

Calhoun County Historical Commission Minutes: April 8, 2025

Calhoun County Historical Commission met April 8, 2025, at the Calhoun County Library, 200 West Mahan, Port Lavaca, Texas. Chairman Larry Nichols presided. Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledges of Allegiance were led by Larry Nichols. Guest Blaine Evans was welcomed and members introduced themselves. Attendees included Mary Belle Meitzen, Dana Nichols, Jan Regan, Vicki Cox, Jesse Hubbell, Gary Ralston, Kieth Hubbard, Steve Koch, Wesley Abraham, Larry Nichols, Jody Weaver, Sue Traylor, Eddie Tyler, Jay Cuellar, Sheryle Cuellar, and John Foester.

Minutes from March 11, 2025, were viewed and accepted as presented with motion by Wesley Abraham and seconded by Sue Traylor. Gary Ralston presented the Treasurer's Report as of March 2025, with Total Accounts \$68,383.89, Miscellaneous \$4,002.00, and Capital Outlay \$2,450.00. Jesse Hubbard moved the Treasurer's Report to be accepted as presented, Jan Regan seconded, and the motion was approved. There was no THC correspondence. Chairman Larry Nichols has registered virtually for "Real Places in Austin April 23, 24, 25 - Preserving Texas History." Registration fee will be paid by the Commission.

Cemetery Chair Kieth Hubbard held a Ranger Cemetery workday with Gary Ralston, setting 16X16 pavers on fifteen unknown graves. Old Town Cemetery received twenty unknown grave markers by Kieth Hubbard, Gary Ralston, and Mary Belle Meitzen. Both cemeteries have one unmarked grave. An animal was buried at Old Town Cemetery. In order not to set a preference, Kieth removed the ornate decorations and cross but left a stone marking the animal's grave. Kieth inquired about cemetery workday qualifications. Indianola Courthouse granite marker which he inked, was viewed from the previous photograph. Sheryl Cuellar reported the City of Port Lavaca Cemetery Tours will be November 1 & 2. County tours will be planned at a future date.

Marker Chair John Foester reported the THC Undertold Marker, LaSalle, was not accepted. He is currently working on a LaSalle Marker Story. TxDot has approved the Clark Station Marker location and will be installing it. Clark Station Marker wording was submitted to Commission for reference.

New Business included Chairman Nichols illustrating the 2025 Goals by poster and passing a sign-up sheet for members to complete. Emphasizing historical heritage, Larry showed individual signs for Port Lavaca, Seadrift, and Port O'Connor which he plans to take to each city council. Signs cost \$600 apiece. If interested, he will ask for a total or half payment. Jody Weaver explained Port Lavaca City has plans to install a kiosk at Bayfront Park walking trail which shows Navidad Hotel from the same view.

Considerable discussion on relocation of Museum offsite storage was discussed. Members were encouraged to tour the current Museum storage. A temporary portable building may be rented for \$50.00 from CCISD to free up space that needs to be utilized. Discussed returning duplicate Museum items to families or putting them up for auction. Utilization of the space was not clear. The agenda item was tabled by Wesley Abraham and Jay Cuellar until the next meeting with agreement from the Commission. Commissioner Nichols recommended the National Register of Historic Places plaque for LaSalle Monument be purchased. Plaque picture was reviewed. Motion to purchase 15"X15" plaque with posts for \$748.30 was presented by Jay Cuellar, seconded by Jody Weaver, and approved.

Unfinished Business included first the Olivia Silhouette, which should be finished by the school year ending date. Drawings are being converted to Vector explained by Gary Ralston. Eddie Tyler said the post caps and quarter round had been purchased for Half Moon Reef Lighthouse. Sheryl Cuellar reported outside Christmas lights will be attached to the Lighthouse for Christmas in July by the City of Port Lavaca. Gary Ralston requested information on the buried historical anchor and cautioned careful removal. Camel Corps is scheduled for October 9, 2025. Travis, Seadrift, and Our Lady of the Gulf Schools have been notified by Mrs. Meitzen. Jody Weaver and Sheryl Cuellar competed Tombstone Tuesday on Charles DeWitt McNeil. Mrs. Weaver shared Tombstone Tuesday articles with the Commission. The site has received 63,000 views.

Vicki Cox, the Museum Director, reported 120 March visitors. She distributed surplus Port Lavaca City Directories and has purchased magnetic picture frames. Indianola Civil War letters written by Skidmore and donated by John Sanford of Palacios were displayed. The Model T Automobile Club toured the Museum, and the Half Moon Reef Lighthouse, with a tour led by Eddie Tyler

and Mary Belle Meitzen. Larry Nichols and Mary Belle Meitzen presented Phil and Sue Thomae with a Fifty-Year Emeritus Certificate on March 13, 2025, at Bethany Senior Living. Mr. Nichols reported the Museum front door display is being completed by CCISD under Joe Hernandez 's direction. Secretary Mary Belle Meitzen explained meeting and volunteer hours.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jay Cuellar and seconded by Wesley Abraham. Motion carried. The Commission was adjourned by Chairman Larry Nichols.

Submitted by
Mary Belle Meitzen
CCHC Secretary

April 10, 2025