



**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD  
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022 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  
Edmeryl Williams

**Vice Chairperson:**  
VACANT

**THE FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD MET ON THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022 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:** In the absence of Chairperson Barbree and the vacant Vice Chair position, Mr. McGinty made a motion to appoint Ms. McMahan to lead the meeting. With a second by Mr. Hickey and all in favor, Ms. McMahan called the meeting to order at 5:12pm.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Williams led the Board in prayer; Mr. Hickey led the Pledge.

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

**1. Staff Announcements**

**i. Board Vacancy Updates (Strahan)**

Ms. Strahan noted that the vacancy of the Vice Chair position needs to be filled. She will add to the next meeting agenda. She has spoken with Shana Garza from Penney' Electric to encourage her to join the Board. Mrs. Garza also has a nephew that is community oriented and may be interested as well. Another potential member from Amtex Insurance would help fulfill our need to accurately represent our city's demographic.

**ii. Main Street Update (Strahan)**

Ms. Strahan has a meeting on 3/11 to discuss the schedule for our resource team visit April 4-6<sup>th</sup>. She spoke with Mr. Kelty regarding adding the visit to the April 4<sup>th</sup> City Council agenda and advised a Main Street 101 presentation to Council and the public. She requested that up to four Board member plan to attend the Council meeting.

Ms. Strahan suggested a sub-committee to be available to meet with the resource team. Mr. McGinty will be involved with all meetings throughout the visit. Ms. Strahan will post an agenda for a special Board meeting on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, including dinner with the resource team.

In addition, Ms. Strahan participated in a DowntownTX virtual meeting to learn more about an *Imagine the Possibilities* tour. This tour might include our Board, EDC, Council, realtors, business/property owners, chambers, and other stakeholders in showcasing the potential of a thriving downtown to attract new business. She would like to invite the EDC to form a joint sub-committee and requested that Mr. McGinty serve as Chairman.

**iii. Recent Exhibits/Events (Strahan)**

Ms. Strahan discussed the Mardi Gras event, it was cold and miserable, but folks still came out and had a good time, dancing and singing. Due to low traffic, we closed an hour early. We had five gumbo teams and Top Coat Fab took home trophies for 1<sup>st</sup> place and People's Choice. The band was a big hit and the parade had a great turnout.

Mr. Dillon reported that former Freeport resident Pat Flynn has generously donated \$5,000 towards the Texas Navy Room. He has expressed interest in contributing more in the future.

**2. Board Member Announcements**

No announcements were made.

**BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:**

**3. Consideration and possible action to approve meeting minutes from February 10, 2022.**

With a motion by Mr. Hickey and a second by Mrs. Barbree, the minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

## **WORK SESSION:**

### **4. Museum Improvements (Dillon)**

Mr. Dillon reported the installation of 4 new sets of 6' track lights in the exhibit hall. With the florescent lights off, the track lighting sets the mood throughout the museum.

### **5. Strategic Plan / 2022-23 Budget Discussion**

Ms. Strahan provided an overview of the first draft of the 2022-23 Strategic Plan, discussed SWOT, and requested input from the Board at the next regular meeting. She asked that the Board consider ideas for adding a new Main Street event for 2022-23 so that she can budget accordingly, such as Oktoberfest or Mexican Independence Day.

Mr. McDonald inquired about the need for a fire suppression system, advising that we do not meet the capacity for such a requirement. He further stated that the walls are solid concrete, and artifacts would mostly be destroyed if a fire suppression system was set off. Ms. Strahan reported that upon inspection by Fire Marshall Dumas, we would be required to have a fire suppression system installed at some point in the near future to be in accordance with code.

#### **i. Fundraising Event**

Ms. Strahan advised that the Board have an idea of what type of fundraising event we would like to host in the next budget year. She suggested that an EDC sponsorship be requested once a plan is in place. Mrs. Barbree suggested an after-hours event featuring cocktails and appetizers. Ms. Weatherly proposed a silent auction, and Ms. Strahan advised that an auction might be more appropriate for a gala-type event. McGinty and McMahan agreed on using Riverplace as a venue for the fundraising event. Ms. Strahan expressed her desire to host a wild west saloon themed event with period gambling as a fundraiser. Ms. McMahan advised a poker tournament game with company buy-in, inviting local industry leaders to participate. The Board agreed that we should do both an after-hours event at the museum and a larger fundraiser at Riverplace. Discussion ensued about tying the fundraiser to an existing event, concluding that Friday prior to Fort Velasco Day would be ideal timing, allowing the visiting living historians to participate in the activities as well.

#### **ii. Hickey Pavilion/Gazebo Plans**

Mr. McDonald offered to pay for a gazebo pavilion to be built in Memorial Park, provided that it is named in honor of Nat Hickey. Mr. McGinty commented on the need to relocate the flagpole and possible removal of the fountain to allow space to build the pavilion. Mr. McDonald suggested replacing the current flagpole with a three-pole display to include the American, Texas and Freeport flags. Ms.

Strahan added that any future plans will need the approval of City Council. She will research options and pricing to present for the next meeting.

## **6. Upcoming Events**

### **i. Earth Day - Health & Wellness Market - April 23, 2022**

Ms. Strahan announced that the Board recommendation for a conditional use agreement to indemnify the City of Freeport for outside parties utilizing Memorial Park was approved by City Council. City Attorney Chris Duncan will produce a form for us to have signed by outside parties going forward.

### **ii. Spring Market Plans**

Ms. Strahan announced that the EDC had sponsored \$2,500 for Spring Market Days and we have ordered rack cards including their logo. The funds will go towards entertainment and marketing the two spring events. Regarding the Spring Market Day in March, Ms. Strahan reported entertainment booked includes live music by Chad Ware a trackless train.

She also announced that the City Manager has approved our partnership with Barcadia for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bike Fest & Car Show and Spring Market Day events on Saturday, May 14, 2022. Ms. Weatherly suggested we include face painting and a caricaturist at our event. Ms. Strahan stated we had the best caricaturist at Mardi Gras, and we can look into booking him again if the budget allows.

### **iii. Cinco de Mayo Celebration**

Ms. Strahan updated on the plans for a Cinco de Mayo Celebration in downtown. Planned festivities include a mariachi band, food trucks, and margaritas. She asked Mr. McDonald if his alcohol license is able to include the park, to which he replied yes and he would have a special event permit and be able to set up in the park. Ms. Strahan suggested we have a taco truck and a dessert truck of some sort. Mrs. Barbree suggested frozen fruit bars. McDonald suggested Nico's Mexican Ice Cream, along with an elote truck and advised Sauce Street Tacos would be a good fit for Cinco de Mayo.

### **iv. Fort Velasco Day**

Mr. Dillon reported that due to his recent attendance at Texas living history events, he expects a strong turnout of support for Fort Velasco Day this year. He has invited heritage organizations to participate and has two ladies that plan to "make a dress in a day" for the program.

## **7. Items for Future Discussion - Next Scheduled Meeting**

There will be a special meeting agenda posted for Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at a time to be determined for our Main Street Resource Team visit with dinner to follow. The next regular scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 5:00pm. Items for future discussion include the following:

- Future New Event 2022-23
- Update on terms for Board Members
- Vice Chair Appointment

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**8. Adjourn.**

**With a motion by Mrs. Barbree and a second by Ms. Weatherly, Ms. McMahon called the meeting to a close at**

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ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT This facility is wheelchair accessible and accessible parking spaces are available. Requests for accommodations or interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact the City Secretary's Office at (979) 233-3526.

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CERTIFICATE I certify the foregoing notice was posted in the official glass case at the rear door of the City Hall, with 24 hours a day public access, 200 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Freeport Texas, before 6:00 p.m. in accordance with Open Meetings Act.

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Betty Wells, City Secretary  
City of Freeport, Texas