

# JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## Minutes of JCHC Meeting September 22, 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

In the absence of Andy Asberry, Chair took roll call: 8 appointees present, 5 excused, 3 unexcused. Two guests were welcomed: Melaine and Steve Holcomb of Cleburne

Special Thank You to Tracy Oaks for coming early to help with some 'maintenance' at Dotey House today !!!

Chair expressed concern that Andy Asberry's terminal illness could affect his return to JCHC. He will be deeply missed!

Charlotte Lawson presented 2 Christmas stockings made from old quilts for Dotey House made by visitor Melaine Holcomb. Commission members thanked her for the beautiful gift.

Chair announced the courthouse had closed around noon today due to an air conditioning problem so the museum closed also.

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary Amy Nichols offered the August 25, 2025 minutes for approval as printed and mailed. Steve Wells moved to accept the minutes; 2nd by Nita Redmon; Motion approved by show of hands.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Copies on sign-in table) James Neeley shared \$24,311.84 has been spent this fiscal year and the current balance is \$11,771.20. The new budget will be effective October 1, 2025. Motion made by Nita Redmon to accept the Treasurer's Report; 2nd by Steve Wells. Motion approved by show of hands

James Neeley made a motion to request the **annual \$200 blanket PO** be issued to **Bennett's** after Oct. 1 for the next FY. (for name badges, special copies and misc. office supplies) Charlotte Lawson 2nd. Motion approved by show of hands.

**Old Business:** See Committee Reports

**New Business:** Next JCHC meeting will be Monday Oct. 27, 2025 at the restored Courthouse Conference Room because Dotey House porch replacement could be in process. Basement doors will remain unlocked until 6:30 pm on that day.

Chair announced the County's request for JCHC to offer written support for the grant application for the courthouse steps and elevator will likely occur in early 2026. This item will remain on the agenda until JCHC receives instructions on how to proceed.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **A. Texas Historical Markers (THM) and Texas Historic Cemeteries**

Chair Neeley reported the THM for Brazos Point Bridge has been sent to the foundry.

##### **B. Johnson County Historic Landmark Plaques and Narratives & Texas Treasure Businesses**

Project Chair Nita Redmon reported (1) joint dedication for Bus Depot, Chaf-In and Dillon Depot will be held in the Fall. She hopes to have an update in October.

JN Long's dedication is pending.

**JCHC Minutes September 22, 2025, continued**

Sunday October 26 will be the dedication for First Methodist Church Grandview's plaque and narrative at 12:15  
Chair encouraged everyone to attend and wear their name badge.

No update from **American Legion Post 50's** interest in having a Historic Landmark Plaque and Narrative.

Project Chair Redmon reported she mailed a letter to Cleburne Floral but has received no response.

**Bennett's** planned dedication of their **Texas Treasure Business** award Nov. 7 or 8 conflicts with another event.  
The committee will speak with them about choosing another date.

**C. Friends of JCHC:** - President Andy Asberry was not present due to illness and has been unable to attend  
Save Old Cleburne meetings. Chair Neeley reported Save Old Cleburne offered to make arrangements for the  
judging of the Christmas light competition. JCHC to assist if possible.

#### **D. Dotey-Kirkham House**

Chair reported the PO for porch and wheelchair ramp replacement (voted to purchase last month) should be  
issued after the fiscal year begins October 1, 2025. Contractor will be asked to complete the project by mid-  
November so JCHC can begin decorating the house for Candlewalk Dec. 6.

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

Director reported 102 visitors. Some visitors came from Oklahoma, Oregon, Florida and New Mexico.  
4 volunteer hours by Pat and Vivian  
No expenditures

In October, JCHC Exec. Committee will visit JCHC's assigned storage 'cage' to begin an inventory of items  
stored there. Facilities Mgmt. will provide 2 helpers. Updates and reports will be submitted.

#### **F. Burlison:**

**Founders Day:** October 11 from 10 am – 3 pm in Old Town. Stroll through Old Town in period dress at 10 a.m.  
All appointees are encouraged to attend. Meet at the Visitors Center.

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

Chair has confirmed with The Portal that the multiple backups JCHC already has in place should be sufficient.  
Items are being uploaded to the site, an external hard drive is kept at UNT of each submission and 1 is provided  
to JCHC; original items are returned to lenders; copies are filed in cabinet at the museum; and exist on 2  
different Neeley hard drives.

Chair noted items to be delivered to The Portal Oct. 22, 2025 (2 thumb drives of John Warren's Legacy of East  
Cleburne, a ledger on loan from Marsha Buckner, a 1940 Johnson County Fair program, 1956 Grandview Corn  
& Livestock Show program and approx. 10 photographs)  
The Portal's written estimate of \$400 to digitize these items was presented.

Steve Wells made a motion to send the listed items to The Portal to be digitized, based on the written estimate and pay any invoices that result; Motion 2nd by Nita Redmon; Motion approved by show of hands
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Steve Wells made a motion to reimburse JCHC representative for delivering the items to UNT Denton/ The Portal in October. Motion 2nd by Nita Redmon; Motion approved by show of hands
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**H.** Steve Wells reported on Pioneer Days to be Friday and Saturday Nov. 7-8, 2025 at Chisholm Trail Outdoor  
Museum. Friday is school day and Saturday is for the general public. Terry's Texas Rangers will set up camp  
and fire cannons.

Meeting Adjourned

Amy Nichols, Secretary

## 2025 and 2026 JCHC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Please wear your JCHC name badge to Johnson Co. Historical Commission events)

- Oct** 24 CHC Area meeting hosted by Parker Co. Historical Commission – Weatherford  
(4) JCHC representatives to attend
- 26 Dedication J. Co. Hist. Landmark plaque – 1st Methodist Church - Grandview** at 12:15
- 27 JCHC Meeting 6 pm Restored Courthouse\* Conference Room (\*Doors lock at 6:30)**  
Begin signing up to help during Candlewalk 1-8 pm at Dotey House Dec. 6  
Vote to send Exec. Committee to THC Real Places Conference; Discounted registration begins in November.
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- Nov.** TBD Bennett’s Texas Treasure Business dedication
- 8 Grandview Veteran's appreciation day at the memorial park 11 a.m.
- 7-8 Pioneer Days - Chisholm Trail Outdoor Museum (School Day is Friday)
- 10 Begin decorating the Dotey House for Candlewalk this week
- 20-23 Book Sale at JN Long
- 24 JCHC Meeting – 6 pm\* (last meeting of 2025) Restored Courthouse Conference Room**  
**Vote where to meet Jan. 26, 2026 - possibly at restored courthouse until time changes**  
**\* Basement Doors lock at 6:30**
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- Dec.** 6 **SOC Candlewalk** Tour of Homes – **Dotey House open** 1-8 pm; Docent tour Dec. 7
- 8 JCHC on consent agenda at Com.Court re Exec.Comm. attending THC Real Places in April
- 7-31 Judging of Christmas light displays in Cleburne - JCHC to assist Save Old Cleburne
- 11 Tentative date Ellis Co. group to tour Dotey House and Courthouse**
- TBD Parker Co. Hist. Commission to tour Dotey House and Courthouse**
- 13 Wreaths Across America – Bethesda Cemetery off I-35 W - South of Burleson 10:30 am
- 13 Grandview Christmas Parade at dark

Note: **No** JCHC Meeting in December

### 2026

- Jan** TBD Remove and stow away Dotey House Christmas decorations
- 26 JCHC Meeting 6 pm** – location was determined at the Nov. JCHC meeting
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- Feb** 9 **JCHC required annual report to Commissioners Court - 9 a.m.**
- 23 JCHC Meeting 6 pm** – location to be determined at the Jan. meeting
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- March** Texas Independence Day – Chisholm Trail Outdoor Museum
- 23 JCHC Meeting 6 pm** – location to be determined at the Feb. meeting
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- April** 8-10 Texas Historical Commission Real Places Conference in Austin - Exec. Comm. to attend
- 27 JCHC Mtg, 6 pm** Dotey House? (Vote to change May meeting date due to Memorial Day)
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- May** 3\* *“Secrets of the Stones”* Talking Tombstone Tour \*possibly the 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. in May  
Date to be confirmed - Greenwood Cemetery - 300 Front Street, Weatherford
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- 26 JCHC Meeting 6 pm** Dotey House (Note date change due to Memorial Day)

### Contacts for Ongoing Events:

**Burleson Ghost Tours** 817-295-5121 or 817-889-1610 <https://BurlesonHistoricalGhostTour.com>

**Historic Downtown Cleburne** <https://historicdowntowncleburnetx.com>

**Chisholm Trail Outdoor Museum** <https://www.thechisholmtrailoutdoormuseum.com>

**Russell Farm - 405 West CR 714 - Burleson** <https://www.burlesontx.com/calendar.aspx>

**Cleburne State Park** - <https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/cleburne>