

# JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## Minutes of JCHC Meeting April 28, 2025

### Held at the Dotey-Kirkham House

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: 9 appointees present, 7 excused absences, 1 guest Tracy Oaks

#### **Announcements:**

Chair thanked those who attended the dedication honoring **John Richard Rose** March 30 at his church. (Nita Redmon, Dale & Pat Dexheimer, Rowena Lawson, Charlotte Lawson, Christy Morton, Judge Boedeker, and Larry Woolley)

And the dedication at **Bennett's** April 24 – Nita Redmon, Charlotte Lawson, Steve Wells, and Judge Boedeker attended

JCHC is encouraged to attend **Commissioners Court May 12** at 9 am. Cleburne City Councilman Rev. John Warren and Booker T. Washington Alumni Assoc. will recognize and thank the Judge, Commissioners and JCHC.

Friday **Oct. 24 Parker County Hist. Commission** will host an area CHC meeting in Weatherford. 3-5 appointees will be invited from each county. Parker CHC does not have a Friends group so lunch may be on our own or there could be a small fee. Information will be shared when it is available.

Chair Neeley and James Neeley attended **THC's Real Places Conference** in Austin April 23-25. Over 900 registered for the event from county commissions and other history/preservation-related organizations from all over Texas, including some county employees and elected officials. Approx. 68 sessions were offered ranging in length from 30 min. to 1-1/2 hrs. going on all day each day from 9 am until after the evening meal. (also see The Portal in Committee Reports herein) The President of Phoenix Corp. (restorers of the TX capitol building) gave JCHC a book about Texas courthouses. The Neeleys met several THC officials including Joseph Bell, now Director of THC whom the Neeleys had originally met at Franklin, TN and Stephen Cure of THC's Military History Programs who has written a book about Texas in WW1.

Chair Neeley discussed a THM situation in Cleburne with the Marker staff which could require their help.

#### **Secretary's Report:**

Secretary Amy Nichols offered the March 24, 2025 minutes for approval as printed. Andy Asberry made a motion to approve; Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved by show of hands

**Treasurer's Report:** James Neeley reported a closing balance of \$14,123.91  
Danny Doggett moved to accept the report; Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved by show of hands

**Old Business:** None – Also see Committee Reports below

**New Business:** Next JCHC meeting would normally be on May 26 (4<sup>th</sup> Monday) but that is Memorial Day. There were no objections to moving the meeting to Tuesday, May 27 at the Dotey House, 6 pm

#### **Committee Reports:**

**A. Texas Historical Markers and Texas Historic Cemeteries** – Marker Chair Douglas Cogdill stated he must resign due to his new job. He presented a formal letter to Chair Neeley which will be shared with the Judge's office as JCHC Bylaws require.

Chair Neeley asked for a volunteer to be Marker Chair but no one did, so the position will remain vacant for now.

## **JCHC Minutes of April 28, 2025 meeting, continued**

**Brazos Point Bridge THM** inscription was approved and sent to THC April 11. The marker will go to the foundry and hopefully be received later this year or early 2026 at which time it will be formally dedicated.

No updates on Texas Historic Cemetery applications in process.

Chair Neeley reported the Texas Historical Marker at the **Masonic Lodge** building on Caddo Street in Cleburne was removed during remodeling of the building after the building was sold. Cleburne Lodge merged with Noland's River Lodge at Rio Vista who declined having the marker as THC suggested. Chair spoke with the contractor who will ask the current owner of the Cleburne building about replacing the marker in front of the Caddo Street building. He was reminded the marker belongs to the State of Texas.

THC approved the wording of a small plaque to be installed on the building near the Cleburne Lodge marker after it has been re-installed. It will be approx. 3" x 5" and similar in appearance and construction to JCHC's narrative plaques.

Chair requested a vote to purchase this small plaque. Bennett's written quote was approximately \$22.

Motion by Andy Asberry for Chair to purchase this plaque at the not-to-exceed amount of \$35; Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>; and approved by show of hands.

As mentioned in announcements, Chair discussed this situation with TX Historic Marker officials at the THC conference last week. If the contractor and owner do not cooperate, THC has offered to assist.

### **B. Johnson County Historic Landmark Plaques and Narratives:**

Nita Redmon reported on the John Richard Rose dedication March 30, 2025 at First Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Cleburne. Judge Boedeker and Commissioner Woolley participated and Nita read a letter from Chair Neeley who was unable to attend. 2 of Mr. Rose's compositions were played. It was a very special event and Nita reported everyone seemed to enjoy very much.

Project Chair Redmon also reported on the Historic Landmark dedication April 24 at Bennett's. It was held in conjunction with the Cleburne Chamber of Commerce's monthly after-hours business social. Judge Boedeker spoke and Nita read a letter from Chair Neeley who was unable to attend.

JN Long Building has its narrative plaque. A dedication will be planned.

No update on other dedications pending for Chaf-In, Bus Depot and Dillons

Project Chair Redmon and her committee are working to compose written guidelines for Johnson County Historic Landmark plaques and requested the subject be tabled until complete. This item will remain on the monthly agenda until the committee is ready to present it and any resulting changes to the application.

**C. Friends of JCHC:** - Andy Asberry, Danny Doggett and Christy Morton set up Saturday during Springfest and received \$73 in donations.

Friends plans to set up May 10 during the Arts Festival at JN Long and May 31 during Community Outdoor Day at Cleburne State Park.

Chair Neeley reported on the Save Old Cleburne meeting April 14. SOC plans to move their vendor show to the Conference Center during Candlewalk Dec. 6.

JCHC is scheduled to judge Christmas light displays in Cleburne Dec.6-31. SOC will provide trophies.

SOC may recognize some historic downtown buildings with a photo under Plexiglas but JCHC was assured they will not replace nor interfere with JCHC Historic Landmark Plaques and narratives.

SOC plans church tours in July or August; SOC dues should be paid by Jan. 1

## JCHC Minutes of April 28, 2025 meeting, continued

### D. Dotey-Kirkham House

Lighting the “hatters shed” during Candlewalk Dec. 6 has been suggested.

SOC will decide in October or November if the house will be ‘featured’ or ‘ticketed.’

Workday April 17 – floor protectors were installed on additional chairs, curtains hung, replacement roll-up shades installed, tiles reattached on the bedroom fireplace, and floors cleaned.

The outdoor motion light was not installed nor the gutter. The gutter will be installed after porch replacement in early October. JCHC will seek advice from Facilities re the motion light.

Decomposed granite JCHC voted to purchase was not available at Lowe’s but Facilities will work with Lawn Tech to fill in the low place that holds water at the front gate. JCHC reminded them of the surplus bricks.

At the THC event in Austin, Ellis County asked to bring a group of approx. 30 to tour the courthouse and Dotey House while it is decorated for Christmas. Dec. 11, the Thursday after Candlewalk has been suggested and the Judge and Museum Director penciled in this date on their calendars. Date, time, etc. to be confirmed.

### E. Museum Report (Copies were available on the sign-in table)

195 visitors, research assistance, daily updates to Facebook, scanning of West negatives, 14 volunteer hours

**Donation:** Thomas Shaw of South Bend, Indiana offered a **September 1941 Johnson County Rodeo Program**. Danny Doggett moved to accept the program; Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and approved by show of hands.

Chair noted the Johnson Co. Sheriff’s Posse did not hold rodeos during WW2. This special program is dated 3 mo. before Pearl Harbor.

Jan 27, 2025 JCHC voted to accept **5 boxes** of documents from the **City of Joshua**. JCHC volunteers are going thru the collection and report it will take a very long time to process.

Motion made by Andy Asberry to pass on extra items from City of Joshua not selected for the museum to Johnson Co. Genealogical Society c/o Marsha Buckner, Editor of their publication Finders Keepers. Items passed to JCGS are not to be returned to JCHC or to the City of Joshua. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>; approved

Note: Items offered by the **District Clerk’s** office were declared ‘surplus’ by Commissioners Court and JCHC given official permission to pass them on to a non-profit. The items will be given to Johnson Co. Genealogical Society c/o Marsha Buckner and are not to be returned to JCHC or to the District Clerk.

Chair Neeley noted the **1901 Santa Fe Rules & Regulations** manual accepted at the March meeting will be submitted to The Portal.

**F. Burleson:** June 27 paranormal investigation fund raiser for Burleson Heritage Foundation \$25 each

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

Chair Neeley reported Dr. Ana Kraemer, PhD and Jacob Mangum of The Portal conducted a 1-1/2 hour long session about the site at the THC Real Places Conference in Austin (their first time to be included) and that The Portal to Texas History received the Governor’s Award for Historic Preservation. Mrs. Hartman a very special benefactor of The Portal also attended.

All JCHC completed items at Denton were brought to Austin by Dr. Kraemer and Jacob Mangum.

Sandra Neeley is compiling items for the next submission to be delivered to Denton in the next 2-3 months.

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

Meeting adjourned

Amy Nichols, Secretary