

THE CITY OF



FREEPORT

200 West Second St • Freeport, TX 77541

979.233.3526 • Fax 979.233.8867

**FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023 AT 5:00PM
311 EAST PARK AVENUE (NAT HICKEY LANE), FREEPORT, TX 77541**

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZORIA

CITY OF FREEPORT

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board met on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 5:00 PM at the Freeport Historical Museum, 311 East Park Avenue (Nat Hickey Lane), Freeport, Texas for the purpose of considering the following agenda items:

Chairperson:

Margaret McMahan

Board Members:

David McGinty
Irene Ocañas
Keith Stumbaugh
Olivia Kloss
Ronnie Martin
Douglas Domingues
William Leitch

Vice Chairperson:

Sandra Barbree

CALL TO ORDER

Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. The following attendees were present:

Board Members

Margaret McMahan
Irene Ocañas
David McGinty
Keith Stumbaugh
Ronnie Martin
Douglas Domingues
William Leitch

Staff Members

Ana Silbas, Main Street Coordinator
Wade Dillon, Museum Manager

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation was led by Douglas Domingues and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ana Silbas.

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

Main Street Update (Silbas)

Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas provided the board with an update pertaining to the reporting deadline for Texas Main Street Program quarter one reports. With a new transition in data collection for the Texas Main Street Program, Silbas informed the board of the new May 1st deadline to submit quarter one reports and the addition of new questions to gain a more wholistic picture of historic downtowns.

Additionally, Silbas reminded the board to complete the required Open Meeting Act and Public Information Act trainings and submit board member accountability agreements.

Museum Update -Recent Exhibits/ Events (Dillon)

Museum Manager Wade Dillon provided an update on the restructuring of the museum and the completion of 5 out of 15 new interpretative panels. Additionally, Dillon informed the board of the upcoming Shark Exhibit, which will run through June and July. He will have the sharks moved over to the exhibit hall beginning in May.

Dillon also informed the board that the train track in the children’s museum has been fixed and new track lights for the second half of the museum have been ordered.

Board Member Announcements

Keith Stumbaugh stated he wanted an update on the Main Street sign on the Hwy 36 bridge due to it being unhinged from the pole.

BUSINESS- REGULAR SESSION

Consideration and possible action to approve meeting minutes from March 30, 2023.

On a motion made by Ronnie Martin, seconded by William Leitch, with all present voting “Aye”, the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board **unanimously approved** the meeting minutes from March 30, 2023.

Consideration and possible action to approve 2023 Cinco de Mayo Celebration plans.

Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas informed the board of the 2023 Cinco de Mayo Celebration plans. The event is scheduled to take place on May 5, 2023 from 5pm to 8pm in Historic Downtown Freeport. Silbas stated the plans will include: live entertainment (DJ Roly, Los Corales and Westside Ballet Folklorico), mariachi stilt walker, face painting, caricature artists, food trucks and vendors. The 2023 Cinco de Mayo partners/sponsors include: Freeport Economic Development Corporation, Texas Gulf Bank, N.A., Community Health Network and 3D Marquee. Additionally, Silbas mentioned that she would be ordering event t-shirts. Ronnie Martin mentioned helping in the efforts to get an inflatable slide. On a motion made by Douglas Domingues, seconded by Keith Stumbaugh, with all present voting “Aye”, the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board **unanimously approved** the 2023 Cinco de Mayo Celebration plans.

Discussion of Freeport Main Street Board vacancies & term renewals.

Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas explained the reappointment process to the board set to take place in June. Additionally, Silbas mentioned board/commission applications will be accepted until May 12, 2023 in the City Secretary's Office. Olivia Kloss will not be seeking reappointment.

Discussion on the establishment of a Historic District.

Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas stated that she is working on creating a downtown building inventory, which will help in the process of establishing a historic district and planning a walking tour of downtown hosted by Freeport Main Street. Additionally, the board would like invitations to be extended to Freeport Economic Development Corporation and Planning and Zoning Commission to join the walking tour.

Discussion on upcoming Main Street Programs and Initiatives

Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas gave an overview of the creation of Friends of Freeport Main Street. Silbas stated that the purpose of Friends of Freeport Main Street is to serve as a community outreach initiative, which will bring together community stakeholders to discuss downtown revitalization strategies. The tentative date for the first Friends of Freeport Main Street event is May 13th, 2023.

WORK SESSION

Chair Margaret McMahan gave her Design subcommittee report to the board. McMahan stated that the design subcommittee met on April 18, 2023 at Texas Gulf Bank to discuss design guideline examples from other Texas to assist in the future development of design guidelines for Historic Downtown Freeport.

Organization subcommittee Chair Olivia Kloss was not in attendance due to work schedule.

Promotion subcommittee Chair Sandra Barbree was not in attendance.

Economic Vitality subcommittee Chair Irene Ocañas stated that the Economic Vitality subcommittee has not met. However, she has contacted Jesse Glatz and Sandra Leavey to recruit and they are interested in participating on this subcommittee. Ocañas is waiting for one more response from a potential subcommittee candidate.

Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas informed the board of the upcoming Cinco de Mayo Celebration scheduled for May 5, 2023 from 5pm to 8pm in Historic Downtown. Additionally, Silbas reminded the board of the upcoming "Bringing Back Main Street Roundtable" to be hosted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council on April 25, 2023. The event will begin at 10 am and take place at Ol' Railroad Café in Rosenberg, TX.

Museum Manager Wade Dillon conversed with Ronnie Martin about the incorporation of trains and the railroad system into the museum. Dillon stated that information about trains and the railroad system is incorporated into the interpretative panels in the museum.

Upcoming Events

The upcoming events for the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board include the following: Cinco de Mayo Celebration (May 5, 2023), Fort Velasco Day (June 24, 2023), Shark Exhibit (June & July 2023), KidFest (August 2023) and Día de Los Muertos (November 2023).

Items for Future Discussion-Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting for the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board is May 18, 2023. Ronnie Martin would like to have an agenda item for next general meeting related to obtaining benches for downtown donated by Lions Club.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Keith Stumbaugh, seconded by Ronnie Martin, with all present voting “Aye”, the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board Chair Margaret McMahan adjourned the meeting at 5:45 pm.



Ana Silbas, Main Street Coordinator
City of Freeport, Texas