbished at the same time the packing plant marker is fixed. The Port Bay replacement marker is at the District office of TXDOT and will be installed by them. The marker is being replaced due to bullet holes. Next markers being considered are the Smith-Brundrett House, our local square dancer group, and Simon Michael. The Simon Michael marker was already approved by THC, but due to the health of the current owner we were not able to proceed. We will have to reapply. We are still waiting on Ray McLester to set a date for the McLester Cemetery marker dedication. Sandy asked for help with the marker dedication of the Woods-Jackson House.

Public Relations-Diane Dupnik

Diane reported on the cemetery project she is working on. In addition to the Rockport, Fulton and Lamar cemeteries, Aransas County also has the Barber, McLester, Powell-Young, and San Antonio cemeteries. Diane had visited these cemeteries and taken photographs to show the condition they are in. There is nothing at the Barber Cemetery. The Powell-Young Cemetery has 2 slabs, no headstones, and the metal markers and fence are gone. The San Antonio Cemetery is overgrown and the brush is taking over. The THC goal is for

the Commission to have our cemetery information on our website.

Collections- Letha Kieffer

Letha reported on the oral history tapes that belong to the Aransas County Historical Commission, The Aransas County Historical Society, The Friends of the History Center of Aransas County, and the Texas Maritime Museum. It is the plan of all these groups to have the tapes inventoried, transferred to discs and shared with each other. The originals will be stored at the Texas Maritime Museum as they have the best facility to house them safely.

Friends of the History Center-Janet Taylor

Renovations are rapidly taking place at the house:

Driveway, parking spaces and sidewalks are complete, tinted and stamped to look like bricks; ADA bathrooms have been added to the back of the structure; new roof on house; our collections are growing; we are going to publish a book of Rockport postcards.

Old Business-Creating a marker book

This item was tabled as Sarah Solis was absent.

New Business-None

Sandy expressed the appreciation of the Historical Commission for Carolyn's service.

Future Meeting Dates-Greg Harlan

Greg announced our next meeting would be October 8th at 5:30 at the Old Rockport School. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a Chair and a Vice Chair for the remainder of the current term. We also need to be thinking about members to add to the Commission. Betty said Gail Johnston was very interested serving on the Commission. She will be contacted. There will also be a meeting in November.

Motion to adjourn was made by Janet and seconded by Letha. Motion unanimously passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Haseman Taylor, Secretary