

# JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of JCHC Meeting June 23, 2025

Held at the Dotey House – 409 N. Buffalo – Cleburne, TX

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, 4 excused absences, 1 guest Tracy Oaks

## **Announcements:**

Chair reported two Section 106 reviews had been received since the last meeting. Bois d'Arc Street in Grandview and 1 near a school in Burleson. No known historic sites or churches are in the vicinity of either proposed communication tower, but if any are found during excavations, JCHC will be notified.

Rumors that a grant was received to repair the courthouse steps and update the elevator are false. When the Judge's office and Facilities Management submit grant applications in the Fall, JCHC will be asked to vote to provide a proclamation or resolution in support. JCHC will receive instructions at that time.

No update on burial site of Oscar Harrell found on private land near Grandview. It has been reported the grave was fenced off and the open well covered, but both remain unverified.

Grandview Public Library may be looking for glass cases to display artifacts. *(Update since June 23: JCHC has learned this project cannot begin until after the Library Board meets in September)*

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary Amy Nichols offered the May 27, 2025 minutes for approval as printed. Andy Asberry made a motion to approve; Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nita Redmon and approved by show of hands

This being his 3<sup>rd</sup> JCHC meeting, **Tracy Oaks** offered his application to be appointed to JCHC for the remainder of 2025 and for calendar year 2026.

Steve Wells made motion to accept Tracy Oaks application and for Chair to purchase a name badge using current fiscal year P.O. at Bennett's at a cost not to exceed \$20; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy Asberry; Approved by show of hands

**Treasurer's Report:** James Neeley reported a closing balance of \$12,232.54

Steve Wells made a motion to accept the report; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andy Asberry; Motion approved by show of hands

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

**New Business:** Next JCHC meeting will be Monday July 28, 2025 at the Dotey House, 6 pm

Amy Nichols reported on the **donation from the Crouch Family**. On May 23, Amy and Sandra Neeley met with descendants of Thomas Crouch who operated Crouch's Cash Store in Grandview from the 1890s until 1940s. Two granddaughters of Mr. Crouch and their two adult children brought 2 quilts and boxes of photos, scrapbooks, and family memorabilia. The family agreed the items might be more appropriate to be displayed in Grandview. Grandview Public Library has stated in the past they will house items until Grandview has a museum and the items were taken there.

Chair Neeley reported The **Bob Bullock Museum** has requested artifacts, photos, 2007 dedication invitations, etc. from the Johnson County Courthouse because it was among those restored by THC.

JCHC also shared there was a time capsule (Coffer Box) opened in 2012 when Johnson County's Courthouse was 100 years old. It is possible the Bob Bullock Museum will want to include those items in their upcoming exhibit. Chair Neeley is corresponding with THC/Bullock exhibit personnel and will offer further updates when they become available.

Chair requested a vote to confirm JCHC wants to pursue this request from the Bob Bullock Museum.

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Andy Asberry made a motion that an itemized list of items found in the Time Capsule be sent to the Bob Bullock Museum so they can decide if there is interest in displaying them along with items from the THC restoration and 2007 re-dedication of the Johnson County Courthouse.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Marsha Buckner; Approved by show of hands

### Committee Reports:

#### A. Texas Historical Markers and Texas Historic Cemeteries

Chair Neeley reported **Brazos Point Bridge TX Historical Marker** will be on the July quarterly meeting agenda at THC after which it should go to the foundry.

District Deputy Grand Master who also belongs to Nolands River Masonic Lodge at Rio Vista notified Chair Neeley that Nolands River Lodge voted not to accept the **Cleburne Masonic Lodge TX Historic Marker**. (It was removed from in front of its building on Caddo Street when the building was sold and remodeled) Chair Neeley has notified THC of the situation and that the building's contractor has the marker.

Johnson County Feeders Supply TX Historic Marker remains missing. THC is aware of this situation also.

#### B. Johnson County Historic Landmark Plaques and Narratives & Texas Business Treasures

Nita Redmon shared the revised application and Eligibility Guidelines for Johnson County Historic Landmark Plaques with all appointees present.

She reported having spoken with "Peggy" the owner of **Cleburne Floral** who cannot locate the oval Johnson Co. Historic Landmark given the business several years ago (it was never installed). Chair Neeley shared that Heather at the Cleburne Chamber of Commerce knows "Peggy" and may be able to help, a full name and/or address should JCHC decide to write her a letter about the plaque.

Cleburne Railroad Museum had 1 of the oval JC Historic Landmark plaques (origin unknown) and they returned it to JCHC. To their knowledge it did not come from Cleburne Floral.

Chair Neeley shared that Johnson County Sheriff's Posse is 70 years old and that B&B Muffler in Cleburne expressed interest in having **Texas Business Treasure** recognition from THC.

**C. Friends of JCHC:** - Andy Asberry reported Terri Hubbard President of **Parker Co. Historical Commission** requested information about setting up a Friends organization there. Andy, James, and Sandra Neeley met with her and 2 others from their Commission in Weatherford on June 6, 2025 and provided information.

Parker Co. Historical Commission expressed interest in touring the Dotey House soon after Candlewalk but no date was specified. They were told decorations will remain in place the month of December.

Mollie Mims donated a case of her Johnson County History Books for Friends to exchange for \$70 donation.

#### D. Dotey-Kirkham House

One A/C unit was not working last time the house was used and the fence that was installed and painted in November, 2024 has nail heads and knots 'bleeding' through the paint. Facilities is working with the paint contractor.

One non-JCHC meeting has been held in the house. No others are scheduled at this time.

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

92 visitors, 2 Seek & Find participants, 14 volunteer hours recorded

Expenditures \$31.80 "for Sandra Neeley"

Chair noted **correction to the printed report** – Expenditure items were not for Sandra Neeley, they were ordered by Sandra Neeley and included 1 box sheet protectors for subject binders and The Portal and 1 box for Wed. volunteers; (2) 3-packs of double-sided tape for attaching story & JCHC contact/billing info to back of each of (51) photos to be taken to The Portal July 2, 2025 and for use in subject binders/aka scrapbooks where photographs are added.

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Chair reported having been mailed a collection of items found by an **antique store owner in Huntsville, Arkansas**. The store owner located some members of the deceased woman's family in Arkansas, but did they not want the items. The woman Neva Jo Bowles is buried in Cleburne.

A Memorandum of Donation form was mailed to the antique store owner and will be processed at a future meeting. The collection included 2 CHS Yappers from the 1940s which will be taken with JCHC's items to The Portal on July 2, 2025.

Pat Dexheimer and Vivian Wright reported on the 5 boxes of documents, photos, Joshua Historical Society items, etc. donated by the **City of Joshua**. They have almost finished Box #2 and will let JCHC know when they have finished all 5. When complete, the Memorandum of Donation form will be processed, an Inventory ID number assigned to the collection. Items not accepted for the museum will be passed on or disposed of at the discretion of JCHC Executive Committee per instructions on the Memorandum of Donation form.

**Donation update:** Lynn Southerland of Granite Shoals, Texas offered **over 100 slides** (all 8 mm) of various events said to be from Bono. Andy Asberry and Marsha Buckner reported being unable to ID people and events; that some were found to be Cleburne and Tennessee; and many were out of focus. 5 slides from a c1977 parade in Cleburne were printed and will be added to the Cleburne subject binder in the museum. No others were found to be of historical value.

Nita Redmon moved; Andy Asberry 2<sup>nd</sup>; for Chair to write Ms. Southerland a letter declining the donation, asking if she wants the slides returned or if JCHC should dispose of them at our discretion. There is no other organization JCHC knows of that would want them. Motion carried by show of hands

Chair discussed a large **Fort Worth Traction Company / Interurban** metal sign donated at a 2007 JCHC meeting by a Burleson Heritage Foundation member. The sign was in the vault but is assumed to have been moved to the storage facility near the sheriff's department. Facilities Mgmt. has offered to look for it. JCHC has contacted Burleson Heritage Foundation to see if they want it back. There is no place to display it in the museum. Suggested recipients include the Layland Museum, Railroad Museum, and JN Long Cultural Arts Center, if declined by BHF.

### F. Burleson:

Friday, June 27, 2025 at 9 pm will be a paranormal investigation fund raiser for Burleson Heritage Foundation (See Calendar of Events for more details)

Burleson will hold a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade but Burleson Heritage Foundation will not have an entry this year.

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

Sandra and James Neeley will deliver JCHC's submission of photographs, books, thumb drives of books and videos, and newspapers to **The Portal to Texas History** on July 2, 2025.

Chair Neeley reported the estimated total is slightly over \$1800; JCHC voted a not-to-exceed amount of \$1900.

\$1,000 Rescuing Texas History Grants for non-newspaper items are available now via The Portal.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 pm

Amy Nichols, Secretary