

# Ellis County Historical Commission



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

Minutes of the October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 Meeting  
*Prepared by Secretary Corey Rogan*

## **Voting Executive Board Members**

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

## **Voting Board Members at Large**

- Bill Dodson (1)
- Carlene Perryman (1)
- Elmerine Allen Bell
- Erik Harmon (1)
- George Valdez
- Kameron Raburn (1)
- Karen Carreon
- Karen Esberger (1)
- Kendra Blakely
- Raymond Mosley
- Rex Carey (1)
- Shannon Simpson (1)
- Sharan Farmer
- Sugar Glaspy (1)
- 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 4:30 p.m.
- Quorum/Roll Call: 4:34 p.m.

## **Consent Agenda**

- Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024
  - June 5<sup>th</sup>: Change word "pauper" to say instead, "County Farm Cemetery"
  - Motion by Kendra B.
  - Second by George V.
  - Motion Passes (No Opposed)
  - Motion by Bruce to Approve July 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Second by Michelle Haye
- Motion Passes (No Opposed)

### **Presentation by the Ellis County Rural Heritage Farm**

- Guests: Ginger & George Cole, John & Mary Wedel
  - Presentation by John Wedel (gives an oral overview and a handout)
  - LuAnn Aday owns the property, with the intention that the property goes to the 501(c)3 upon her death. If the organization can't hold onto it, it will go to the Native Prairielands Association of Texas.
  - Modeled after Plano Heritage Farmstead.
  - Goal: Bring in families with children (not mission, but advertisement as to what the farm can be). This year, they started the Junior Farm Program. It was suggested to reach out to 4-H program because if the farm would be staffed, we need someone who is passionate about history as well as knowledgeable about farming. Younger people don't know about farming, unless they are 4-H, and even then, they often are too busy with actual farming jobs to help out.
  - Currently, Mark Vincent is the on-site caretaker, farming on weekends.
  - Request ECHC help with letting public know that it exists.
  - LuAnn Aday and board members maintain social Media presence.
  - Each year, the farm focuses on one particular "crop" or aspect of rural heritage, such as cotton.
  - Proposed that a member of ECHC be on the ECRHF board.
  - The long-term vision: having an entity that has long-term oversight over the land and/or the home. Perhaps the ECHC would support that. Waxahachie Parks Department declined ownership as the Farm is outside city limits. County stewardship could be an alternative.
  - Ruralheritagefarm.org

### **Reports**

- Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report
  - We have not received any statements in the mail since the last meeting, and Michelle called. This could be because their system is doing an "opt in" vs. an "opt out" to mailers. Michelle will have a report at the next meeting.
- Chair's Report
  - October Meeting in Bylaws: Establish a 3-person nominating committee for new appointments for the year. Terms renew in January of odd-numbered years.
  - Karen Carreon and Corey Rogan offered to be on the committee with David S.
  - Accept Nominations for ECHC Appointments for 2025
  - Annual Meeting & Work Day at Boren-Reagor Springs Cemetery on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> 2024 at Noon
- Marker Chair Report - Sharan Farmer:
  - Update on Current THC Marker Submissions
    - Sweatt Family Legacy Marker delivered on September 3<sup>rd</sup> (may not be up yet). Discussion regarding who might host an Dedication Ceremony
    - Brooks Family Cemetery Marker Delivered on September 25<sup>th</sup>, and it just needs installing.
    - Sand Lake and Bluebonnet Trails are both still at the foundry.
    - October 1 was the first day to submit for Undertold Stories Program; Sharan submitted the Sokol-Ennis Marker (first Sokol in Texas - Czech Heritage).
- Michelle H. reported the following:
  - Waxahachie Cemetery walk moving to late March;
  - HWI earlier this year received Old Getzendaner wading pool data (the pool had closed due to reports of polio); HWI partnered with the city to post a sign of the wading pool, which has now been unveiled as of this last weekend.
  - Christmas Tour of Homes is coming up with 5 homes, featuring small businesses at every home this year - 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> this December from 2-8 p.m.

- Cemetery Chair Report
  - No Report; Further discussion of child grave marker located in Getzandaner Park
- Precinct 1 Community Report - Karen Carreon:
  - Ferris Sesquicentennial celebration this last weekend
  - Conversion of Ferris' Batchler House into a restaurant; Barn dismantled, and property cleared of all trees.
- Precinct 2 Community Report:
  - Discussion of possible events to commemorate 175 anniversary of Ellis County on December 20.
  - Corey R.: Discussed 175 years for Ellis County display at the Ellis County Museum. Corey further noted leading the courthouse tours moving forward with the Christmas Tour of Homes and the Gingerbread tours.
  - Bruce F.: Noted further improvements to Alma Cemetery, including gravel drive. David S. noted a Chili Supper at Alma Community Center on November 6 to benefit Cemetery.
- Precinct 3 Community Report:
  - Sharan Farmer: Bardwell - church updates: 4 churches in Bardwell. First Baptist congregation ceased meeting a while back; church building is still being used as a church, but not by the original church congregation. Methodist congregation in Bardwell started in Bethany (organized 1886) and moved to Bardwell, but closed this last weekend with their last service, selling the building to a private individual.
- Precinct 4 Community Report
  - Elmerine B.: Thank Sharan for website. Considering Undertold Stories submissions before deadline.
  - Raymond M. noted annual Italy Cemetery clean-up on Labor Day weekend.
  - George V.: No Report
  - Kendra B.: Red Oak Founder's Day Last Weekend

### **Unfinished Business**

- Recommendations for Projects and Programs for the Coming Year: No Report.
- Discuss Frequency, Dates, and Times for Regular Commission Meetings
  - David S. requested members send suggestions for amendments to the bylaws.
- Consider Disposition of ECHC Records, THC Marker Applications, Cemetery Surveys, Etc.
  - David S. and Bruce F. noted that ECHC records formerly at the Ellis County Museum are safely stored. Corey R. will speak to Judge Little about records storage at new county central building.
- Consider acceptance of Ellis County Genealogical Society Records. Ron Finch is currently storing Ellis County Genealogical Society records at his house.
- Consider establishing Friends of the Ellis County Historical Commission - 501(c)3 Status
  - Discussion on whether there is a need for this. No further action at this time.

### **New Business**

- New Ellis County Historical Commission Website; Corey R. to provide link to ECHC website on County's website.

### **Open Discussion**

- Sharan F. proposed that we need an "outreach" or liaison person for cross-promotion. Bruce F. asked if Sharan would consider being this person. Corey R.: explained social media cross promotion.

### **Adjournment**

- Adjournment at 6:20 p.m. with no opposition.
- Next Meeting: Due to the first Wednesday in January being a Holiday (New Year's Day), David S. proposed that our Annual Meeting be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.