

## Burnet County Historical Commission Minutes

August 1, 2023

The Burnet County Historical Commission (BCHC) met in regular session August 1, 2023 at 1:00PM.

Those in attendance included:

### Members:

Chairman - Rachel Bryson, Vice Chairman - Polly Krenek and Secretary - Terri Burger. Jane Knapik, Mary Ellen Keith, Florence Reeves, Amanda Seim, Lynda French, Caryl Calsyn, Al Downing and Lela Goar.

### Prospective Members:

Danielle Meredith, Doak Field, Michael and Nicole Ritchie.

### Guests:

Commissioner of Precinct Two, Damon Beierle and Commissioner of Precinct One, Jim Luther, Jr., Suzanne Freeman of The Picayune, and Raymond V. Whelan of The Burnet Bulletin.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM. Meeting opened with the pledges to the United States and Texas flags.

Guest speakers Michael and Nicole Richie of Cottonwood Shores were introduced. They have lived in the area four years, Michael is a Financial Analyst working at Camp Mabry, Nicole is a teacher in Llano ISD, Jr. High School. They were responsible for finding (deleted - two) a missing marker in 2019, a Burnet County Centennial marker (deleted -the other a Granite Mountain marker). Since their discovery they have worked with seven entities to identify the markers history, which were lost at some point over the years with the widening of TX Highway 281. Michael and Nicole continue to research monuments in the county utilizing a book titled "Monuments Commemorating the Centennial of Texas Independence". A tremendous amount of appreciation was given to them for their dedication in the recovery of important County markers. The 1936 marker has been refurbished and moved to the Courthouse in Burnet. A rededication is being planned for the near future.

Commissioner's remarks:

Commissioner Luther worked with TXDOT on the relocation of the recently missing 1936 marker. It has been setup on the Courthouse Lawn. A rededication is being planned at a future date.

Commissioner Beierle has identified a company that restores bridges, and he is working with them regarding the Joppa Iron Bridge repairs. He also commented on the progress of the transfer of the Historic Briggs School Building to Burnet County property.

Minutes from June 6th BCHC meeting were emailed to members, copies were made available for those who didn't receive, via email. Motion made and second received; minutes were passed as presented.

Since Treasurer, Carolyn Liles was not present, Rachel Bryson and Polly Krenk reviewed and submitted the Treasurer's report. At a prior meeting it was discussed, that the report needed to include more information, such as expenditures that were made during the preceding month. The Treasurer and Chairman will be meeting with the County Treasurer's Office to discuss revising the report. A motion was passed that the \$1,425.17 in the Fort Croghan Fund, be turned over to The Heritage Society, who oversees the Fort Croghan Complex. Motion passed unanimously. The money was from the profits of a Fish Fry held by BCHC for Ft. Croghan a few years ago.

BCHC Buchanan (deleted-Bridge) Dam Burnet County, TX marker will be located on the Burnet County side of the old bridge on Tx Hwy 29, which is now a Pedestrian Bridge. An exact location, to be determined at a later date. The Llano County Historical Commission (LCHC) marker will be located at the Buchanan Dam Chamber of Commerce Building on TX Hwy. 29. Both Commission Chairman's have discussed, and agreed, that the Dedication and Unavailing Ceremony of both markers should be celebrated at the same time.

BCHC was informed of approval of the Buchanan Dam Burnet County, TX marker on July 21, 2023. A request from the Chair for a motion to vote and submit a request for payment of the marker be presented to Commissioners Court of \$2,300. The money, and the acceptance of the marker must be sent to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) on or before 5:00 PM CST on September 15, 2023. Motion made, seconded, all present in favor.

Lela Goar, Certified Local Government (CLG) Chairman, reported the Committee is part of the BCHC and is in partnership with local, state, and federal government for historic preservation. The Committee has not been very active, but with the move of the 1936 marker and Buchanan/Llano marker project, this group will definitely be involved. If anyone is interested in volunteering for the CLG Committee, please contact her at [goarl.207a@gmail.com](mailto:goarl.207a@gmail.com) or call her on her cell phone at 512 585-7606 or at her home 512 715-8249.

Mount Moriah Cemetery marker dedication plans will be in the works once BCHC is notified by THC that marker has been shipped. The cemetery is located SE of Briggs on CR 218.

A 3rd edition of the "The Iron Truss Bridges of Burnet County at Joppa", was brought up by the Chair. There is a limited number of books remaining from prior printings:

First print of 150 books 9/14/2016 of \$1,227.56.

Second print of 50 books 5/14/2018 for \$268.86.

Following a discussion of the limited number of books available for upcoming sales events, and cost of reprinting, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve a 3rd print of 200 copies.

The bid from D&W Printing in Marble Falls for \$657.50 was accepted.


Four upcoming events for book sales opportunities was discussed. There is a need for a pop-up tent and a display table for the sales. Previously the BCHC has been borrowing those items from members. The County Amazon account will be used for purchases, and the items will be stored in the BCHC Climate Controlled Storage Unit at the Burnet County Jail Complex. Motion was made, seconded, and all present in favor.

Al Downing addressed the Commission about his concerns about the very poor condition of the Stringtown Cemetery located on CR 326A, near Bertram in the Oatmeal Community. The African American Cemetery, established after the Civil War, is on the Downing Ranch. A THC designated Historical Cemetery Marker was erected (deleted- by the BCHC) in 1970. Lonnie Rodgers and Glen Gilmore were identified as contacts for cleanup. A discussion followed and it was agreed that the BCHC needs to be involved in preserving this valuable part of Burnet County History.

Final business of the day was the need to follow protocol for any Texas Historical Marker Applications and attachments that will be submitted to THC in the future. All application documents that are sent to the (deleted- State Office)THC must be reviewed by BCHC and submitted to the County Commissioners for approval, prior to the (deleted-State) THC deadlines. Motion made, seconded and approved.

Next meeting September 5, 2023 at 1:00 PM at the Herman Brown Library in Burnet.

Meeting adjourned.

  
Rachel Bryson, Chairman

  
Terri Burger, Secretary