

# JOHNSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Minutes of JCHC Meeting February 23, 2026

Held at the Restored Courthouse Conference Room

Sandra Neeley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6 pm, presiding over the meeting following the printed agenda.

Tracy Oaks voiced the invocation followed by pledges to the United States and Texas flags

Roll Call: (10 appointees present; 9 excused; 2 guests Steve and Sue Willis of Midlothian)

**Announcements:** Feb. 9, Chair presented the required Annual Report on 2025 activities to Commissioners Court and the Annual Report to Texas Historical Commission was sent in on February 4. It included 3,250 volunteer hours.

JCHC and First Methodist Church Grandview were featured in a Cleburne Times-Review year-end article as one of the top 10 stories of 2025 - the dedication of the church's Johnson County Historical Landmark plaque and narrative.

**Secretary's Report:** Secretary Amy Nichols offered the Nov. 24, 2025, minutes for approval as printed and mailed. Danny Doggett made a motion to accept the minutes; 2nd by Nita Redmon; Approved by show of hands.

The Holcombs were mentioned as new appointees but were not present due to illness.

No new appointee requests received.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Copies of Dec, Jan and Feb reports on sign-in table)

James Neeley reported the budget of \$42,000 with \$8,573.43 expenses and \$1,173.82 is encumbered, leaving a current balance of \$32,252.75

Nita Redmon made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; 2nd by Charlotte Lawson; motion approved by show of hands.

A December 2025 quote from Bennett's was presented for 1,000 trifold, double sided Johnson County Historical Commission color brochures in the amount of \$289.00.

James Neeley made a motion to purchase these brochures at the not-to-exceed amount of \$300.

2nd by Nita Redmon; Approved by show of hands

Chair noted that Friends had been paying \$20 annual dues to Save Old Cleburne, but they are no longer able to do this, so it was proposed to 'pass the hat' and each appointee might consider contributing a dollar or two. Enough money was thus raised to pay Save Old Cleburne dues for 2026.

Historic Downtown Cleburne has offered to "comp" JCHC membership dues and Cleburne Chamber of Commerce added JCHC to Johnson County's non-voting membership. Any appointee paying to attend a CofC event will be charged at the 'member' rate.

## Old Business:

There is no update on the interior photos of the courthouse requested by the Bob Bullock Museum.

## New Business:

Next JCHC meeting - **Monday March 23, 2026.** It was unanimously agreed to hold the meeting at the Dotey House.

25 of the brown padded folding chairs stored in the Conference Room vault were documented to have been purchased by JCHC. Facilities Management exchanged them for the metal folding chairs at the Dotey House.

Judge Boedeker and Facilities are applying for a grant for repairs to the courthouse. It was unanimously agreed to offer a letter of support for this project. Chair read a letter to be provided by JCHC and signed by the Executive Committee.

## Minutes of JCHC Meeting February 23, 2026, continued

### Committee Reports:

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

The THM for Brazos Point Bridge is at the foundry and scheduled to arrive in the next few months. Chair showed the photo etching on metal of the bridge's original dedication JCHC purchased. It will be installed near the THM on a donated post to be built by Ben Head. Andy Asberry provided Plexiglas to cover the etching.

**B. Johnson County Historic Landmark Plaques and Narratives & Texas Treasure Businesses** - Nita Redmon Chair  
Charlotte Lawson shared that JN Long would like to dedicate their Johnson County Historic Landmark plaque and narrative on Saturday April 25, 2026, at 12 noon. Nita Redmon will work with JN Long to develop the program, speakers and newspaper coverage.

Nita Redmon made a motion to bestow a Johnson Co. Historic Landmark plaque and narrative on the **Cleburne American Legion building** and that the JCHC Chair be authorized to purchase the narrative upon receipt and approval of final draft and written quote from Bennett's at the not-to-exceed amount of \$100.  
2nd by Rowena Lawson; Approved by show of hands

Nita Redmon made a motion to bestow a narrative on the **Burger Bar** in Cleburne and that the JCHC Chair be authorized to purchase the narrative upon receipt and approval of final draft and written quote from Bennett's at the not-to-exceed amount of \$100; 2nd by Charlotte Lawson; Approved by show of hands

Note: Burger Bar already has an oval Johnson County Historic Landmark plaque

Reminder: **Texas Treasure Business** award for businesses over 50 years old is free from Texas Historical Commission; anyone can apply using the online application.

#### C. Friends of JCHC: - Friends donation table received over \$100 during Candlewalk.

Thank you notes were sent to 5 non-JCHC volunteers who assisted at the table and to Linda Coulston Ball for attending.

#### D. Dotey-Kirkham House

Approximately 130 people toured the house during Candlewalk December 6, 2025

Parker County Historical Commission toured the Dotey House, courthouse and museum on December 12

Pat Dexheimer was thanked for donating a Christmas tree for 2026 and fireplace screen.

Melaine Holcomb volunteered to determine if the autograph (friendship) quilt can be repaired. If so, she will donate her time and will present a list of supplies for vote to purchase at a future meeting.

Former JCHC appointee **Barbara Robinson** loaned several pieces of **furniture and other items** to the Dotey House with the stipulation they pass to her son upon her death. Ms. Robinson died in December and Chair Neeley contacted her son and heir Rob Moser. Mr. Moser provided an official Memorandum of Donation form for all the items.

Amy Nichols made a motion to accept Mr. Moser's Memorandum of Donation form with photographs;  
2nd by Charlotte Lawson; Motion approved by show of hands

The **Victrola / record player** with approx. 50 records was donated verbally in 2017. Chair Neeley contacted donors Kevin and Tracy Humphreys who provided an official Memorandum of Donation form.

Amy Nichols made a motion to accept the Humphreys' Memorandum of Donation form with photograph;  
2nd by Nita Redmon; Motion approved by show of hands

Johnson Co. Facilities Mgmt. is obtaining pricing to replace the gutters and downspouts on the front of the Dotey House. The written quote should be available for vote at the March JCHC meeting.

## Minutes of JCHC Meeting February 23, 2026, continued

### E. Museum Report (Copies of reports for Dec, Jan & Feb were available on the sign-in table)

Most recent report stated 97 visitors including from Wisconsin, Puerto Rico, and Kansas  
8 volunteer hours

Research on WW II veterans, George Turner Texas Ranger and Bethesda Cemetery.

Scanning of West negative continues and posts to the County's Facebook page.

\$279.19 Expenditures: \$179.99 for an electric standing computer desk and \$98.20 for printer ink cartridge

The 350 books on 50-year loan since 2011 were officially accepted by Commissioners Court in December on a Memorandum of Donation form obtained by the Judge's office from an heir of the donor.

JCHC must now sort the books by topic and pass them on to non-profits.

Motion by Charlotte Lawson; 2nd by Nita Redmon to pass on the **War Between the States books** to Terry's Texas Rangers SCV Camp #1937; Motion approved by show of hands

Motion by Nita Redmon; 2nd by Danny Doggett to pass on **county and genealogical-related books** to their respective counties or organizations at the discretion of JCHC; Motion approved by show of hands

Documentation of some of the museum's furniture was found at the storage facility in October. Other documents found there continue to be returned to the museum. An archival box for Jack Carlton's miscellaneous items is being created.

**F. Burleson:** Pat Dexheimer reported Russell Farm will be 150 years old this fall and that they plan to apply for a Johnson County Historic Landmark plaque and narrative.

Paranormal investigation fundraiser for Burleson Heritage Foundation of the old jail in Burleson was held January 16 and raised \$1,075.

Burleson Founders Day will be on the 2nd Saturday in October.

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

JCHC will vote at the June meeting to send the next submission to The Portal and reimburse for delivery.

Amy Nichols contacted UNT about Jack Carlton's cassette tape recordings found at the storage facility but was informed The Portal does not have the equipment to digitize audio tapes.

Marsha Buckner suggested putting the 1900 Cleburne City Directory on The Portal. It is approximately 80 Photostat pages. Sandra Neeley will ask if The Portal will digitize Photostat copies.

Meeting Adjourned

Amy Nichols, Secretary