

JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Minutes of JCHC Meeting Jan. 27, 2025
Held at the Restored Courthouse Conference Room

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

Following the invocation, pledges were made to the United States and Texas flags
Andy Asberry took the roll call: 11 appointees present, 5 excused absences,
and 2 guests (Jerry Walker and Stan Gatchell)

Announcements:

Chair Neeley thanked everyone who volunteered at the Dotey House before and during Candlewalk.

Thank You cards were signed for 2 ladies who helped with Candlewalk Linda Ball and Sherri Graf.

Special Thank You to Dale Dexheimer (who declined reappointment) for his many years of service to JCHC.

Chair reported having made JCHC's annual report to Commissioners Court on January 13, 2025

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Amy Nichols offered the November 25, 2024 minutes for approval as printed. Andy Asberry made a motion to approve; Motion 2nd and approved

Treasurer's Report:

Andy Asberry reported a closing balance of \$14,989.86
Doug Cogdill made a motion to accept the report; Motion 2nd and approved

Chair Neeley presented a list of **supplies needed for the Dotey House on a formal quote from Lowe's**.
(3 replacement roll-up shades, 4 curtains, back porch gutter & accessories, wasp spray, light bulbs, 2 doormats, etc.) Total = \$580.55.

Chair reported the Budget Coordinator moved \$1,500 into Historic Projects from other JCHC Budget items to cover this purchase and future items needed for the Dotey House during remainder of current fiscal year.

Motion by Charlotte Lawson for JCHC to purchase the items listed on Lowe's written quote, plus any price increases that occur; Motion 2nd and approved

Old Business: All 16 appointees who applied for reappointment were approved by Commissioners Court prior to Jan. 1, 2025, for 2-year terms 2025 and 2026.

New Business: Election of JCHC Executive Committee for 2025 and 2026

Chair: Andy Asberry nominated **Sandra Neeley**; 3 requests were made for other nominations; None made.
Andy Asberry made motion to elect Sandra Neeley Chair; motion approved

Vice-Chair: James Neeley nominated **Andy Asberry**; 3 requests were made for other nominations; None made; Motion by James Neeley to elect Andy Asberry Vice-Chair; motion approved

Secretary: Steve Wells nominated **Amy Nichols**; 3 requests were made for other nominations; None made
Steve Wells made motion to elect Amy Nichols; motion approved

Treasurer: Andy Asberry nominated **James Neeley**; 3 requests were made for other nominations;
None made.

James Neeley asked if anyone felt there was a conflict of interest if both he and Sandra Neeley serve on the Executive Committee; Steve Wells voiced that the way the County oversees our Historical Commission, he has zero concern and Amy Nichols agreed.

Motion by Andy Asberry to elect James Neeley; motion approved

**JCHC Minutes January 27, 2025 continued:
New Business, continued:**

JCHC Chair appointment of Texas Historical Marker Chair:

2023 & 24 THM Chair Nita Redmon asked to be replaced. Chair Neeley asked for volunteers.
Douglas Cogdill volunteered to accept the position.

Chair Neeley officially appointed **Douglas Cogdill JCHC Texas Historical Marker Chair** for 2025 and 2026.

Johnson County Historic Landmark Plaques and Narratives: Nita Redmon volunteered to continue in that position with assistance from Ben Head and Charlotte Lawson.

Chair Neeley shared that Judge Boedeker asked the JCHC Executive Committee to meet with him and the architects to provide input regarding renovations to the courthouse annex building.
The meeting will be Feb. 6.

Texas Historical Commission's annual report is due in February.
Chair Neeley requested each appointee's volunteer hours asap.

Open Meetings Act training: THC advised that all appointees are required to view a 1-hour online training video and print their certificate upon completion. Printed instructions were given to everyone and those absent will receive them by email. Chair asks that each appointee let her know when they have completed this requirement because the number of JCHC appointees who have Open Meetings Act training must be noted in JCHC's annual report to THC due in February. Certificate copies will be kept in the museum.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Texas Historical Markers and Texas Historic Cemeteries:

Chair Neeley reported the only THM currently in process at THC is **Brazos Point Bridge**.

2 Historic Cemetery applications are in process:

Andy Asberry is working on **Kyle-Bullard Cemetery** and reported he has been unable to contact the caretaker.

Nita Redmon gave Charlotte Lawson (for Rowena Lawson who was absent) research notes done by a previous volunteer for use in **Buel Cemetery's Historic Cemetery** application.

B. JCHC Historical Landmark Plaques & Narratives – Project Chair Nita Redmon shared that the John Richard Rose dedication will be March 30 at his church 1st Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and that all east Cleburne churches will be invited. This should be a large event and JCHC appointees are invited to attend.

Ben Head reported he is working on Bennett's narrative.

J N Long Building narrative plaque has been ordered

Baker House plaque and narrative were dedicated December 11, 2024 at Burleson.

Lone Willow Baptist Church (on JCHC's list of oval plaques awarded) reports not having it. The church's name has been omitted from the list. (50) of the original purchase of 51 oval plaques have now been accounted for.

C. Friends of JCHC: - Andy Asberry and Christy Morton plan to set up during Springfest April 26, 2025. The courthouse will not be open. Non-profits from Springfest 2024(SCV and Friends of Cleburne State Park) have been invited to set up with Friends.

Molly Mims' offer to sell Friends some of her Johnson County History books is under consideration.

D. Dotey-Kirkham House

Candlewalk attendance was 237 on Saturday Dec. 7, 2024 and approx. 20 during the docent tour on Sunday.

Thank you to everyone who helped clean, decorate, conduct tours Saturday and Sunday and for takedown and storage of items the following week – and to everyone who loaned or donated decorations.

JCHC Minutes January 27, 2025 continued:
D. Dotey-Kirkham House, continued

Sandra Neeley thanked Steve Wells (and his brother Gordon Wells) for loaning the replica of a CSA artillery officer's coat and hat for display during Candlewalk.
Vivian Wright was thanked for the loan of a dress and lady's hat, and for a quilt and crochet bedspread.
J N Long Cultural Arts Center (c/o Charlotte Lawson) was thanked for the loan of Christmas decorations
Pop and Grans of Grandview (c/o Nita Redmon and Lisa Hill) were thanked for their donation of decorations.

Trey Smith of Save Old Cleburne generously donated many decorations, including living room curtains, for the event. All were returned to him the following week.

Chair noted the house's status on Candlewalk Dec. 6, 2025 will be determined by Save Old Cleburne – either ticketed or featured. Either way, JCHC has advised SOC the house will be open the house for tours

A letter was sent to Charlene (Mrs. Randolph) Garner as voted at the November JCHC meeting. It concerned her presumed placement of a wedding dress at the Dotey House and possibly a cotton replica of a CSA officer's coat, asking if she wants them returned. Mrs. Garner asked that the dress be delivered to her son's business and stated she has no knowledge of the CSA coat. (JCHC has been unable to learn how or from whom it was acquired)

Nita Redmon made a motion for the **CSA coat** to be passed on to Carnegie Players; motion 2nd and approved.
Chair Neeley will deliver both the wedding dress and coat soon.

Chair reported J. Co. Facilities Mgmt. will obtain a bid for replacing the **front porch of the Dotey House** from the company that built and installed the house's new perimeter fence so its cost can be included in JCHC's next Budget request due in April.

E. Museum Report – copies were available on the sign-in table and the following read by Andy Asberry:
Director Darlene West reported 1,157 visitors during 2024
Visitors in Nov. = 107, Dec.= 94 and Jan. = 86

\$625.24 for supplies (sheet protectors, binders, thumb drives, and printer ink) was spent in Nov. and Dec.2024.

City of Joshua donated (5) boxes of records, photographs, newspaper clippings, etc. which the Wednesday JCHC volunteers have sorted. (3) boxes will be processed for JCHC files and all other items disposition will be at JCHC discretion. Value is historic only. No photograph of the boxes was provided.

Doug Cogdill made a motion to accept this donation; motion 2nd and approved

Chair noted that inventory of the Museum collection should resume asap and asked for volunteers.

F. Burleson: No report - Burleson appointees were ill and unable to attend

G. Digitization of Newspapers (The Portal to Texas History) No update

H. Reports & Additions to Calendar of Events None offered

Meeting adjourned.

Amy Nichols, Secretary