

Calhoun County Historical Commission

Minutes: March 11, 2025

Calhoun County Historical Commission met March 11, 2025, at the Calhoun County Library, 200 West Mahan, Port Lavaca, Texas. Chairman Larry Nichols called the meeting to Order at 6:30 p.m. Quorum met. Invocation and Pledges of Allegiance were led by Larry Nichols. Members were welcomed and introduced themselves. Handouts were distributed to members. Minutes from February 11, 2025 were viewed. Motion was made by Steve Koch and seconded by Robert Loflin, and was approved. Treasurer's Report, as of Feb. 28, included Total Accounts \$68209.69, Miscellaneous \$4002.00, and Capital Outlay \$2450.00. Accounts #621-Museum HC and #623-Museum-LaSalle Odyssey were added. Gary Ralston stated that the money for the Camel Corps comes out of the general fund, about \$1500. Jan Regan moved Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Jody Weaver seconded, and motion was approved.

Larry Nichols talked about the application from THC about the National Register. Cemetery Chair Keith Hubbard said there was not much to report.

Gary Ralston suggested putting together ideas for Marker Application, said to let John Foester know. Steve Koch said the Lighthouse Marker Dedication was very successful. 30 attended and every chair was full. 4 towns were represented: Port Lavaca-9, Port O'Connor-16, Seadrift-2, and Ingleside-3. 2 Commissioners were in attendance. Arthur Barr's descendants gave flowers that had grown on the island to the library. CJ Vetter wrote an article for the Port Lavaca Wave.

Under New Business, Goals for 2025 were discussed. Larry Nichols stated that 25% of the year is over. Asked for members to decide on a Goal they would like to work on, and contact Vicki Cox at the Museum. Larry reported that Strictly Business can make a 4'X8' metal sign for \$600.

Larry Nichols sent letters to CCISD and the County Judge Lyssy about placing the High School and Courthouse on the National Registry. Judge Lyssy wants the commissioners to take action on it.

Discussion was had about being eligible for a LaSalle landing site and Matagorda Lighthouse markers. What info do we want to put on it? What kind of marker? Concrete? Granite? No decisions were made at this time.

Discussion was had about the Indianola Markers are looking rusty. Robert Loflin talked to David Hall, and the only option is to clean and paint it in place.

Jody Weaver “borrowed” from the Victoria Historical account to start doing “Tombstone Tuesday”. Sheryl Cuellar is helping. The current one was Mayor Guidry, the 1st mayor after the town was re-incorporated in 1919. It had already received 80 views that day. The previous one on Olivia had 35,000 views.

The school is going to donate a partition to put in the entry way of the museum to block the door to the maintenance closet. It will be on wheels so it can be easily moved. It will also be used as a display. They also have a portable building at the Wilkins campus that they are willing to let the museum use for off-site storage. Larry suggested paying \$50 a month to help pay the electricity. He is going to meet with them to get an agreement.

Discussion was had about setting up the Camel Corps to come for the 7th graders. Doug just got back from overseas. A date needs to be decided on with the school, probably mid-October. A motion was made for Gary to start setting everything up. He said it would be around \$1500. Motion was made by Jay Cuellar and seconded by John Foester.

During the Commission Input, Jay Cuellar suggested putting displays in the City Hall and Courthouse. Eddie Tyler said we need signs that direct people to the museum, courthouse, etc. Another suggestion was to have a pamphlet with a map and addresses.

Old Business: The newspaper article about the Olivia Silhouette work being done at the high school was passed around. Gary Ralston said they are talking to the artist about possibly a different template. They are working on it as they can, usually on Fridays. They have one panel done so far.

Eddie Tyler said the final clean up at the Halfmoon reef Lighthouse was completed. The outside is done, just need the ramp. They are working on the inside, so it isn't open yet. The total spent has not been tallied yet. Eddie said

there was a great team effort with the city and the county. Discussion was had on whether to paint or stain the deck. It was decided that stain would last longer.

Vicki Cox gave a report of 58 visitors at the Museum during February. Data is still being entered into the Past Perfect program.

The date to Honor Phil & Sue Thomae is going to be March 13 at 10 am, at the Bethany Senior Living. Phil started with the commission under George Fred Rhodes. Phil & Sue were with the commission for 50 years, and rarely missed meetings. Phil was Treasurer at one time, and Sue helped set up the Camel Corps with the school. Phil often provided photographs at no charge. Jan Regan asked if we could have the Victoria Advocate and Port Lavaca Wave at the ceremony.

Larry Nichols, Jessie Hubble and Jessie Briseno went to the Museum of the Coastal Bend to see a presentation on the Runaway Scrape. They said it was very interesting and informative.

A motion to adjourn was made by Robert Loflin, seconded by Jay Cuellar. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Larry Nichols.