

JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of JCHC Meeting October 27, 2025

Held at the Restored Courthouse Conference Room

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, 6 excused, 8 guests were present: Melaine and Steve Holcomb, John Warren, Ann Watson, Brenda Overton, Zetta Rice, Mason Rice, and Lyndon Overton.

Announcements: Chair welcomed guests.

Each appointee received dates for Commissioners Court and deadlines with the monthly mailer.

JCHC will be on consent agenda Dec. 8 at Commissioners Court to approve JCHC Executive Committee attending Real Places THC Conference in April 2026. Info about Real Places was explained to others who may want to attend.

Bennett's Fiscal Year blanket PO has been issued (\$200 for name badges and special copies)

JCHC annual report to Commissioners Court will be Feb. 9, 2026

Secretary's Report: Secretary Amy Nichols offered Sept. 22, 2025 minutes for approval as printed and mailed. Danny Doggett moved to accept the report; 2nd by Nita Redmon; Approved by show of hands.

Treasurer's Report: (Copies on sign-in table) James Neeley reported the budget of \$42,000 went into effect Oct. 1 and the current balance is \$33,335.92. Funds are encumbered for Dotey House porch replacement and for digitation at the Portal to Texas History.

Nita Redmon moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; 2nd by Vivian Wright; Approved by show of hands.

No other financial matters.

Old Business: See Committee Reports

New Business: Amy Nichols, Charlotte Lawson, James & Sandra Neeley attended the Parker CHC area historical commission meeting Friday, Oct. 24 at Doss Heritage Center in Weatherford. It was informative, and Parker Co. Hist. Commission plans to make this an annual event.

Next JCHC meeting will be Monday Nov. 24, 2025. Nita Redmon asked that it be held at Dillon Depot at 5:30 beginning with Historic Landmark Plaque dedications for Dillon Depot, Chaf-In Restaurant the Bus Depot prior to the JCHC meeting at 6 pm. It was unanimously agreed to go to Dillon Depot Nov. 24, 2025.

Nita Redmon moved to send the JCHC Executive Committee to Texas Historical Commission's Real Places Conference in Austin April 8-10, 2026. Early registration has begun.

Note: Exec. Committee attendees will be reimbursed from the Dues & Conferences budget line item;

2nd by Danny Doggett; Approved by show of hands

Committee Reports:

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

Chair Neeley presented a written quote and photocopy from Bennett's for an 8 x 10 etching on metal of the original Brazos Point Bridge dedication photograph. (JCHC plans to display it on a metal post next to the Brazos Point Bridge TX Hist. Marker) Amy Nichols moved to approve the purchase at the not-to-exceed amount of \$75. 2nd by Nita Redmon; Motion approved by show of hands.

Note: Display stand and costs related to it will be addressed at a future meeting.

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

Chair noted the City of Cleburne responded promptly to reports of bushes and trees obscuring the Harrell Street Bridge Historic Landmark Plaque & Narrative and the TX Hist. Marker for the City Spring next to the former Buffalo Creek BBQ Restaurant

Project Chair Nita Redmon reported on the dedication of the plaque and narrative at First Methodist Church of Grandview held Sunday Oct. 26. Nita Redmon, Sandra Neeley, Commissioner Larry Woolley and Pastor Sharon Smith spoke at the dedication ceremony.

Project Chair Redmon repeated that the dedication for Dillon Depot, Chaf-In Restaurant, and the Bus Depot will be at 5:30 pm on November 24, 2025 (followed by the regular JCHC meeting at 6 pm) at Dillon Depot as discussed in New Business above.

There is no update re dedication for JN Long Building Historic Landmark Plaque and Narrative nor the Texas Treasure Business award for Bennett's. No new applications have been received.

C. Friends of JCHC: - President Andy Asberry was not present due to illness. Chair Neeley reported Save Old Cleburne will provide 1 or 2 docents to staff the Friends donation table at Dotey House during Candlewalk and that a local woman has also volunteered to help. Volunteers are needed for other times during the event. SOC will take care of voting on Christmas light displays Dec. 7-31. Info will be shared with JCHC so we can help if possible.

D. Dotey-Kirkham House

Chair reported the porch and wheelchair ramp replacement have not begun, although Facilities and the contractor are aware JCHC must have access to the house to decorate for Candlewalk.

Workday to clean the house and begin decorating was set for **Nov. 18** and Nov. 21. Workdays may be needed the following week (Tues and Fri) and the week of Candlewalk, including Dec. 5, the day before.

Former resident Linda Coulston Ball will again attend and talk with visitors about living in the house as a child. Wilma Reed is invited to join her again if possible.

Vivian Wright will provide a period dress for display and JCHC will be offered a quilt that includes the Johnson County flag donated by Joe Durham. Steve Wells was not present to report on loan of a CSA officer's coat.

A few people from a local church choir may come sing Christmas carols but not confirmed.

Discussion followed about borrowing a Stereoscope from the museum and having an appointee demonstrate it during Candlewalk. Tabled until the November meeting.

A sign-up sheet for volunteers to be docents at the house during Candlewalk was passed around. Docents can tour all the Candlewalk houses early Sunday morning the day after Candlewalk.

Ellis Co. Historical Commission wants to come tour Dotey House and the courthouse on Thurs. Dec. 11 and Parker CHC wants to do the same on Friday Dec. 12. Volunteers will be needed. They will also tour the courthouse and have lunch together, paying for their own meals.

Decorations will be taken down, stored and the furniture covered, etc. in early January - date TBD

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

106 visitors to the museum from 6 other states and Columbia.

Donation form for a 1928 city directory (mentioned in report but not presented to JCHC for vote)

Discussed a quilt donation* with Sandy Sims from former county official Joe Durham

Referral to Chair to assist J Co. Sheriff's office re site of a burglary near Mansfield several years ago.

Assisted a neighbor of Barnsville Cemetery with County department who can remove a dead tree.

Expenditures: \$447.60 for printer ink.

* Chair noted the above-referenced quilt could be used on the bed at Dotey House and that 2 undocumented quilts be offered during Candlewalk for donations to Friends along with some barbed wire wreaths that were donated.

Chair thanked the Executive Committee for assisting with inventory of JCHC's storage area (aka the Cage) at the sheriff's dept. 3 Tuesdays in October. Approx 350 books were listed and boxed from a 50-year loan accepted in 2011 by Judge Harmon. The donor has passed away. JCHC is waiting on instructions from Judge Boedeker regarding these books.

Some non-Johnson County, undocumented items were sent to surplus and other items found in storage are being returned to the museum.

No one but JCHC Executive Committee should send anything to the cage. Facilities will deliver items for us.

A collection of cassette tapes by Jack Carlton regarding various historic sites was found in storage. Amy Nichols will contact Jacob Mangum at UNT/The Portal to get an estimate of charges for having these tapes digitized on The Portal to Texas History.

Danny Doggett took a collection of undocumented, unidentified tin types.

Newspapers that have already been digitized at The Portal and been returned to JCHC will be sent to storage from the museum vault.

294 issues of the Cleburne Eagle News found in storage will be processed by for digitation at The Portal.

Guest Ms. Zetta Rice offered a scrapbook of photographs for JCHC to scan. Marsha Buckner will do so at the museum with copies for JCHC and the Genealogical Society.

Melaine Holcomb volunteered to type names from a rolled-up CHS class photo from the 1930s for future submission to The Portal.

F. Burleson: Vivian Wright reported Founders Day was a successful event - held October 11 from 10-3 in Old Town. Stroll through Old Town in period dress included JCHC appointees Steve Wells, Tracy Oaks, Pat Dexheimer and Vivian Wright.

A paranormal investigation fund raiser for Burleson Heritage Foundation will be in December. (Date to be announced at the November meeting)

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

Chair delivered a submission to The Portal October 22, 2025. The above-mentioned issues of the Cleburne Eagle News found in storage will be among items delivered there in 2026.

Meeting Adjourned

Amy Nichols, Secretary