



**FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2022 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, November 17, 2022 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:

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

Vice Chairperson:

Sandra Barbree

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Margaret McMahan called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm. The following attendees were present:

Board Members

Margaret McMahan
Keith Stumbaugh
James McDonald
Carolyn Weatherly
Irene Ocañas
Olivia Kloss

Staff Members

Tim Kelty- City Manager
Wade Dillon- Museum Manager

Chair Margaret McMahan introduced Ana Silbas as the new Main Street Coordinator.

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 (McMahan & Kelty)

The Freeport Historical Commission & Advisory Board was notified of the upcoming resignation of Board Member David McGinty. As the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board seeks to fill the open seat, City Manager Tim Kelty stated that the new board member must reside in the City of Freeport.

Chair Margaret McMahan notified the Sub-Committee Chairs to submit their committee reports to Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas no later than January 2nd, 2023 in order to meet the Texas Main Street Program reporting deadline of January 10th, 2023.

Museum Update -Recent Exhibits/ Events (Dillon)

Museum Manager Wade Dillon discussed the success of the Haunting Tales Exhibit and the October 29th Fall Market, which brought in 12 vendors and food trucks. However, the November 12th Fall Market did not meet expectations due to approximately one-half of the vendors bailing, inclement weather and the close proximity of scheduling with the October Fall Market. Dillon stated that the progress for the Historic Downtown Holiday Market was shaping up to be good and emphasized the importance of board members sharing the events on social media.

Board Member Announcements

Chair Margaret McMahan restated that Sub-Committee reports are due by January 2nd, 2023 to Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas. Economic Vitality Chair Irene Ocañas reported that the Economic Vitality Sub-Committee met at Texas Gulf Bank, N.A. to watch educational Main Street Videos, discuss the purpose of the Sub-Committee in line with Main Street goals and had the opportunity to speak with Mingo Marquez, FEDC President regarding future collaborative efforts between Freeport Economic Development Corporation and Freeport Main Street. Organization Sub-Committee Chair Olivia Kloss stated that the committee met and John Garza could be a potential candidate for the vacant board seat.

City Manager Tim Kelty notified the board that Christmas lights will be turned on next Wednesday. Furthermore, he stated that the upcoming Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting will be held on December 5th, 2022 at 5pm with a City Council Meeting to follow directly after at 6pm. Also, City Manager Tim Kelty notified the board of the office location at City Hall for Main Street Coordinator Ana Silbas.

Lastly, James McDonald spoke on donating a Christmas Tree for Christmas events this year. However, due to time constraints, the board would like to incorporate this in plans for 2023. McDonald also requested letters of support for the Tobey Hardware Co. building to be added to the National Registry of Historic Places.

BUSINESS- REGULAR SESSION

Consideration and possible action to approve meeting minutes from Thursday, October 20th, 2022.

On a motion made by Irene Ocañas, seconded by Olivia Kloss, with all present voting “Aye” the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board approved the meeting minutes from October 20th, 2022.

WORK SESSION

Consideration and possible action to approve the finalization and adoption of the Main Street Advisory Board Mission Statement.

On a motion made by Chair Margaret McMahan, seconded by Keith Stumbaugh with all present voting “Aye”, the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board unanimously approved the following mission statement, “The mission of the Freeport Main Street Program is to economically revitalize and historically preserve the downtown area to foster an environment which celebrates our rich history and diversity and offers economic, social and cultural opportunities.”

Update on Planning & Zoning Commission’s Proposed Ordinance Change

Due to a lack of quorum, the Planning & Zoning Commission’s scheduled meeting for November 15th, 2022 was canceled.

Discussion of Upcoming Events

The Historic Downtown Holiday Market will take place on December 10th, 2022. Also, Freeport History Day will take place on January 7th, 2023-Museum Manager Wade Dillon stated that this event will highlight our local history and asked Main Street to participate in the event by setting up a table to distribute program information. The Slavery in Brazoria County Exhibit will open in February 2023.

Discussion of Potential Future Events

Easter and Bike Rally (McDonald)- James McDonald mentioned that these two events were a great success and he has bigger plans for 2023. He brought up reaching out to Port Freeport to use land for parking to shuttle to Downtown District.

Juneteenth Event in Honor of Edmeryl Williams- The planning for this event is in process with a potential parade on the Saturday before or the day of Juneteenth 2023.

Hispanic Heritage Month (Ocañas: September 15th - October 15th)- The purpose of this event is to highlight the diverse Hispanic culture and population in our community through community partnerships and potentially interactive food experiences.

Día de Los Muertos (Dillon)-This is a county wide event. Freeport Historical Museum will host the procession in 2023.

Items for Future Discussion-Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting for the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, December 15th at 5pm.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Irene Ocañas, seconded by James McDonald, with all present voting “Aye”, the Freeport Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board Chair Margaret McMahan adjourned the meeting at 6:10pm.



Ana Silbas, Main Street Coordinator
City of Freeport, Texas