

Aransas County Historical Commission March 27, 2019

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Members present were Betty Stiles, **Chair**; Mike Geer, **Vice Chair**; Sandra Bridges, **Treasurer**; Collin Jackson, **Secretary**; Pat Rousseau, Jerry Brundrett, Phil Decker; Leona Nacole Predom; Brian Olsen, Commissioners Court Liaison; Linda Garcia-Haynes, Advisory Member.
2. Meeting called to order at **5:19PM** by Chair Betty Stiles and a quorum was declared by the same.
3. **Motion** to correct previous meeting minutes raised by P Rousseau, seconded by B Gurtner. Motion Carried unanimously correcting and **accepting January 23, 2019** meeting minutes with corrections.
4. **Treasurer's Report Sandra Bridges:**
 - a. \$9071.00 Balance, motion to accept report by P Rousseau, seconded by J Brundrett; Motion Carried.
5. **Public Policy Update – Pat Rousseau:**
 - a. Pam and Pat provided packets for the Rockport School and SAAP Depot. THC has acted on them; takes about 6 weeks; THC has indicated they look good; Pat needs to provide more information about integration and segregation; along with some current photos.
 - b. There were not any Black or Hispanic only schools; and at some point it will come up.
 - c. Additional Requests were made for the Railroad Depot; Pam is working on getting that information put together.
 - d. Grant opportunities for completely documented and ready to go projects are being accepted; if submitted within the allotted timeframe. Need to get them listed on the National Register for Historic Places.
 - e. Rockport School is ready to go; Suzanne Ransleben at the Education Foundation can write grant.
 - f. Railroad Depot was discussed during the Executive Committee Meeting held February 28, 2019.
 - i. It is a very expensive project; estimated at 429,000 to purchase property and do the concrete work would be a total of \$800,000. It will need to be a collaborative effort. Jennifer Day of the Cultural Arts District provided the cost figures and the details for the project.
6. **Historical Makers Update – Sandy Garrison:**
 - a. The Marker's committee scheduled a meeting for April 8, at 5pm at the home of Barbara Gurtner.
 - b. Shivers and Sorenson markers are moving forward; but they are sensitive. The Shivers marker will most likely be approached as a Subject Marker; and involve the owners of the property, and an in-depth look at the Shivers Family. Janie White has committed to retrying the application for the Sorenson House; both properties are paid for; so we do

not have to pay the 100 dollar application fee again. We can reapply once information is put together.

- c. Less information should be in the application about the Seashell Shoppe.
- d. The Shivers home has had too many remodels and additions; it cannot be given a Landmark; but a Subject Marker is acceptable.
- e. Ben Garza Marker application has started; it's a special marker; Subject Marker; on his growing up in the area with his family and brother. Additional suggestions of speaking with Tony Dominguez and JD Villa about other Hispanic Rockport Families that should be highlighted in the area.
- f. Saint Charles Bay Hunting Club is considering a marker; if the Commission chooses to nominate it for a Subject Marker.
- g. Reminder that there is a September to November 15 timeframe for Application Submissions.

7. Collections Update – Barbara Gurtner:

- a. Not quite there; still need to download the software; and talk about what needs to be accomplished. We are going to reorganize and confirm locations; and are pushing hard for a new place to store the collections in the New Courthouse. Will take multiple people; one handling data entry with Past Perfect; and others going through the shelves.
 - i. Intern may be able to help with Past Perfect data entry.
- b. Jacob Parr is currently doing all of the Live Oak Data Entry; and is very interested in helping. A Local Shining Star this year; and heading off to UT Austin.
- c. Susan Mathers at the High school handles career and business placement; can help with interns.
- d. Betty and Barbara have been in the vault; it is in a sore state.
- e. Need to purchase an additional laptop that will stay in the vault.

8. Cemeteries – Sandra Bridges - Grand Re-Opening of the Charlie Marshall's Funeral Home set for Friday.

- a. Update on the Rockport Cemetery; Judge Mills has been asked regarding several markers that have been damaged or knocked down by Hurricane Harvey. Notable markers such, as the Fulton Family Monument, have sustained damage; the Fulton Mansion Museum does not have the funds to repair it. The cemetery is a private property, but Janie White and others feel if they can get it listed on the National Registry; it would be possible to attach it to a HIM Grant. There is a lot of legwork to do since it is private property and they will have to be the ones to complete the work. They have about 35,000 in their account; and we can help with locating Grants and assist with writing; but they will have to file with the National Registry.
- b. Channel 3 featured Flowers of the Cemetery; and they were amazing with the 22 inches of rain we have had. Could possible fund under Venue Tax through Pathways; if considered a historical venue as part of the walking trails. Pathways is working TxDot for Fulton Beach Road and Trail System Coordinator.

9. Finance and Budget –

- a. The Sorenson marker was \$1150; our share is half of that. Both markers (Sorenson and Shivers) are standard size markers. We did not include the Shivers marker in 2020.

- b. We would need to pay the application fee (\$100ea) for the Hunting Club and Seashell Shop in 2020.
 - c. **Motion to accept budget as presented:** Mike Geer, seconded by Pat Rousseau, motion carried unanimously.
10. Public Relations and Outreach:
- a. Mike Geer; was not at the PR Committee meeting; Mike Probst showed up and discussed the numbers for the guide; New guide is going to be the size of the visitors guide; brighter paper; two per page; he is going to do the photography of all the markers; we are going to put together a master list of sponsors; Sandra did a job of putting them in alphabetical order. With the marker names we have. Letter is already written to go be sent to potential advertisers. Charlie Marshall's Funeral Home is considering the back page advertisement slot.
 - b. Mike will take the list and contact the advertisers to get their logos and marks to print; his people will take care of the standard businesses they deal with regularly with the newspaper; we will deal with more churches, individuals, and non-profits.
 - c. Last guide inside ads were \$150; back page ad was \$500; inside package ad \$425.
 - d. Mike said it will be \$125 an ad for the inside page; initially he thought it was going to be well over \$250 per page.
 - e. Talked to R Bianchi; he said he will sponsor the Town of Lamar ad as before.
 - f. Committee will need to meet again; Lighthouse inn would probably not do their advertisement again. Site of the Aransas Hotel was what they sponsored before.
 - g. Inside page is pretty much done; Jatin Bhatka might sponsor it with the Hampton; Fairfield; La Quinta.
 - h. Need two logos; Society and from the History Center.
 - i. **Fourth Grade Program** - Phil and Nacole completed the presentations of the calendars.
11. **Old Business** –
- a. Meeting on the 6th; South Texas Historical Association; 9am to 4Pm at the Aquarium Education Center. Reception at history center is the night before.
12. **New Business** – Sesquicentennial Update; we should put together a Joint Resolution with the City and County; we are interested in Combined Efforts even though the City came a year before the County. All plans were put on the back burner after Harvey; They City really wants to do their own thing. We suggest keeping them separate if the case; more information about the City's plans should be obtainable through Vicki Pitluck. We will coordinate as best we can if ideas align.
- a. Some Ideas for oldest living resident; contests and centering around the history.
 - b. RLT conduct historical plays or skits; get folks to dress in period clothing.
 - c. Oral Histories of Harvey; Mayor Rios, Judge Mills, C.J Wax, Rick McLester, etal it is huge and needs to be recorded.
 - d. Archive Former Mayor CJ Wax's blog posts from every day.
 - e. Scrapbooks and Clippings.
 - f. History Center hosted the Debris Art Exhibit after they reopened.
 - g. We need to get key folks here; William Whitson and Kim Foutz from the Long Term Recovery Team.

- h. Convene a Hurricane Harvey Committee to catalog and record the history for preservation. Meet at Airport 3PM.
 - i. Save the City Hall Flag.
 - j. Appoint to the committees members who are not present tonight.
 - k. **Question:** It will take some organization; will the other entities help, like the Historical Society; or is this strictly a Commission Project?
13. Motion to Adjourn – Pat Rousseau
- i. Seconded by Barbara Gurtner.
 - ii. Motion Carried; Meeting Adjourned at 6:30PM.

Minutes respectively submitted;

Collin Jackson

Secretary

Aransas County Historical Commission