



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2022 AT 5:00PM
311 NAT HICKEY LANE, FREEPORT, TX 77541**

Chairperson:

Margaret McMahan

Board Members:

Carolyn Weatherly
David McGinty
James McDonald
Keith Stumbaugh
Irene Ocañas
Daniela Bailey
Olivia Kloss

Vice Chairperson:

Sandra Barbree

THE MEETING WAS HELD FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:07pm.

Board members present included the following:

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

Staff members present included the following:

LeAnn Strahan
Wade Dillon

Visitors present included the following:

Ronnie Martin
Ana Silvas
Melanie Oldham

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Weatherly opened the meeting in prayer; Mr. McGinty led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Staff Announcements

A. Main Street Update (Strahan)

Ms. Strahan reported that in early August she attended the Texas Main Street Retreat in Victoria. With additional visits to Goliad and Cuero, it was a great opportunity to be with Main Street peers, both new and seasoned, sharing similar experiences and discussing common topics. She the few other ‘coastal’ managers from Bay City and Corpus Christi as well. Ms. McMahan inquired about the possibility of Board members attending retreats and conferences, and discussion ensued regarding the city’s budget for travel and training. Ms. Strahan will send out information for the upcoming Main Street conference in November.

B. Museum Update (Dillon)

i. Recent Exhibits/Events

Mr. Dillon reported the Fort Velasco Day & Exhibit was a great success, with more living historians attending than last year. While the heat likely hindered our public attendance, it was an enjoyable day for all who came out.

Mr. Dillon reported that KidFest was a huge success as well, thanking our sponsors and city staff that assisted with the event. 1,000 hot dogs, 141 pizzas, and almost a pallet of bottle water was served during the 4-hour event, and we estimate about 2,500 guests were in attendance.

ii. Museum Improvements

Mr. Dillon advised that the Texas Navy Room is nearing completion. He is working with our IT consultant regarding the soundscape which is the final component.

2. Board Member Announcements

Mrs. Barbree reiterated that KidFest was a great event.

BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:

3. Consideration and possible action to approve meeting minutes from April 21, 2022 and June 16, 2022.

With a motion by Mr. McGinty and a second by Mrs. Barbree, both meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Consideration and possible action to appoint Board officers:

Discussion ensued regarding term and reappointment limits for the Board.

A. **Appoint Chairperson** - Margaret McMahan

B. **Appoint Vice Chairperson** - Sandra Barbree

C. **Appoint Secretary** – Carolyn Weatherly

With a motion by Ms. Ocañas and a second by David McGinty, the board unanimously approved 1-year terms with no limit on reappointments, Ms. McMahan as Chairperson, Mrs. Barbree as Vice Chairperson, and Carolyn Weatherly as Secretary.

5. Consideration and possible action to host Board meetings at City Council Chambers.

With a motion by Mrs. Barbree and a second by Mr. McGinty, the Board unanimously approved to keep the meeting location at the Museum.

WORK SESSION:

6. Main Street Committee Member Appointments

A. **Design** – Team consists of Margaret McMahan (Chair), Daniela Bailey, Betty Page, and Olivia Kloss.

New appointments – Patty Richardson, Melanie Oldham

B. **Organization** – Team consists of Olivia Kloss (Chair), Carolyn Weatherly, and Keith Stumbaugh.

New appointments – John Garza

C. **Promotion** – Team consists of Sandra Barbree (Chair), James McDonald, Daniela Bailey, and David McGinty.

D. **Economic Development** – Team consists of Irene Ocañas (Chair), Sandra Barbree, and David McGinty.

New Appointments – Ron Martin, Ana Silvas

7. Upcoming Events

A. Texas Navy Day

Mr. Dillon reported that the Texas Navy Day is scheduled for September 17th from 10am-2pm. The event will take place in the temporary exhibit hall and he has lined up guest speakers Justin Parkoff, Dr. Bruce Winders, Andy Hall and Jameson Moore for the event. This will also coincide with the grand opening of the Texas Navy Room.

B. Fall Market Days

Ms. Strahan reported that preparations are under way for Fall Market Days, and discussion ensued on narrowing down dates of October 29th, November 12th, and December 10th for the Christmas Market.

C. Haunting Tales / Historic Ghost Walk

Mr. Dillon discussed the plans and progress of the third season of Haunting Tales of the Texas Coast, which will include the 'Lady in the Grey Taffeta Dress'. The exhibit will run the month of October.

The Board agreed with the idea to have the Ghost Walk the evening of the Fall Market Day in October (5-8pm), which is scheduled to start at City Hall down 2nd Street to W. Park and end in the Broad Street median. Mr. Dillon requested help with decorations for the park.

D. Event Sponsorships

Ms. Strahan requested that the Board assist in raising sponsorships for upcoming events. Ms. McMahan requested a sponsorship packet, and Ms. Barbree inquired if that was something that could be created soon. Ms. Strahan will put one together for all to review as soon as possible.

8. Potential Future Events

A. Black History Event (Barbree)

Mr. Dillon responded to the request by Mrs. Barbree to include an event recognizing Black History, as he is planning to host and exhibit in February outlining the history of slavery in Brazoria County.

B. Juneteenth Event in honor of Edmeryl Williams

Discussion deferred to next meeting.

C. Summer Block Parties (Strahan, McDonald)

Discussion deferred to next meeting.

D. Blues Fest (Stumbaugh)

Discussion ensued regarding bringing the Blues Fest back to downtown Freeport over the Labor Day weekend. Mr. Stumbaugh and Mr. McGinty will work together on plans for a Blues Fest in 2023.

E. Golf Tournament Fundraiser (McDonald)

Discussion deferred to next meeting.

9. Items for Future Discussion - Next Scheduled Meeting

Ms. Ocañas pointed out that Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15th-October 15th, and she would like for us to have some sort of event to honor our community. Mr. Dillon will brainstorm possibilities for an event in September.

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, September 22nd, 2022 at 5:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

10. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02pm.

LeAnn Strahan
Museum Director/Main Street Coordinator
City of Freeport, Texas