

ARANSAS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

Commissioners present: Jerry Brundrett, Sandy Garrison, Mike Geer (Vice-Chair), Barbara Gurtner, Collin Jackson (Secretary), Wendy Laubach (Court Liaison), Pat Rousseau, Betty Stiles (Chair), Janet Taylor, Brian Tullis, Pam Stranahan (Non-Voting Advisory Member)

Commissioners absent: Sandra Bridges; Sherri Collins; Tim Daniel; Phil Decker; Leona Nacole Predom.

1. Chair Betty Stiles called the meeting at the Aquarium Education Center to order at 5:17 pm and declared a quorum was present.
2. **Introduction of Guests** – Janie White; Rockport Cemetery/Aransas County Historical Society, Cheryl Livingston; Historical Society President.
3. No Citizens to be heard.
4. **PRESENTATIONS:** 1) Rockport Center for the Arts Executive Director – Luis Puron; Exploration of moving the Kline Café building. 2) Presentation from Jennifer Day on SAAP Depot – Tabled; Jennifer Day could not attend.
5. **Minutes**—Collin Jackson
Minutes of the regular meeting of March 27, 2019, were distributed and approved as read after a motion from Pat Rousseau, seconded by Mike Geer. Minutes from Executive Committee Meeting July 23, 2019; Sandy Garrison, Seconded by Brian Tullis; motion carried unanimously.
6. **Treasurer's Report**—
Betty Stiles read from the Statement of Expenditures provided by the County Auditor. Total in the account through August \$8,127.84.
Barbara Gurtner motioned, seconded by Pat Rousseau, the commission unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report; motion carried unanimously.
7. **Committee Reports/Action Items:**
 - A) **Executive**—Betty Stiles/Mike Geer/Collin Jackson/Sandra Bridges
Waiting for Jennifer Day on SAAP Depot Report; the project is in progress and they are looking for funding. Betty reminded members to take the open meeting training video online on the attorney general website at <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/og/open-government-training> (about an hour in duration) and then turn in their certificates to the Secretary. Asked for any certificates. Janet Taylor and Sandy Garrison have been turned in.
 - B. **Preservation and Public Policy**—Pat Rousseau
 - 1) At the end of July; the Texas Historical Commission gave a workshop at the Fulton Mansion; were we found out that the Rockport School received a grant for \$250,000 to go towards the preservation of the building; updating the windows new ones that have an original construction look, but will be storm rated. The plan is to go back to the THC down the road for additional grant opportunities; also announced; was the Angel Rose BNB also received a grant of \$250,000 to go towards restoration and repairs from damage caused by Hurricane Harvey. That is the last of the Harvey; Irma; and Marie Grants. Pat recommended and moved that we support the Art Center's proposal to move and preserve the Old Kline Building as presented by Luis Puron; Mike Geer seconded the motion; and the motion carried unanimously with no opposition.
 - C. **Historical Markers & Endangered Properties**—Sandy Garrison
 - 1) The Marker Foundry used by the Texas Historical Commission is going out of business; going into the third quarter without a Foundry; and currently do not have a replacement that meets the very specific requirements. The Foundry will honor the current markers in the pipeline; but will not make any new markers. We can go ahead and file and obtain; proof of ownership; but we cannot submit applications until they have the costs from a new foundry. Marker Application process is currently frozen.

- 2) Updated on the Aransas Lighthouse Marker; Bob Brinkman from THC has agreed with us that at least two corrections are required to the information on the Marker. However, we are in a disagreement about installing a “supplemental” plaque on the Marker Post to clarify the corrected information; the marker is aged and in bad shape; we want the existing marker replaced with a new marker and the updated and correct verbiage. An example of misinformation on the Marker; is the statement that the Lydia Ann Channel was named after the daughter of the lighthouse owner; which is folklore; many historians feel it is named after a much earlier woman named Lydia Ann Wells.
- 3) St. Charles Bay Hunting Club; has declined to proceed with a Marker.
- 4) Bracht House on Omohundro; is currently for sale; recommended we wait and approach the new owner because of the work involved.
- 5) Kline Building would be a subject marker; it is a long process; and do the owners understand it. We cannot do a marker right now; but they are very amenable to a marker; especially once the building is moved to the new, also historically significant location.
- 6) Will try again on the application for the John Sorenson house.

D. Finance and Budget—Sandra Bridges/Betty Stiles

- 1) Collin discussed the update on the laptop and software for use in inventorying the Vault Collection. Quote comes to \$2,400; and we have about \$2,500 allocated. Motion made by Pat Rousseau; seconded by Mike Geer; motion carried unanimously with no opposition.
- 2) Report that invoice from Rockport Cemetery has been submitted for budgeted donation of \$500.00 for their Post-Harvey Repair Efforts.
- 3) Pam Stranahan provided an update on the History Center exhibit; “The Real People and Their Stories of Aransas County”. The grants they have approached will not cover equipment costs; asking the Historical Commission for 3,500 dollars; Betty Stiles proposed moving the \$3,240 dollars from the Marker Fund to provide. Motion made by Jerry Brundrett; seconded by Janet Taylor; motion carried unanimously with no opposition.

E. Public Relations/Outreach—Mike Geer/Betty Stiles

- 1) Betty reported we have contracted again with the Aransas County Historical Society Calendars for 2020; to be presented to the fourth graders. Invoice submitted for payment by Aransas County Commissioners Court.
- 2) Mike Geer gave an update on the Marker Guide for 2020; Mike Probst provided the costs for advertisements; \$400 dollars for inside and inside back cover; ads will be \$150, inside back cover and back page \$600. Aiming for a December press deadline. Once the ads have sold, we can go to press.

F. Collections – Barbara Gurtner

- 1) No Intern update at this time.
- 2) We have approved the software and laptop purchase; Collin can probably get Wi-Fi access in the vault.

G. Ad Hoc:

1) Cemeteries—Sandra Gregory Bridges/Brian Tullis

- a) Sandy Bridges is not present; but we heard an update from Janie White on the Rockport Cemetery Proposal for Grant; they have received a 25,000 grant from the Margaret Sue Rust Foundation.

- 2) **Sesquicentennial 2021** — Pam Stranahan gave us an update on the Sesquicentennial; The County Sesquicentennial will be held in 2021. Jerry Brundrett brought up the Time Capsule at the old City Hall grounds and who owns the capsule; he may still have the newspaper article from when the capsule was originally placed. However, that will determine who really should open it; not to throw a monkey wrench in any plans. If anyone wants to assist the ideas are on the board; here; at the Aquarium Education Center; and it will be a lot of work. Looking to start a campaign to co-brand the County Sesquicentennial Logo with other entities in the area to get the word out about the County 2021 Sesquicentennial. Different Committees will be discussed in January to establish the planning of events and activities for the upcoming Sesquicentennial.

8. Old Business – Betty Stiles

- a. Hurricane 1919 Event in September; the recording of the event is on Youtube.

- b. Update on the Key Allegro Bridge; the two memorial plaques on the North and South sides dedicated to Karl Krueger will be moved; and reinstalled after the new bridge is completed. Environmental part of the project is completed. They are hoping to start construction early or after the first part of 2020.
 - c. History Center Exhibit; Key Allegro; August 10 – November 17; Talks every other week; and it has been really successful.
9. **New Business** – Betty Stiles
- a. Dates and brochures – Pre-Registration for Tropical Trails; Historical Conference; October 19th; in Hallettsville. “Once We Were a Republic; Rekindled”.
 - b. South Texas Historical Association Conference; in Alamo, Texas; November 1 through November 2
 - c. Friends of the History Center; Next Exhibit – Vintage Holidays; November 23rd
 - d. Pam S. and Betty S. are going to be attending the Real Places Conference; Sponsored by the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission; presentation and program on Venue Tax and Pathways.
 - e. Tropical Trail Events are typically third Tuesday of the month; and the only cost is your lunch. They are great presentations. The last three months of the year; the Tropical Trail events will be in the Valley area.
 - f. Pat Rousseau will also be attending the Real Places Conference in Austin as well and has received a stipend from the Texas Historical Commission. Requested payment of \$315 for the 2020 Real Places registration fee from the AHCH Budget; already in the budget so no motion was needed just submission of an invoice.
 - g. Next Meeting will be November 13th.
10. **Other Business** – Sherry Collins has resigned from the Commission due to health reasons. Her term would end Dec 2020. We will want to fill that position for the remaining year.

11. Adjournment:

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm after a motion from Mike Geer and a second from Bryan Tullis.

Respectfully Submitted,
Collin Jackson Secretary