

Ellis County Historical Commission



P.O. Box 175, Waxahachie, TX 75165 - 0175

Minutes of the June 5th, 2024 Special Meeting
Prepared by Secretary Corey Rogan

Voting Executive Board Members

- Chair: David Sacha
- Vice-Chair: Bruce Fowler
- Treasurer: Michelle Haye (1)
- Secretary: Corey Rogan

Voting Board Members at Large

- Bill Dodson (1)
- Carlene Perryman (1)
- Elmerine Allen Bell
- Erik Harmon (1)
- George Valdez (1)
- Kameron Raburn (1)
- Karen Carreon (1)
- Karen Esberger (1)
- Kendra Blakely
- Raymond Mosley
- Rex Carey (1)
- Shannon Simpson (1)
- Sharan Farmer
- Sugar Glaspay
- Susie Toal (1)
- Ty Hall (1)

Note: (1) Indicates an absence; (2) indicates virtual presence via phone or video conference call.

Call to Order

- Location/Time: Jury Room of the Ellis County Historic Courthouse (101 W. Main St., Waxahachie, TX 75165) at 5:30 p.m.
- Quorum/Roll Call: 5:32 p.m.

Consent Agenda

- Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 3rd, 2024
 - Discussion Regarding Potential Further Updates to January 3rd Minutes
 - Motion to Approve by Kendra Blakely
 - Correction to January 3rd Minutes: No New Italy City Hall; Italy City Museum in Old Fire Station/City Hall
 - Motion by Kendra Blakely to adopt minutes with the amendments above

- Second by Raymond Mosely
- Vote: All Aye's
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 15th, 2024
 - Motion to Approve by Elmerine Allen Bell
 - Second by Sharan Farmer
 - Vote: All Aye's

Treasurer's Report (Michelle Haye)

- Michelle is absent, but there are bank statements available. Checking: \$26,000; check cleared for \$6,000 for concrete base; new balance is \$20,000; Savings: \$2,541.02 - this is 2 cents in interest.
- Motion to Approve by Sugar Glaspy
- Second by Raymond Mosley
- Vote: All Aye's

Chair's Report (David Sacha)

- Report on THC Real Places Conference from April 2 - 4, 2024 in Austin, TX
 - Discussion Regarding the Courthouse Restoration Fund as It May Apply to Ellis County
- Report on Multi-County Historical Commission Meeting on April 26, 2024 in Cleburne, TX
 - Discussion Regarding Feasibility of a "Friends of the Historic Commission" Organization for the Purpose of Receiving Donations
 - Discussion Regarding the "Texas Treasures" Program for Identifying Businesses That Have Been Within the Same Family for at Least 50 Years
- THC Distinguished Service Award Presented May 28, 2024
 - Discussion Regarding Putting the Distinguished Service Award in a Display Case

Marker Chair's Report (Sharan Farmer)

- Old Bardwell Marker Dedication on April 13, 2024 at Bardwell Church of Christ Annex
 - 125 people came, including long-time residents of the community. For one gentleman, this was his last event before passing away.
- Update on Current THC Marker Submissions
 - Discussion Regarding Potential Mapping of Historic Plantations
 - At the Foundry: Sand Lake and Bluebonnet Trails Markers
 - Brooks Cemetery: This one is just a "name and date" medallion.
 - The Ennis Memorial Cemetery has applied for the historic cemetery designation, and David Sacha has received an email that the application has been accepted; adjacent property owners are being notified.
 - The Texas Historical Commission will be choosing 15 "undertold stories" markers that will be free of charge in 2024.
 - One marker submission was submitted on May 14th, but this was after the deadline, so Sharan rejected it for 2024.

Cemetery Chair's Report (Raymond Mosley)

- The only update Raymond had was already discussed (the Ennis Memorial Cemetery).
- Discussion Regarding the Use of Boze-Mitchell-McKibbin vs. Riley-Gardner Funeral Homes to Obtain Headstones/Markers for the County Farm Pauper Burial Project
- The County Commissioners are ready to reimburse the historical commission for the County Farm project, but they have to first have an actual invoice; Raymond Mosley will look into this.

Precinct Reports

- Precinct 1
 - The City of Ferris had to close its museum, and Kendra Blakely said Karen Carreon is helping to preserve artifacts so they are not discarded.
 - A similar situation is unfolding with the Ellis County Museum, which holds the position that it should only include exhibits with items that the museum actually owns; some items are at risk of being discarded via architectural salvage companies if the owner cannot be located.
 - Example of an Item Being Discarded: A Surveyor's Instrument that Belonged to Mr. Mosely of Bristol
 - Road Situation Update for Alma Cemetery: The city is funding a gravel road into the cemetery. Originally, construction had stopped before the road reached the cemetery to avoid covering unknown grave sites, but after the ground-penetrating radar project, the road project culminated. Additionally, new plots for sale have been allocated.
- Precinct 2
 - No Updates
- Precinct 3
 - No Updates
- Precinct 4
 - Discussion Regarding Upcoming Events, Including the "Red, White, & Blue" Festival, as Well as the "Ferris Brick Festival," Which Has Been Renamed for 2024
 - Discussion Regarding a National Register Historic Home in Ennis That Was Struck by Lightning and Partially Burned

Unfinished Business

- Recommendations for Projects & Programs for the Coming Year
 - Discussion Regarding "Living History" Event at the Waxahachie City Cemetery, and the Possibility of Using Waxahachie High School Theater Students for It
 - Discussion Regarding On-Desk Display Tablet Options for the Commissioners' Courtroom of the Historic Courthouse

New Business

- Discussion of ECHC Facebook Page
 - The name of the page is "TXECHC," and it is at 109 followers.
 - Discussion Regarding YouTube/Instagram Reels for the New Page
- Discuss Frequency and Dates for Regular Commission Meetings
 - Discussion Regarding Potential Special Meeting on July 3rd to Revise Bylaws to Improve Quorum
 - Discussion Regarding Potentially Moving Meetings to the Evening to Improve Quorum
- Consider Disposition of ECHC records, THC Marker Applications, Cemetery Service Records, Etc.
 - Discussion Regarding Storage Location of Sylvia Smith's File Cabinet
 - The file cabinet cannot be in the Ellis County Museum because they don't want it; these records may also not be best to locate in the County Clerk's Office, but this is still being determined. Is there a location in the courthouse or Sims Library? David will reach out.
 - Ideally, someone who has expertise over the contents of the files should be able to present them to those who want to view them.
 - Discussion Regarding Ways to Preserve Records in Lockboxes
- Consider establishing a Friends of the Ellis County Historical Commission - 501(c)3 status.
 - Consensus: None Reached
 - Resolved: David will place the creation of a "Friends of the Historic Commission" item on the special meeting agenda alongside the change in bylaws.

Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn by Sugar Glaspy
- Second by Bruce Fowler
- Adjournment at 7:26
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 3rd, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. in the Jury Room of the Ellis County Historic Courthouse