

JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of JCHC Meeting November 25, 2024

Held at the Dotey-Kirkham House – 409 N. Buffalo

Sandra Neeley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and presided over the meeting following the printed agenda.

Wilma Reed voiced the invocation followed by pledges to the US and Texas flags

Andy Asberry took the roll call: 14 appointees present, 2 excused absences, 1 guest (Charlotte Lawson)

Announcements:

Chair Neeley thanked Pat Dexheimer and Vivian Wright for catching the error of the date published for this meeting. An Amendment was sent and posted saying November 25.

Thanks were expressed for the workday held today since 2 pm to decorate the house for Candlewalk; Volunteers are needed to help during Candlewalk this Saturday from 11:30 a.m. until the tour ends at 8 p.m. A sign-up sheet for Candlewalk was passed around asking for volunteers to work 1 or 2 hour shafts. Sandra Neeley, James Neeley and Andy Asberry will be present all day.

Nita Redmon needs volunteers to assist with Texas Historical Markers/Historic Cemeteries and with local Historic Landmark Plaques and Narratives. Please speak with Nita if you can help compose narratives.

Chair reminded everyone to be reappointed for 2025 and 2026, they must have attended at least 3 meetings in the previous 6 months per the bylaws. Applications were passed out to all who were eligible for 2025 and 2026 reappointment.

Thank-you card for Kay Anderson was signed. She was very helpful and will be missed at the courthouse.

Chair announced Dan Roberts passed away November 19, 2024 and that his funeral would be at 2 pm Nov. 26 at Rosser Funeral Home with Celebration of Life afterwards at Dillon Depot 3-7:30 pm

Chair reported having appeared at Commissioners Court this morning to request funding for JCHC Executive Committee to attend the Real Places Conference in April 2025. It was approved by the Court.

Judge Boedeker asked the Court that JCHC not to be required to attend in person in the future to request Conference funding from our budget line item. Future requests will appear in "Consent Agenda" items.

Chair will attend the THC conference in person and Treasurer will attend virtually. Anyone can attend the conference, but if not on the Executive Committee they must pay their own way. 1 appointee already signed up and will pay his own way. See the Chair for Conference early registration discounts and info.

Former longtime JCHC appointee Ellis Brannam, Jr. of Keene passed away December 9, 2024. He was 89.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Amy Nichols offered the October 28, 2024 minutes for approval as printed. Andy Asberry made a motion to approve; 2nd by Dale Dexheimer; Motion Approved.

Appointees who were eligible for reappointment and who signed up for 2025 and 26 are:

Andy Asberry	Marsha Buckner
Douglas Cogdill	Pat Dexheimer
Danny Doggett	Ben Head
Rowena Lawson	Christy Morton
James Neeley	Sandra Neeley
Amy Nichols	Nita Redmon
Wilma Reed	Steve Wells
Vivian Wright	

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Charlotte Lawson has attended 3 meetings and made application for appointment to JCHC for 2025 and 2026.

Steve Wells made motion for Chair to submit names of all on the above list who are eligible to be reappointed including new applicant Charlotte Lawson. Chair to purchase Mrs. Lawson a name badge using current fiscal year PO at Bennetts at a cost not to exceed \$20; 2nd by James Neeley; Motion approved.

The list will be provided to the Judge's office for acceptance by Commissioners Court in December so everyone listed are eligible to vote at the January 2025 meeting.

After the January election, the 2025 and 2026 Executive Committee and all appointee contact info will be submitted to the Judge's office and to Texas Historical Commission.

Treasurer's Report:

Andy Asberry reported a closing balance of \$56,785.53

Amy Nichols moved to accept the report; 2nd by Marsha Buckner; Motion Approved

Old Business: None

New Business:

JCHC invited Linda Ball and Judy Tidwell to be our guests at Dotey House during Candlewalk Dec. 7.

Both ladies lived in the house although Judy was a baby at the time.

Sunday Dec. 8 all Docents who help during Candlewalk are invited to a special tour of the 5 homes at 11 a.m. See Chair for details.

Next JCHC meeting will be January 27, 2025 in the restored Johnson County Courthouse Conference Room. The meeting will include election of 2025 and 2026 JCHC Executive Committee and Chair will appoint Texas Historical Marker Chair

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. TX Historical Markers, RTHL Markers & TX Historic Cemetery Designation – Marker Chair Nita Redmon was not present; Andy Asberry had no update on Kyle-Bullard Cemetery

B. JCHC Historical Landmark Plaques & Narratives – Project Chair Nita Redmon was not present
Date for dedication of Dan Roberts' 3 properties remains pending

John Richard Rose dedication will be March 30 at his church in Cleburne. Pastor of the church would like to include some of Mr. Rose's music during the dedication.

Charlotte Lawson is working on the narrative for JN Long School.

Ben Head volunteered to write the narrative for Bennett's.

Historic Landmark Plaque and Narrative for the Hudson Home at 720 N. Robinson was tabled as project chair Redmon was absent. It will appear in the January 2025 agenda.

December 11, 2024 at 6 pm the Baker House Johnson Co. Historic Landmark plaque and narrative will be dedicated at Burleson.

C. Friends of JCHC: - No report. Friends did not meet today.

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D. Dotey-Kirkham House

Save Old Cleburne donated \$200 to Friends of JCHC to offset Candlewalk expenses.

A workday was held today at 2 pm and lasted until the meeting began tonight.

A few more workdays will be needed next week including this coming Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Vivian Wright loaned a period dress, hat, quilt, and crochet bedspread for display during Candlewalk.

Steve Wells loaned a Confederate artillery officer's coat and hat on behalf of his brother Gordon Wells.

Mr. Kirkham's 20 lb. iron (donated by his step-granddaughter Linda Ball) will be on display during Candlewalk. It was used in his cleaning and pressing business and when he made ladies hats.

Everyone should wear their JCHC name badge during Candlewalk. If you do not have a name badge, Docent badges will be furnished by Save Old Cleburne.

Anyone needing a ticket on Dec. 7 can buy them at Layland Museum or Christmas Market at JN Long School.

Only JCHC and special guests can use the water closet – a SOC and Johnson County rule.

Refreshments can be offered if Friends wants to, but are not required. Many houses are not serving.

SOC will provide a floral arrangement, battery candles for the sidewalk, a picture of the house JCHC can keep, wristbands, docent badges and booties for visitors to wear if it rains.

The wheelchair ramp in the backyard will be available; everyone else should enter and exit through the front door.

A 'cheat sheet' about furnishings, etc. will be available for docents to use.

Painting of the new fence will be finished in a few days and Community Service crews will clean up the yard.

Discussion followed about the **wedding dress** formerly on display. There is no official donation form and it was not covered for many years until JCHC began covering all furnishings, etc. about 2 years ago. The dress was casually mentioned in minutes of a 2012 JCHC meeting implying it possibly came from Mrs. Randolph Garner. The dress is in frail condition and very dirty. Dry cleaners would not accept it when JCHC tried last year.

Chair Neeley stated unless prepared to properly store and display textiles, JCHC probably should not accept any clothing in the future, only temporary loans for 2-3 days during special events such as Candlewalk.

Steve Wells made a motion for Chair to contact Mrs. Garner to ask if she placed the wedding dress at the Dotey House; and if so, if she wants it to be returned to her. The letter should also mention the undocumented replica of a CSA officer's coat, asking if it too came from the Garners. 2nd by Doug Cogdill; Motion Carried

Chair Neeley will send a letter to Mrs. Garner.

E. Museum Report – Director Darlene West provided the report; copies were available on the sign-in table

Andy Asberry read the report

There were 97 visitors during the month

\$55.54 was spent on supplies - flash drives for sending videos to The Portal, 1" binders and sheet protectors

There were 14 volunteer hours

Andy Asberry contacted the man who loaned his Old Soggy model airplane to the Museum. It has some damage. The lender retrieved it and will make the repairs. It should be displayed out of reach of children.

Memorandum of Donation from **Harold and Eunice Gentry** of Cleburne - A mahogany settee and matching chair with needlepoint seats for the Dotey House c1900; bench valued approx. \$400 and chair \$300

Andy Asberry moved to accept; 2nd by Danny Doggett; Motion approved

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E. Museum Report, continued

Wednesday museum volunteers continue to sort the items offered by City of Joshua. They will be officially accepted, passed on, etc. after the ladies finish.

Sandra Neeley announced as of January 1, 2025 she will no longer maintain the Subject Binders/ Scrapbooks in the museum - a project begun over 20 years ago. If someone would like to continue this project, see her. Items in process will be filed but nothing new added as of January 1.

F. Burleson:

Vivian Wright reported \$475 was raised for Burleson Heritage Foundation on their Ghost Walk – less than expected due to inclement weather, but at \$25/person it was still a good turnout.

Prior to today's workday at Dotey House, Pat Dexheimer smudged the Dotey House (a native American ceremony) by burning sage which signifies only good spirits are welcome here.

G. Digitization of Newspapers (The Portal to Texas History)

A list will be created, prices obtained, and vote to submit items in early 2025. Submissions are invited.

H. Reports & Additions to Calendar of Events

Judge Boedeker and the Sheriff's Dept. have been advised JCHC does not plan to open the courthouse museum during **Springfest** on April 26, 2025, but may set up a table with Friends of JCHC on Mill Street/Market Square area where Historic Downtown Cleburne moved the event in 2024.

Someone from JCHC and Friends should notify HDCA at Travato Street or Bennett's to reserve a space.

Steve Wells made a motion to adjourn; 2nd by ; Meeting Adjourned 7 pm

Amy Nichols, Secretary