



**FARMERS
BRANCH**

City of Farmers Branch

Minutes

Historical Preservation & Restoration Board

Farmers Branch
Dodson House
2540 Farmers Branch Ln
Farmers Branch, TX 75234

Tuesday, July 25, 2019

6:30 PM

Dodson House

Meeting held at 6:30 PM at the Dodson House Main Room

Presiding: Chair Ann Christman

Present: Carol Dingman, Melissa Dours, William Frome, Johannes Hylkema, Kay Lynn Lyon, Danielle Neumeyer, and Bill Stolp

Absent: Warren Wetzel

Staff: Mike Mashburn, Parks and Recreation Director and Hillary Kidd, Historical Park Manager

A. AGENDA ITEMS

A.1 Call to order.

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

A.2 Introduction of the Dallas County Historical Commission.

Hillary Kidd introduced Coy, John and Patricia from the Commission. The goal of the Commission is to preserve, protect, and defend historically significant objects in Dallas County. The Commission oversees the Historical Marker Program. The Historical Marker Program includes cemeteries, buildings, and subjects. The Texas historical website provides the steps to submit a request. The average cost for a marker is around \$1,800 and request forms are due in November. The entire process may take up to a year to complete. Meetings for the Commission are held the second Thursday of the month in the Allen Clemmons Courtroom. It is suggested when pursuing a historical marker request that recommendations from city commission, state representatives, and/or city officials are included. Carol Dingman inquired if there are grants for markers. The answer is yes, based on certain criteria. These grants fall into the "Untold Story" category that represent minority or lesser privileged stories.

A.3 Approval of minutes from the May 28, 2019 Board meeting; and take appropriate action.

William Frome moved to accept the minutes as presented. Johannes Hylkema seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A.4 Consider excusing the absence of Bitsy Laney and Kay Lynn from the May 28, 2019 Board meeting; and take appropriate action.

The absences were discussed. All asked in advance to be excused. Danielle Neumeyer moved to approve the absences. Bill Stolp seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A.5 Discuss election of Board officers and formation of nominating committee; and take appropriate action.

There was an introduction of new Board member, Melissa Dours. Melissa introduced herself and gave a brief summary of her qualifications.

Kay Lynn Lyon, acting as the nominating committee, provided her recommendations for officers: Ann Christman as Chair, Johannes Hylkema as Vice-Chair, and Danielle Neumeyer as Secretary. Kay Lynn moved to approve those named as officers. William Frome seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

A.6 Receive 90-day Historical Park Update from Hillary Kidd, Historical Park Manager.

Hillary Kidd gave an update of the recent and upcoming events at the Historical Park. Exciting upcoming events include Girl Scout Open House and Fairy Garden. Victoria Anderson, Museum Educator, is updating the school tour program to potentially include a historic clothes washing station and archeological dig boxes. Training for volunteers for the school tours will be August 9, from 12 to 4 pm. The Committee gave recommendations for how and where to reach out to the community for volunteer involvement. Bill Stolp provided an update on Family Star Party. It was noted as a big success with over 250 people attending. The evening included an astronomy professor, games, and hands-on demo.

Mike Mashburn brought up the increased number of events hosted by the Historical Park as compared to last year. In FY 17/18 there were 85 programs, for FY 18/19 there are 104. Rentals of the Park have increased from 16 to 29. It was asked if any companies have been approached for partnership opportunities. It was noted that Home Depot has partnered with the Park for the Fairy Garden Workshop on August 3 and provided volunteers and some materials. Hillary closed with notice that she and Bonnie will be attending American Association for State and Local History conference in Philadelphia at the end of August.

A.7 Discuss the trees south of the Gilbert House and McKee addition; and take appropriate action.

Pam Smith, Landscape Manager, provided the horticulture update of the Park given the recent storms that have hit the area hard. Specifically hit hard, the Post Oak next to the McKee Addition and the American Elm next to the Gilbert House. Both trees have dropped large limbs and luckily did not hit the structures this time. Pam recommended that both trees be removed to preserve the safety of the structures. Questions were raised if pruning is a secondary option. Pam explained that pruning of the Elm to a safe degree would genuinely disfigure the tree. A good portion of the east side of the tree was already lost, and there is not a way to prune the tree to truly protect the McKee Addition.

The trunk of the Post Oak can be harvested and repurposed in the best way possible. Questions were raised if there was a replanting plan once the trees were removed. Pam noted they are working on a plan for replanting about three more trees in the area. The expectation for the tree removal work would be taken from the Historical Park budget.

Will Frome moved to accept the recommendation from Pam to remove the American Elm and Post Oak in protection of the Historical Park structures. Danielle seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A.8 Receive committee updates; and take appropriate action.

- Events
- StEPs
- Strategic Plan

The Events committee referred to the Events report provided by Hillary.

Bill Stolp gave the update for the StEPs Program. It was noted that Kim Jolly Chapman, Historical Park Coordinator, will replace Wimberly Phillip's role on the committee. Denise Winger will not be available so Hillary Kidd will fill in as time permits. As the next step Bill will meet with Kim and work through open items. The week of August 12 was deemed as the first available week to meet due to busy schedule of Park staff.

Mike Mashburn gave a quick update on the Barn's progress. Mike took the Sand Creek barn information, and went to Gallagher Construction to get an estimate. They returned two different estimates that were only rough guesses. The next step is to get a biddable plan with true cost estimates.

Carol Dingman gave the update for the Strategic Plan and highlighted her concern over the topics of fiscal responsibility and sustainability. The next step is for the Committee to meet and review the final draft with Park staff. The Strategic Plan would then be brought to the Board for approval at the August meeting and then be presented to City Council around September.

A.9 Receive and discuss Calendar of Events

A copy of the Calendar of Events was included in Board's Packet.

B. ADJOURNMENT

Carol Dingman moved to adjourn the meeting. Johannes Hylkema seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



Chair



Secretary