

**ARANSAS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2017**

Commissioners present: Mike Geer, June Gregory, Kathie Gribble, Linda Garcia Haynes, Cassandra Perkins, Betty Stiles, Pam Stranahan, Carol Thompson, and Commissioners' Court Liaison, Betty Stiles

Commissioners absent: Sandra Gregory Bridges (out of town), Jerry Brundrett (out of town), Veronika Camehl, Betty Collier, Barbara Gurtner (out of town), Gail Johnston, Janet Taylor

Guests Present: Vickie Merchant, Monica Burdette, Amanda Torres, Hannah Hawes, Angalee Marano

1. Chair Carol Thompson called the meeting at Fulton Town Hall to order at 5:15 pm, declared a quorum was present and introduced guests.

2. **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD/INVITED GUESTS:**

Vickie Merchant, President of Friends of the History Center, presented some handouts and discussed opportunities with the History Center. They need docents, help with the gardens, publicity, scanning documents, and putting a scrapbook together. Hours invested in the History Center also count toward the Historical Commission.

Monica Burdette, a newly appointed Texas State Historical Commissioner based here in Rockport, spoke next. She is one of nine state historical commissioners and THC hopes to increase that number to fifteen. There are six main divisions dealing with historic preservation. She sits on several of them including the Architecture Committee (part of Texas Courthouse Renovations), the Community Heritage Development Committee (Texas Heritage Trails), the History Program Division (Historic highways, cemeteries, military sites), and the Astrodome (the first domed stadium in Texas and a multi-use venue). She asked to be added to the email distribution list for the ACHC and will attend meetings as available.

Amanda Torres, Rockport's City Planner, spoke next. She discussed the need for volunteers to sign up for city committees, especially the Zoning Committee where they are developing architectural standards for the Heritage District Development and how it can be protected when it is in the floodplain. Also much needed are residents to volunteer on the City's Comprehensive Planning Committee. Amanda also asked to be added to the email distribution list.

3. **Minutes—Linda Garcia Haynes**

After a motion by June Gregory and a second by Pam Stranahan, minutes of the regular meeting of January 4, 2017, were unanimously approved.

4. **Treasurer's Report--Cassandra Perkins**

Cassandra reported the Airport brochures have been paid for and there remains a current balance of \$9,796 unused from original \$10,000.00 budget. She briefly talked about the fact that refreshments provided by ACHC members should be reimbursable and would discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved after a motion by Linda Garcia Haynes and a second by Kathie Gribble.

5. **Committee Reports Will Be Park of Work Plan 2017:**

See No. 7

6. **Old Business:**

A) Lamar marker relocation—Betty Stiles

Betty reported no word as yet on the Lamar Marker Relocation.

B) Markers for 2017 accepted—Pam Stranahan

Both the Fulton VFD and Lamar VFD 2017 markers were accepted and a check will be sent to THC. The Wood Home was rejected—the Wood Family not a Landmark marker but subject marker.

7. **New Business—Committees Defined for Work Plan 2017:**

A. Executive—Carol Thompson/Pam Stranahan/Linda Garcia Hayes/Cassandra Perkins

Carol reported that a copy of the ACHC 2016 Report will be submitted to THC.

B. Preservation and Public Policy—Pam Stranahan/Angalee Morano, Hannah Hawes

The 2009 historic survey has been completed and the 2017 survey will be starting. There will be a Historic Resource Survey Workshop meeting on March 20, 2017, at 5:30 pm at the Aquarium Education Center. Volunteers are needed. The 2017 historic survey will take approximately 20 volunteer hours—the survey for one house is three pages—research select sites and will be doing the Heritage District. Pam Stranahan reported that Hannah Hawes was busy on data entry and already had one notebook completed. Everyone is encouraged to attend the workshop on the 20th of March.

C. Historical Markers & Endangered Properties—Pam Stranahan/Mike Geer

Pam discussed the process for approved markers—payment to THC, draft from THC, dedication. ACHC must approve marker applications in September. Suggestions for possible new markers include: Lamar’s original Postmaster House, the Picton House on Sabinal, the Sea Shell Shop, Sneed Herring on Magnolia, Pinkie Shivers House on Magnolia, The Days B&B, the Treasure Islander, GSM Insurance, the Sorensen House (Janie White) on Water Street, Klines?, and the Traigly houses on Live Oak.

The THC has a program called Texas Tresures which honors businesses 50 years or more.

D. Finance and Budget—Cassandra Perkins/Linda Garcia Haynes

No report at this time.

E. Public Relations/Outreach—Cassandra Perkins/Carol Thompson/Betty Stiles

Cassandra Perkins reported that she was keeping digital social media updated and still tweeting.

Carol Thompson reported that she needed help on the school project.

Betty Stiles reported on the first annual “Stroll thru Rockport” free walking tour for history, health and fun sponsored by Healthy South Texas which will be held at 9am Saturday, March 18, 2017, beginning at the History Center, 801 E. Cedar, Rockport.

F. Collections—Carol Thompson/Betty Stiles/Hannah Hawes

Everything in the vault needs to be inventoried. It’s possible then that the History Center collections would accept some items. In any case, more room (larger room) is needed for storage of collections such as oral histories, etc., many of which remain for transcription. Carol Thompson wrote a letter to Judge Mills requesting consideration of relocating the items in the vault to the climate-controlled storage room space MHMR will be vacating at the Courthouse Annex for use by the Historical Commission for collections storage. However, the request was turned down.

G. Cemeteries—June Gregory/Sandra Gregory Bridges/Betty Stiles

No report at this time. However, a fall tour through several local cemeteries is on the agenda.

There are still ACHC commissioners remaining to be appointed to committees—hopefully at next meeting.

8. **Next Meeting Date and Time:**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 3, 2017, at 5:15 at the History Center.

9. **Adjournment:**

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Linda Garcia Haynes and seconded by Cassandra Perkins at 6:40 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Garcia Haynes, Secretary