



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 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

**THE FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD  
MET ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 AT 5:00PM, AT THE FREEPORT  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 311 NAT HICKEY LANE, FREEPORT, TX 77541.**

**THE MEETING WAS HELD FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Barbree called the meeting to order at 5:16pm.

Members present: Sandra Barbree  
David McGinty  
Margaret McMahan  
James McDonald  
Amanda Petty  
Edmeryl Williams

Staff present: LeAnn Strahan  
Wade Dillon

Members not present: Nat Hickey  
Brenda George  
Carolyn Weatherly

## **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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

### **1. Wayfinding Signage Project (Strahan)**

Ms. Strahan reported her work with Mr. McGinty on wayfinding signage to present to the EDC Board at the October meeting, as they have allotted funds for the project. The project would be designed to emphasize current gateway signage. Mr. McGinty wants to see the new signage to have a coastal feel. Mrs. Barbree advised that EDC had also paid for the current gateway and wayfinding signage. Discussion ensued regarding locations for new signage.

### **2. Upcoming Museum Exhibits/Events**

Mr. Dillon updated the Board on progress of the Haunting Tales of the Texas Coast exhibit that will run through the month of October. This will be the last temporary exhibit of 2021, as Ms. Strahan reported the temp hall is the location for the Blue Santa Store set up by Police Dept.

Mrs. Petty inquired about the timeline for the Texas Navy Exhibit. Ms. Strahan reported that the 2021-22 budget has been approved by City Council, and that they had been very generous in allotting funds for the museum, including the Texas Navy and Wilma exhibits.

Ms. Strahan reported storm damages in the aftermath of Hurricane Nicholas, including the back door of the theater ripped off and both back gates damaged. Mr. Dillon reported there was no interior damages suffered.

### **3. Board Member Announcements**

Mr. McGinty updated the Board regarding EDC funds available for general marketing. The EDC has allocated \$150,000 specifically for promoting the museum and downtown museum activities and events.

## **BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:**

### **4. Consideration and possible action to approve meeting minutes from August 19 and September 2, 2021.**

Discussion ensued regarding the time the September 2, 2021 meeting was adjourned. The Board agreed that the meeting was called to a close at approximately 6:15pm. With that update, Mr. McGinty made a motion to approve the minutes from August 19 and September 2, 2021. With a second by Ms. McMahan, the Board unanimously approved.

## **WORK SESSION:**

### **5. Main Street Events Discussion**

#### **A. Downtown Monthly Events (McGinty, Williams, McDonald)**

Discussion ensued regarding the Downtown Christmas Market/Tree Lighting Ceremony scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McDonald suggested we reach out to EDC to sponsor the tree lighting ceremony. Ms. Williams reported that she had prepared a letter for the schools to invite the choir and orchestra to participate. Mr. McGinty reported that Michelle Backman is interested in being a vendor for all citywide events. Ms. Strahan advised that we would have rack cards made for distribution promoting holiday events. Mr. McDonald inquired about vendor fee costs, Ms. Strahan reported that fees are \$25 per space and location was determined on a first come first serve basis. Mrs. Barbree advised that we assign spots for vendors. Mrs. Barbree and Ms. Strahan discussed vendor limitations and rules.

#### **B. Seasonal Events (Strahan)**

In addition to the Downtown Christmas Market, Ms. Strahan advised of other upcoming events.

On Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> Fright Night will be hosted at Riverplace in partnership with Councilman Cain and the Garza family. Activities include indoor trick or treating, costume contest and local businesses to set up in the parking lot for Trunk or Treat.

Further discussion of the Downtown Christmas Market ensued. Mr. McGinty suggested we decorate the tree with a coastal theme and having Santa dress up in beachwear. Ms. Strahan advised we involve as many organizations as we can to participate, and that the Board participate in other city events as well. Ms. McDonald requested discussion of RiverFest be added to the next agenda.

The schedule for seasonal Market Days was discussed. The Board agreed that January and February are still too cold, Mr. McDonald suggested April for markets to return. The Board approved to schedule Market Days in April, May, June, October, November and December. Ms. Strahan will have an event calendar printed for the next meeting.

### **6. Historical Board Tour Plans**

Ms. Strahan opened discussion regarding a Historical Board tour to get ideas for upcoming exhibits as we work to restructure the museum. She suggested a day trip to visit other coastal museums. Mr. McGinty suggested we take a Saturday weekend to visit Port Aransas in April to include learning more about their sandcastle contest operations. Ms. Strahan advised that in past museum tours, Board members were responsible for their travel expenses and she will follow up on those details for clarification. Mr. McGinty will be out of town in October and January, and Mrs. Barbree would be out of town from October 16<sup>th</sup> until November.

**7. Texas Main Street Program Approval Date/Location**

Ms. Strahan reported that we should hear the outcome of our application on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> by 5:00pm. Since that date is also Fright Night, there is no one available to travel to the THC Quarterly Commissioner Meeting.

**8. Items for Future Discussion – Next Scheduled Meeting**

Board Participation at Holiday on the Brazos, RiverFest

Mrs. Petty requested we return to meeting once a month, Mr. McGinty and Mrs. Petty suggested the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 5:00pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**9. Adjourn.**

With a motion by Ms. McMahan and a second by Ms. Williams, the Board unanimously approved the meeting to adjourn at 6:17pm.

---

LeAnn Strahan, Destinations Director  
City of Freeport, Texas



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 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

**THE FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD  
MET ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 AT 5:00PM, AT THE FREEPORT  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 311 NAT HICKEY LANE, FREEPORT, TX 77541.**

**THE MEETING WAS HELD FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Barbree called the meeting to order at 5:16pm.

Members present: Sandra Barbree  
David McGinty  
Margaret McMahan  
James McDonald  
Amanda Petty  
Edmeryl Williams

Staff present: LeAnn Strahan  
Wade Dillon

Members not present: Nat Hickey  
Brenda George  
Carolyn Weatherly

## **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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

### **1. Wayfinding Signage Project (Strahan)**

Ms. Strahan reported her work with Mr. McGinty on wayfinding signage to present to the EDC Board at the October meeting, as they have allotted funds for the project. The project would be designed to emphasize current gateway signage. Mr. McGinty wants to see the new signage to have a coastal feel. Mrs. Barbree advised that EDC had also paid for the current gateway and wayfinding signage. Discussion ensued regarding locations for new signage.

### **2. Upcoming Museum Exhibits/Events**

Mr. Dillon updated the Board on progress of the Haunting Tales of the Texas Coast exhibit that will run through the month of October. This will be the last temporary exhibit of 2021, as Ms. Strahan reported the temp hall is the location for the Blue Santa Store set up by Police Dept.

Mrs. Petty inquired about the timeline for the Texas Navy Exhibit. Ms. Strahan reported that the 2021-22 budget has been approved by City Council, and that they had been very generous in allotting funds for the museum, including the Texas Navy and Wilma exhibits.

Ms. Strahan reported storm damages in the aftermath of Hurricane Nicholas, including the back door of the theater ripped off and both back gates damaged. Mr. Dillon reported there was no interior damages suffered.

### **3. Board Member Announcements**

Mr. McGinty updated the Board regarding EDC funds available for general marketing. The EDC has allocated \$150,000 specifically for promoting the museum and downtown museum activities and events.

## **BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:**

### **4. Consideration and possible action to approve meeting minutes from August 19 and September 2, 2021.**

Discussion ensued regarding the time the September 2, 2021 meeting was adjourned. The Board agreed that the meeting was called to a close at approximately 6:15pm. With that update, Mr. McGinty made a motion to approve the minutes from August 19 and September 2, 2021. With a second by Ms. McMahan, the Board unanimously approved.

## **WORK SESSION:**

### **5. Main Street Events Discussion**

#### **A. Downtown Monthly Events (McGinty, Williams, McDonald)**

Discussion ensued regarding the Downtown Christmas Market/Tree Lighting Ceremony scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McDonald suggested we reach out to EDC to sponsor the tree lighting ceremony. Ms. Williams reported that she had prepared a letter for the schools to invite the choir and orchestra to participate. Mr. McGinty reported that Michelle Backman is interested in being a vendor for all citywide events. Ms. Strahan advised that we would have rack cards made for distribution promoting holiday events. Mr. McDonald inquired about vendor fee costs, Ms. Strahan reported that fees are \$25 per space and location was determined on a first come first serve basis. Mrs. Barbree advised that we assign spots for vendors. Mrs. Barbree and Ms. Strahan discussed vendor limitations and rules.

#### **B. Seasonal Events (Strahan)**

In addition to the Downtown Christmas Market, Ms. Strahan advised of other upcoming events.

On Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> Fright Night will be hosted at Riverplace in partnership with Councilman Cain and the Garza family. Activities include indoor trick or treating, costume contest and local businesses to set up in the parking lot for Trunk or Treat.

Further discussion of the Downtown Christmas Market ensued. Mr. McGinty suggested we decorate the tree with a coastal theme and having Santa dress up in beachwear. Ms. Strahan advised we involve as many organizations as we can to participate, and that the Board participate in other city events as well. Ms. McDonald requested discussion of RiverFest be added to the next agenda.

The schedule for seasonal Market Days was discussed. The Board agreed that January and February are still too cold, Mr. McDonald suggested April for markets to return. The Board approved to schedule Market Days in April, May, June, October, November and December. Ms. Strahan will have an event calendar printed for the next meeting.

### **6. Historical Board Tour Plans**

Ms. Strahan opened discussion regarding a Historical Board tour to get ideas for upcoming exhibits as we work to restructure the museum. She suggested a day trip to visit other coastal museums. Mr. McGinty suggested we take a Saturday weekend to visit Port Aransas in April to include learning more about their sandcastle contest operations. Ms. Strahan advised that in past museum tours, Board members were responsible for their travel expenses and she will follow up on those details for clarification. Mr. McGinty will be out of town in October and January, and Mrs. Barbree would be out of town from October 16<sup>th</sup> until November.

**7. Texas Main Street Program Approval Date/Location**

Ms. Strahan reported that we should hear the outcome of our application on Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> by 5:00pm. Since that date is also Fright Night, there is no one available to travel to the THC Quarterly Commissioner Meeting.

**8. Items for Future Discussion – Next Scheduled Meeting**

Board Participation at Holiday on the Brazos, RiverFest

Mrs. Petty requested we return to meeting once a month, Mr. McGinty and Mrs. Petty suggested the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 5:00pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**9. Adjourn.**

With a motion by Ms. McMahan and a second by Ms. Williams, the Board unanimously approved the meeting to adjourn at 6:17pm.



LeAnn Strahan, Destinations Director  
City of Freeport, Texas