

JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of JCHC Meeting Feb. 24, 2025

Held at the Restored Courthouse Conference Room

Sandra Neeley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:05 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, 4 excused absences,
1 special guest (Bill Houston – Mayor of Grandview)

Announcements:

Appointee Danny Doggett is hospitalized with respiratory problems, Steve Wells' son had emergency surgery and Christy Morton recently had shoulder surgery.

New appointee roster and various other handouts were available on the sign-in table.

JCHC's required annual report to THC has been submitted. There were 4,000 volunteer hours this year. 8 appointees have taken Open Meetings training so far. Instructions were available at the meeting. Upon completion, appointees were asked to bring a copy of their certificate to be filed in the museum.

JCHC Executive Committee met with Judge Boedeker and the architect about planned remodeling of the Courthouse Annex. Input was offered regarding appearance and future use of the building. JCHC is not asked to do anything specific at this time. Other historical organizations representing downtown Cleburne will have similar meetings and it is possible JCHC will be included in some of those.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Amy Nichols offered the January 27, 2025 minutes for approval as printed. Andy Asberry made a motion to approve; Motion 2nd and approved by show of hands

Treasurer's Report:

James Neeley reported a closing balance of \$14,374.68

Budget Coordinator moved \$1,500 to Historic Projects which had a zero balance. Chair Neeley reported \$409.21 was spent on supplies for the Dotey House from this line item, leaving almost \$1,100 for the remainder of the current fiscal year.

Andy Asberry made a motion to accept the report; Motion 2nd and approved

Chair Neeley shared a quote for \$7,340 to replace the Dotey House's front porch, front steps, back porch, wheelchair ramp, railings and supports, all painted same color as they are now and with non-skid product in the paint. This amount will be included in Property Improvement in the next Fiscal Year budget due April 15.

Old Business: JCHC's required Annual Report was submitted to THC as mentioned in Announcements.

New Business: Next JCHC meeting March 24, 2025 will be held in the restored courthouse conference room

Andy Asberry attended the Save Old Cleburne meeting and reported they were impressed with the number of visitors to Dotey House during Candlewalk and with improvements to the house.

He volunteered that JCHC will assist SOC by judging Christmas light displays in Cleburne (approx. 25 homes) Volunteers are to drive by each home and rank its light display and tally votes.

Chair Neeley asked that appointees consider volunteering.

Committee Reports:

A. Texas Historical Markers and Texas Historic Cemeteries – Douglas Cogdill

Chair Neeley provided documents and password required to submit THM applications online to THC. No update on Brazos Point Bridge THM, Kyle-Bullard or Buel Historic Cemetery applications.

Feb. 24, 2025 minutes/Committee Reports, continued

B. Johnson County Historic Landmark Plaques and Narratives: Nita Redmon

John Richard Rose dedication - March 30 (10:30 a.m.) First Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 1005 Chase Ave., Cleburne. Judge Boedeker and Commissioner Woolley will attend. All appointees are encouraged to attend this special dedication.

Bennett's narrative plaque is on order

J N Long Building narrative was given to Charlotte Lawson. A dedication will be planned.

Chair Neeley discussed a July 2024 application turned in by the late Dan Roberts for a private home in Cleburne and pointed out that JCHC is not obligated to bestow narratives on private homes simply because of their age. Applicant properties must be both historic and a landmark.

Douglas Cogdill made a motion that the Historic Landmark committee draft rules for bestowing Historic Landmark Plaques and Narratives, especially on private homes. Motion 2nd and approved

The Committee will compose suggested rules and present them at the March 24, 2025 meeting.

Pat Dexheimer shared there is a barn in Burleson constructed by WW 2 Prisoners of War and requested an application for a Johnson County Historic Landmark Plaque and Narrative.

C. Friends of JCHC: - Andy Asberry reported Springfest April 26 will be on the parking lot between Chaf-In and the Tax Office/Courthouse Annex. Friends will set up a donation booth

D. Dotey-Kirkham House

The undocumented wedding dress was returned to Mrs. Garner and the Confederate jacket replica was delivered to Carnegie Players – as discussed and voted on at previous meetings.

The list of supplies has been received from Lowes. The total was \$409.21

A workday should be held to install replacement shades and new curtains. Douglas Cogdill volunteered to tack up falling wallpaper in the parlor.

A gutter included in the order should not be installed until the back porch/wheelchair ramp work is completed.

Candlewalk will be December 6, 2025. Save Old Cleburne has been notified the house will be open for tours, but “Featured” or “Ticketed” is unknown at this time.

Trey Smith will not be able to loan decorations this year. His home will be on the tour and he will need his decorations.

Chair Neeley encouraged Dotey House volunteers to attend the special docent tour on Sunday the day after Candlewalk 2025 to see the other houses and meet members of Save Old Cleburne.

A list is being created of additional items needed for the house. IF new doorknob and latch for front door and water closet are purchased, Facilities volunteered to install them.

Chair asked that anyone checking out the key please contact her for instructions before going to the house.

E. Museum Report – copies were available on the sign-in table and the following read by Andy Asberry:

Director Darlene West reported 103 visitors and 12 volunteer hours.

“Old Soggy” the model airplane was repaired and Facilities is planning to suspend it from the ceiling. When this is done, JCHC hopes to invite the model's builder to the museum for photographs and a newspaper story.

The District Clerk's office submitted a **Memorandum of Donation** form for several books found in their safe. It contains a copy of the Cleburne City Directory 1899-1900 and various ledgers. JCHC may not accept all the books.

Feb. 24, 2025 minutes/Committee Reports, continued
Museum Report, continued

Motion was made by Douglas Cogdill to ask the District Clerk's office to revise their donation form so JCHC can accept some items, pass some on to other organizations and return those declined to the District Clerk's office. Motion 2nd and approved.

Chair Neeley will contact the District Clerk's office; and if done, will resubmit their Memorandum of Donation form for a vote at the March 24 JCHC meeting.

F. Burleson: No report

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

Info about a free forum March 27 was forwarded to all appointees. See "UNT Libraries – Beyond the Bytes" for info.

H. Other Reports & Additions to Calendar of Events None offered

Meeting adjourned.

Amy Nichols, Secretary