

Agenda

Bastrop County Historical Commission

First Quarterly Meeting 2021

March 11, 2021 - 2 p.m.

To be held on Zoom by authority of Governor Abbott

Susan Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7740811666?pwd=RURFd3pFazN4aXY2RXBjSGR6UzQyZz09>

Meeting ID: 774 081 1666

Passcode: VBastrop

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kesYfSzZTP>

1. Call to order and Welcome

2. Roll call. Each member will answer present and then provide a brief introduction and mention of particular interest(s) in the work of the commission and desire to be on it.
3. Declaration of Quorum
4. Greetings from Judge Pape
5. Notification of Possible Action – All items listed are subject to action by majority vote of those present.
6. Orientation to the work of the commission.
 - (1) Reference to previous handout
 - i. Local government code
 - ii. BCHC bylaws
 - iii. Open Meeting act
 - iv. website
 - (2) Video from State Historical Commission
 - (3) Questions and Discussion
7. Approval of minutes of the December 2020 meeting, as follows or as amended.

Bastrop County Historical Commission 4th Quarterly Meeting Minutes

The Bastrop County Historical Commission met for its 4th Quarterly Meeting on December 10, 2020, held via Zoom conference services (by authority of Governor Abbott.) At 2:01 p.m., Chairman Kesselus called the meeting to order and the following members, constituting a quorum, answered the roll call: Sydna Arbuckle, Judy Bergeron, Duncan Charlton, Sandra Chipley, Audrey Rother, April Daniels, David Herrington, Ken Kesselus, Mikki Meyer, Dianne Mills, Rose Pietsch, Kaye Sapikas, John Sherman, Susan Smith, and Carol Snyder. County staff members Adena Lewis, Fran Hunter, and Rose Pietsch attended the meeting, as did visitors David Robinson and Debbie Wahrmond. (Commissioners were asked to relay their interest in continuing to serve on the board for the 2021-2022 term during roll call.) The commission accepted without dissent the minutes of its September meeting as included on the agenda. Chairman Kesselus called for a clarification and reaffirmation of election of officers, explaining

that the Minutes the commission approved of the March 2020 meeting did not include the election of officers that actually took place. Therefore, it was necessary to vote again to legalize the elections. In addition, he relayed that while Sydna Arbuckle will be able to continue serving on the commission, personal needs require her to step aside as secretary, requiring the Commission to elect someone else as Secretary. The Executive Committee nominated Sandra Chipley to serve as Secretary. The Chairman opened the floor for additional nominations. None were brought forward and the nominations were closed. Judith Bergeron made a motion that the Commission reaffirm the March election of the following officers: Vice Chair, Carol Snyder; Treasurer, Duncan Charlton and to elect Sandra Chipley to serve as Secretary. Kaye Sapikas seconded the motion. The vote to approve the motion was unanimous. For the purpose of having proper documentation to allow him to take control of the checking account with Roscoe bank, Duncan Charlton requested that the following resolution be approved: "The following officers authority over organization business matters: Sandra Chipley replaces Sydna Arbuckle, who replaced Audrey Rother as secretary .Duncan Charlton replaces John Sherman as treasurer." After a motion and a second, the motion to accept was approved unanimously. For the Cemetery Survey Committee, Audrey Rother reported on the progress of generally organizing the surveys. Some are ready. Volunteers have started the actual cemetery surveys. David Robinson, of Sayersville Historical Association, mentioned that someone has expressed an interest in Mt. Zion Cemetery on FM 969. Audrey has an old plat map of it that can be used for the update. She will send a copy to Ken to forward to David. Dianne Mills has been working on the Fairview Cemetery survey. Duncan has been working with the county cemeteries update for the website with Debbie. Vice Chair Carol Snyder reported that she has written to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) concerning outstanding historical markers and not received any replies. We have received the Leshikar House in Smithville, the Mary Christian Burleson Cemetery, and the Paige Private School Society markers. THC has rewritten the marker loop which is probably ok. Rosanky Cemetery was rewritten and sent to THC. The County Clerk has agreed to store all commission records, receive mail, and store state markers that arrive until time for installation, one of which recently arrived. Sandra Chipley has researched, written and submitted an Undertold Marker for Leah Moncure, Texas' first female engineer. Carol made a motion that BCHC support sending a letter of endorsement of the application to THC, if the Executive Committee reviews the application and approves it. Duncan Charlton seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously. Carol described the THC Undertold Marker program. Carol and Sydna have helped Jerry Garcia of Elgin with information on writing a marker for the Rivers Building, 110 S. Main Street, Elgin. It should be ready to submit soon. Chairman Kesselus complimented the owners of the Moncure House for their interest in pursuing the Leah Moncure Undertold Marker along with THC for its Undertold Marker program. Susan Smith reported that the Historic Tourism Task Force still can use help and asked Chairman Kesselus to send her a list of BCHC Commissioners' names for a contact list. Chairman Kesselus reported that the Executive Committee had that the County Clerk's Office has the capacity and agreed to store the historical markers and other items we need to store. Adena Lewis stated that the county also has the capacity for the Commission to store electronic data. Fran Hunter manages the website and posts meeting notices on it. Duncan Charlton manages the Facebook page and he posted the BCHC By-Laws, approved earlier this year, on the BCHC website. Duncan, Debbie

and Fran are working together to update the cemetery information. There was no specific report from the Archives and Records Survey Committee since that information was discussed previously in the meeting. Chairman Kesselus reported that the Heritage Awareness Committee (combining the Archives and Records Survey Committee, Historical Photo Survey Committee, and Oral History Committee) would be something we need to think about going forward. Other Reports: April Daniels reported that a Ground Breaking Ceremony had been held for the reconstruction of the fire damaged Railroad Museum's Visitor Center. The Center should be completed by March 24, 2021. The Smithville Heritage Center was able to provide replacement photos. Judy Bergeron reported that the Texas State Library and Archives has asked for information for the "Texas Center for the Book" which is a literary round-up of information on where authors lived or places used by authors as settings for books. Applications are due February 8 and there is a house in Smithville that she is considering preparing an application for. A letter of support from BCHC would need to be part of the application. Anyone can apply. Judy will forward the information to Ken and he will forward to the Commissioners. Kaye Sapikas reported that the Bastrop County Historical Society will not be hosting its Homes Tour this year due to the pandemic. Treasurer Charlton reported that \$250 was approved as a line item in the FY 21 budget by the County Commissioners Court for BCHC. The debit card has been canceled due to the lack of need and added risk. The checking account address is the county courthouse and all checks require two signatories. Susan Smith moved that we approve three signatories; the Treasurer (Duncan Charlton), a finance committee member (Judy Bergeron), and the Bastrop County Director of Tourism and Economic Development (Adena Lewis). John Sherman seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Vice Chair Carol made a motion to approve the payment of past expenses (\$120.32 for water and photocopies for the March meeting), the payment of \$103.92 for the website every other year, and \$100 apiece for each Marker Dedication ceremony; the funding for these items to come first from the FY 21 BCHC line item of \$250 until all is spent and then from the BCHS stipend. Judy seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The second half of the meeting consisted of brainstorming and discussion regarding acquisition and use of funds as follows: Ongoing expense ideas of what should be in the budget for annual expected expenses and how much. April Daniels suggested a shared website about Bastrop County history; marketing across the county of the various museums; and website, database software, marketing expenses, special projects (curation & restoration projects), and rotating exhibits. A discussion of the purchasing and licensing ins and outs of Past Perfect software ensued. There is a multi-license version of Past Perfect that is available which would allow online sharing of museum information among the county's museums. Bastrop, Elgin and Rockne already have Past Perfect. Smithville, Paige and McDade do not have it. Reserve expense ideas included expenditures that provide significant long-term benefits and impact as a priority (like capital improvement and strategic leverage), aid for archives in the county to improve data entry, storage, and maintenance as well as accessibility, connecting museums and county historical associations via internet so we can be aware what is available in the county, and a website and potentially some funding for rotating entities taking the lead on website, dbase entries, marketing, special projects. □ It was mentioned the Smithville, McDade and Paige do not have computers that would be necessary run the Past Perfect software, but Duncan and Kaye would be able to help with training. Chairman Kesselus

suggested that he might post a joint meeting of the Executive Committee and the Grants and Finance Committee between now and March to discuss ideas and funding. Our next Quarterly Meeting may include a workshop with THC on what a County Historical Commission (CHC) is and the following meeting may include a county wide discussion as the theme. Chairman Kesselus adjourned the meeting without objection at 3:51 p.m.

8. Election of officers for 2021-2022 (note: The chair was appointed by the judge.)
 - a. Vice Chair
Carol Snyder
Others
 - b. Treasurer
Duncan Charlton
Others
 - c. Secretary:
Sandy Chipley
Others
9. Resolution required by Roscoe State Bank to allow the Treasure and other commissioners to access and use the commission's account.

Resolved that the names of Duncan Charlton, Judy Bergeron and Adena Lewis are to be added as signatories to the Bastrop County Historical Commission's Roscoe Bank commercial account # 541311 and Cindye Ginsel's name is to be removed."

10. Reports and possible action in response.
 - A. Historical Markers and Research Committee - Vice Chair Snyder
 - B. Cemetery Survey Committee, Audrey Rother
 - C. Historic Tourism Task Force, Susan Smith
 - D. Executive Committee, Ken Kesselus
 - E. Archives and Records Survey Committee
 - F. Heritage Awareness Committee (combining Archives and Records Survey Committee, Historical Photo Survey Committee, and Oral History Committee)
 - G. Grants and Finance Committee, Duncan Charlton

11. Consideration of meeting times regarding expanding the diversity of membership.

12. Consideration of ideas or possible actions regarding Smithville's historic – Bruce Blaylock



The year after the Civil War John Fawcett owned and operated a store, but sold it in 1867 to Dr. Taylor, the first doctor to arrive here, who later took Murray Burleson, into partnership. Three years later Dr. Taylor sold his interest to William Smith and that left Burleson and Smith handling the local trade. The home at 903 Short is where this store stood and the building is now behind the house at 803 Colorado. Ann Fulcher owns the building and will be willing to donate it to any reasonable organization that will preserve and protect it.

13. Suggestions for topics for future meetings

14. Adjournment