

Burnet County Historical Commission
February 7, 2023 at 10:15 AM
Herman Brown Free Library

Rachel Bryson, chair of BCHC, called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM. Members in attendance were Rachel, Tommye and John Potts, Terri Burger, Amanda Seim, Florence Reeves, Lela Goar, Jane Knapik, Al Downing, Carolyn Liles, Polly Krennek, Lynda French, Blair Manning and Caryl Calsyn. Prospective member Danielle Meredith, is a long-time board member of the Falls on the Colorado museum. Her family settled in the Highland Lakes area generations ago. Another prospective member is Bob Kent, who attended with our other visitors. His knowledge and interest in history was apparent. He stayed for the meeting after the others left and said he would like to be a member of BCHC.

Other visitors were County Judge Oakley, Prescient Two Commissioner, Damon Beierle and Prescient One Commissioner, Jim Luther. Before they left there was a discussion about a marker for the Buchanan Dam and where it should be located. Also, Beierle reported to the Commission that the bids will soon be going out for the structure improvements on the Joppa Bridge.

The meeting began with the pledge to the flags. We decided we need larger ones.

Rachel brought up the need for buying new nametags because we have new members. Caryl pointed out that our current ones are very hard to read because of the dark brass background and black lettering. They can only be read in good light and standing very close. We decided the new ones should have white backgrounds.

Rachel asked if everyone has the document the original committee came up with as a guide for dispersing the large bequeath from the late Ina Cooper in 2017. Anyone not having a copy should request one, read it and come to the March meeting with written suggestions for perhaps simplifying to make it easier to put the money to use. Then a small committee can meet before the April meeting for discussion on going forward.

Florence led a discussion about the need for a new web page. She said the present one has probably expired. Amanda agreed to help with doing so.

All certified members of BCHC should receive a copy of the "Medallion" from THC, that is not happening. Caryl contacted Nano Calderon at THC with that and other issues. Rachel received a copy of that email and has received a reply from Nano.

Lela discussed (CLG) Certified Local Government. She said that a list of duties is needed. It appears Lela will continue in that role. Amanda said she would be a part of that committee.

Tommye talked about her visit to the Debo Cemetery. Her friend arranged that and told a story

about a family traveling in a covered with two small children who died and are buried there. The cemetery can be reached off Ranch Road 2341.

Lynda provided a history of her ancestors, the Hill family, who settled in in Oatmeal in the 1850's. John and Tommy researched the Hill School. Billy Hutson owns the house where the school was located.

John talked about the Centennial marker which is to be moved to the courthouse lawn in Burnet.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20.

The next meeting will be held March 7, 2023.


Caryl Calsyn, Secretary


Rachel Bryson, Chairman