



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, JULY 1, 2021 AT 5:00PM
311 NAT HICKEY LANE, FREEPORT, TX 77541**

Chairperson:

Sandra Barbree

Board Members:

Nat Hickey
Carolyn Weatherly
David McGinty
Margaret McMahan
James McDonald
Amanda Petty
Edmeryl Williams

Vice Chairperson:

Brenda George

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Barbree called the meeting to order at 5:18pm. The following were in attendance:

Members present: Sandra Barbree
Nat Hickey
Carolyn Weatherly
Edmeryl Williams
David McGinty
Margaret McMahan
James McDonald
Amanda Petty

Staff Members: LeAnn Strahan
Wade Dillon

Members not present: Brenda George

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Williams opened the meeting with prayer; Mr. McGinty led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: Announcements by Board Members and/or Staff.

1. Fort Velasco Exhibit/Event Recap (Strahan, Dillon)

Mr. Dillon reported that both events had received substantial coverage by the Facts with multiple articles, and between 200-300 visitors attended from all over the state and beyond leaving behind nothing but positive feedback. Wade thanked the Board for their assistance hosting the event, and Ms. Barbree and Mr. McDonald for providing the great dinner for the living history volunteers.

BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:

2. Consideration and possible action to approve meeting minutes from July 1, 2021.

With a motion by Mr. Hickey and a second by Mrs. Petty, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting held on July 1, 2021.

WORK SESSION:

3. New Special Events

A. Downtown Monthly Events

Ms. Strahan requested direction from the Board in planning downtown monthly events. Discussion ensued to form a subcommittee to meet independently and report at regular Board meetings to discuss in greater detail. Volunteers for the subcommittee included Mr. McGinty, Mr. McDonald, Ms. Williams and Mrs. Petty. Mrs. Petty clarified that it is most convenient for her to participate via text or email due to family schedule.

i. Dates

Ms. Strahan suggested that event dates be cross-referenced with neighboring cities to eliminate competing with already established community events. The subcommittee will coordinate dates to discuss at the next regular meeting.

ii. Causes to Promote

The following suggestions were made to consider for monthly events:

- February – African Heritage, East End Photograph Collection (Williams)
- March – SPCA (Weatherly) Mrs. Petty suggested pet registration to coincide with this event. Ms. Strahan suggested a Pet/Owner look-alike contest.
- June
 - Alzheimer’s Awareness (Weatherly)
 - Buffalo Soldiers (Williams) Ms. Strahan suggested we could coordinate a presentation by forensic sculptor Amanda Danning.
 - Juneteenth Celebration (McDonald)
- September – Suicide Awareness (McDonald)
- October – Breast Cancer Awareness (McDonald)

- November – Diabetes (Petty)

Further discussion ensued regarding monthly events and possible activities. McDonald mentioned a Bunco event, Police Chief auction, and a holiday decorating contest. Holiday/Christmas market ideas were discussed as well. Ms. Weatherly mentioned getting the schools and local businesses involved in holiday decorations such as tree decorating, and Ms. Strahan and Mr. McDonald discussed the possibility of renting an ice-skating rink for the Holiday Market.

The sub-committee will meet independently on Thursday, July 8th at 5:30pm to continue their plans.

4. Main Street Application

Ms. Strahan updated the Board about the subcommittee working on the Main Street application. She reviewed the letter campaign talking points. Mr. McDonald emphasized needing places with activities for children. Ms. McMahan mentioned meeting consumer needs for our citizens which include adult activities and venues. Mr. McDonald spoke about his plans to open a dinner theater in downtown in March 2022 planned to include a red-carpet style venue with upscale dining experience and live performances. Discussion ensued the need for wayfinding signage to downtown, specifically prior to the Pine Street bridge being torn down. Ms. Weatherly expressed the importance of “curb appeal” in the downtown district. McDonald discussed EDC grants available and work being done on historical guidelines. Mrs. Petty expressed her concerns regarding the enforcement ordinances related to aesthetics to hold property owners accountable for the condition of their structures.

5. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 5:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

6. Adjourn.

With a motion by Mrs. Petty and a second by Ms. Weatherly, Mrs. Barbree called the meeting to a close with a unanimous vote at 6:41pm.