



**FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 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, January 12, 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
Carolyn Weatherly
Olivia Kloss

Vice Chairperson:

Sandra Barbree

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Margaret McMahan called the meeting to order at 5:09 pm. The following attendees were present:

Board Members

Margaret McMahan
Irene Ocañas
David McGinty
Keith Stumbaugh
Carolyn Weatherly
Sandra Barbree

Staff Members

Tim Kelty- City Manager
Lance Petty, Asst. City Manager
Ana Silbas, Main Street Coordinator
Wade Dillon- Museum Manager

Guests: Ron Martin, Robert Johnson- Freeport Economic Development Corporation

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation was led by Carolyn Weatherly and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Wade Dillon.

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

Main Street Update (Silbas)

The Freeport Historical Commission & Advisory Board was notified that the Texas Main Street Locally Designated 2023 Contract and the National Main Street America Membership were signed and complete to return to respective parties to process invoices.

Museum Update -Recent Exhibits/ Events (Dillon)

Museum Manager Wade Dillon provided an update on museum storage room renovations and the success of Freeport History, which was held on January 7, 2023.

Board Member Announcements

There were not any board member announcements to report at this meeting.

BUSINESS- REGULAR SESSION

Consideration and possible action to approve meeting minutes from Thursday, November 17th, 2022.

On a motion made by Irene Ocañas, seconded by Sandra Barbree, with all present voting “Aye”, the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board approved the meeting minutes from November 17, 2022.

Consideration and possible action to approve 2023 Mardi Gras Festival Plans.

Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas informed the Board on the 2nd Annual Mardi Gras Festival plans. Silbas stated the plans include live entertainment, family friendly activities (face painting, DJ, caricature artist, stilt walker and juggler), gumbo cook-off, parade and food truck vendors. There were only two known parade entries at the time, which were Freeport Economic Development Corporation and the Brazoria County Marine Corps League Det. 982. Additionally, Silbas mentioned that it would be great for Board members to assist in the recruitment of parade entries and gumbo cook-off teams. Chair Margaret McMahan suggested Ana to reach out to different high school groups to submit parade applications.

On a motion made by Sandra Barbree, seconded by Irene Ocañas, with all present voting “Aye”, the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board unanimously approved the 2023 Mardi Gras Festival plans.

Consideration and possible action to approve a consistent board meeting day.

In order to keep a consistent board meeting date and keep all stakeholders aware, the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board discussed possible meeting dates/time.

On a motion made by Irene Ocañas, seconded by Sandra Barbree, with all present voting “Aye”, the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board unanimously approved to meet on the third Thursday of every month at 5pm at the Freeport Historical Museum.

Consideration and possible action to approve 2023 Event Schedule.

Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas provided an update to the Board regarding 2023 events. In order to ensure the Main Street Coordinator is addressing all elements of the Four Point Approach which includes organization, economic vitality, design and promotion, there was discussion about reducing event calendar. Additionally, there was discussion to combine the Dinosaur George Exhibit and Spring Market for the potential to increase foot traffic in downtown on March 18, 2023. The Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board also decided to remove the markets scheduled in March and November to allow ample time to plan events and create time for other Main Street matters to be addressed.

On a motion made by Sandra Barbree, seconded by Carolyn Weatherly, with all present voting “Aye”, the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board unanimously approved the 2023 Event Calendar with the removal of the markets in May & November and combination of Dinosaur George Exhibit and Spring Market Day in March 2023.

Discussion on the 2023 goals for Freeport Main Street.

Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas emphasized the importance of setting priority goals for the Board. Silbas mentioned that she would like to see the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board focus on creating a historic district, wayfinding, developing sub-committee goals and strengthening partnerships through community outreach.

Discussion on the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board, composition, vacancies and requirements.

In regard to the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board composition and vacancies, Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas stated that James McDonald and Daniela Bailey turned in resignation letters. Additionally, Carolyn Weatherly formally stated she would be resigning from the Board as well due to personal matters. As of this meeting, there are three vacancies on the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board. City Manager Tim Kelty set to make an announcement at the City Council meeting scheduled for February 6, 2023.

WORK SESSION

Chair Margaret McMahan informed the Board that she spoke at the Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting on December 5, 2022 related to first floor residential in downtown. Additionally, she stated that the Design Sub-Committee is scheduled to meet on January 17, 2023 at Texas Gulf Bank.

Organization Sub-Committee Chair Olivia Kloss was not in attendance due to work schedule.

Promotion Sub-Committee Chair Sandra Barbree stated that the Promotion Sub-Committee meeting was canceled and set to be rescheduled to January 16, 2023. Barbree requested a Promotion Sub-Committee membership list be sent to her.

Economic Vitality Sub-Committee Chair Irene Ocañas stated that the Economic Vitality Sub-Committee has not met yet and will need to be rebuilt due to a loss of members. Ocañas is looking to recruit new sub-committee members.

Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas informed the Board that she would be attending a Main Street Roundtable hosted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council at the Lake Jackson Civic Center.

Museum Manager Wade Dillon informed the board of the upcoming Texas Association of Museums Conference in San Antonio. He also mentioned the purchase of a new display case for the museum and invited everyone to the "...this worst of evils..." Slavery in Brazoria County Exhibit.

Upcoming Events

The upcoming events for the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board include the following: Slavery in Brazoria County Exhibit (February 1st-March 4, 2023), 2nd Annual Mardi Gras Festival (February 18, 2023) and Spring Market (March 18, 2023).

Items for Future Discussion-Next Scheduled Meeting

The Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board would like to add to the list a Main Street Mixer for items for future discussion. The next scheduled meeting is set for February 16, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Sandra Barbree, seconded by Irene Ocañas, with all present voting "Aye", the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board Chair Margaret McMahan adjourned the meeting at 6:13pm.



Ana Silbas, Main Street Coordinator
City of Freeport, Texas