

JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of JCHC Meeting May 27, 2025

Held at the Dotey 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: 12 appointees present, 3 excused absences, 1 guest Trey Doggett son of JCHC appointee Danny Doggett

Announcements:

Chair thanked those who helped Friends at the Cleburne Arts Festival at JN Long. (Andy Asberry, Charlotte, Lawson, James Neeley and Rowena Lawson)

Councilman and Rev. John Warren who planned to attend this meeting, sent regrets as he had to attend the City Council meeting instead. He hopes to attend JCHC in June.

This coming Saturday is Community Outdoor Day at Cleburne State Park – free admission and hot dogs courtesy of the VFW. Volunteers are needed for the Friends of JCHC table 10-2

JCHC Chair helped Bennett's apply to be a Texas Business Treasure. Applicants must have been under the same ownership and in the same type of business for over 50 years. 2 or 3 documents proving age are required. All applications must be made online in the Texas Historical Commission website. Anyone can apply. They do not have to be appointed to JCHC. There are certain times applications are accepted. It takes several months for the free award to be received. Dedications are recommended.

Secretary's Report: Secretary Amy Nichols offered the April 28, 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 \$12,274.69
Nita Redmon moved to accept the report; Motion 2nd and approved by show of hands

Old Business: None – Also see Committee Reports below

New Business: Next JCHC meeting will be Monday June 23, 2025 at the Dotey House, 6 pm
Note: JCHC meets the 4th Monday of each month - not the 'last' Monday.

Committee Reports:

A. Texas Historical Markers and Texas Historic Cemeteries

Brazos Point Bridge marker should be at the foundry.

Cleburne Masonic Lodge's THM was removed during remodel after the building was sold.
District Deputy Grand Master belongs to Nolands River Lodge at Rio Vista where Cleburne merged.
He has offered to look into the matter of the marker being installed there.

Andy Asberry had no update on the Historic Cemetery application for Kyle-Bullard
Rowena Lawson was absent so no update on the Historic Cemetery application for Buel

B. Johnson County Historic Landmark Plaques and Narratives:

Nita Redmon reported J N Long would like to have a dedication in the fall. No date has been set. They will work with her and Charlotte Lawson.

Nita Redmon shared Eligibility Guidelines for Johnson County Historic Landmark Plaques – 2025.
She thanked the committee Steve Wells, Charlotte Lawson, and Ben Head, which special recognition to Steve Wells for his suggestions.

JCHC Minutes of May 27, 2025 meeting, continued

B. continued

Danny Doggett made a motion to approve the Guidelines and added that the site must be at least 85 years old to be considered - along with historic significance. Motion 2nd; approved by show of hands

Copies of the Eligibility Requirements and the accompanying application will be provided to the committee as soon as possible.

No updates were offered for other sites pending dedications

C. Friends of JCHC: - Andy Asberry reported JCHC is obligated to judge Cleburne Christmas light decorations Dec. 7-31.

D. Dotey-Kirkham House

Andy Asberry confirmed Save Old Cleburne will classify the Dotey House as 'ticketed' at Candlewalk Dec. 6

No confirmation yet from Ellis County regarding their request to tour Dotey House the week after Candlewalk, possibly on Thursday.

Facilities have not yet repaired the ground under the front gate where rainwater makes a puddle. The new perimeter fence installed in Nov. 2024 has suffered 'failure' of its white paint after only 5 months. JCHC has been assured it will be repainted by the contractor as soon as possible.

Charlotte Lawson commented how pretty the white fence looks against the white iris when they bloomed.

E. Museum Report (Copies were available on the sign-in table)
92 visitors, 2 Seek & Find participants, 16 volunteer hours

Donation: Lynn Southerland of Granite Shoals, Texas offered over 100 slides (all 8 mm) of various events in Bono. This offer will be tabled until the June meeting. Andy Asberry and Marsha Buckner divided the bags of slides and volunteered to look at and attempt to identify people and/or events and report at the June meeting on any that have historical value.

F. Burleson: Farmer's Market is 9-1 every Saturday until October.
June 27 will be a paranormal investigation fund raiser for Burleson Heritage Foundation at 8:30 pm
(See Calendar of Events for more details)

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

As required, Sandra Neeley obtained a written estimate of charges for newspapers, books, photographs, and brochures of \$1,750 from The Portal, but requested an official vote to send (and pay any invoices that result) at the not-to-exceed amount of \$1,900 to cover submissions still being received. The full list of JCHC items submitted will be available at the June meeting.

Andy Asberry made a motion to send the items to The Portal to Texas History and pay any invoices that result at a not-to-exceed amount of \$1,900; Motion 2nd; Approved by a show of hands

The items will be delivered to Denton in June.

H. Other Reports & Additions to Calendar of Events

Amy Nichols mentioned The Talking Tombstone event at a cemetery in Weatherford – 1st Sat. in May.
Sandra Neeley mentioned the upcoming Waxahachie home tour June 7-8
Johnson Co. Sheriff's Posse rodeo June 11-14, 2025 will be the 70th Anniversary of the event

Meeting adjourned

Amy Nichols, Secretary