



**AGENDA  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION BOARD  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2016  
COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER  
CONFERENCE ROOM – 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR  
14050 HEARTSIDE PLACE, FARMERS BRANCH, TEXAS  
7:00 P.M.**

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. DISCUSS GILBERT JOURNAL AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION**
- III. DISCUSS PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL**
- IV. DISCUSS HISTORICAL PARK RENTAL POLICY AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION**
- V. COLLECTIONS REPORT**
- VI. ADJOURNMENT**

*AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, TITLE II*

*The Farmers Branch Community Recreation Center is wheel chair accessible. A barrier free entry is available at the main entrance of the Recreation Center with specially marked parking spaces nearby. Persons with disabilities planning to attend this meeting who are deaf, hearing impaired or may need auxiliary aids such as sign interpreters or large print, are required to contact the City Secretary at 972-919-2503 at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.*

I certify that the above notice of this meeting was posted at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, on the bulletin board at City Hall.

Approved to Post: *Ann Lyda* Stamp:  
City Secretary

Posted by: *City Secretary*

Date Posted: *11/22/16*





**FARMERS  
BRANCH**

# **MEMORANDUM**

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

TO: Clare Connally, Board Chair  
Members of Historical Preservation &  
Restoration Board

FROM: Derrick Birdsall, Historical Park Supt.

DATE: November 23, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Dr. Gilbert's Journal

Clare Connally requested that the Board discuss the reading of Dr. Gilbert's journal at City Council meetings be made a regular item on each month's agenda.



**FARMERS  
BRANCH**

# **MEMORANDUM**

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

**TO:** Clare Connally, Board Chair  
Members of Historical Preservation &  
Restoration Board

**FROM:** Derrick Birdsall, Historical Park Supt.

**DATE:** November 23, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Council Presentation

On November 15, Carol Dingman made a presentation to City Council requesting that the Historical Park be featured as an option in the upcoming Bond election. Other members of the Board were present as well. As a result of that presentation, Council will visit the old Buchanan Printing building on November 29.



**FARMERS  
BRANCH**

# **MEMORANDUM**

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## **PARKS & RECREATION**

TO: Clare Connally, Board Chair  
Members of Historical Preservation &  
Restoration Board

FROM: Derrick Birdsall, Historical Park Supt.

DATE: November 23, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Rental Policy

The Historical Park's Rental Policy is in need of revision and updating. The last time this was done was November 3, 2009 (approved by City Council); and it has not had a major overhaul since it was created. At this time, staff would like to get input from the Board on potential changes.



## FARMERS BRANCH

# MEMORANDUM

## PARKS & RECREATION

TO: Clare Connally, Board Chair  
Members of Historical Preservation &  
Restoration Board

FROM: Derrick Birdsall, Historical Park Supt.

DATE: November 23, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Collections Report

### **Donations:**

David Dennis, son of George Dibrell Dennis Jr., donated a large number of items including his father's 1941 Carrollton High School letterman jacket, a rocking chair that was most likely used when the family rented the Gilbert House in the 1920s, and a car lap blanket made by George's mother, Effie Dennis. The Dennis family came to Peters Colony in the 1880s and many of the different branches of the family tree have stayed. George and his brother, Howard, were awarded the very first Witness to History Award in 2011. George was very proud of his history and his connection to the "Old Rock House."

Adriane Young donated a brass "jam pot," used for making fruit preserves. The pot dates from 1850-1890.

### **Acquisitions:**

Colgate Week-end Package Promotional Soaps and Toiletries (1920s) – matches the box that was used by Bertie Good Noell to hold family pictures and donated by Diann Pyle, but was not in good enough condition to go on display. The box has the full toiletries and graphics and will be put on display in the General Store.

Bacorn's Bay Rum Perfume and Display Box (1920s) – another colorful example of packaging and products that would have been available to Farmers Branch residents. The box and bottle will be on display in the General Store.

Nylotis Face Powder Box (1920s) – matches another box donated by Don Diamond for the General Store. The powder will be on display in the General Store along with the other box in an attempt to make it look like there is inventory in the store.

**Did you know?:** The Bacorn Perfume Company was founded in 1909 in Elmira, New York. The company was known for their fruit extracts and other toiletries. The Bay Rum fragrance was introduced in 1910 and ran until the building that housed the company burned in 1927. Bacorn then closed its doors.

## **Projects**

### **1. Donations**

Staff is working to process the last four donations. With the help of Marjorie Cutler, progress is being made. Some larger items have been put out on display and five pieces of furniture were taken to off-site storage, which is very full. Though not optimal, some furniture had to be stacked to make room for the pieces. Staff made every attempt to protect the pieces from further harm until other arrangements can be made.

### **2. Humidity Control**

Humidity continues to be an issue in some of the exhibit buildings. Staff met with Jay Firsching of Architexas regarding foundation and humidity issues at the Old Church. Mr. Firsching recommended a study be done to determine the appropriate action that would need to be taken to prevent water from pooling beneath the Church. Mr. Firsching is contacting contractors to recommend for the project.

### **3. Gilbert House**

Jay Firsching of Architexas met with staff regarding foundation issues with the Gilbert House. He recommended a contractor that would be appropriate to work on a building with the high historical relevance of the Gilbert House. He was hopeful, though not certain, that the approach to repairing the foundation might be conservative in nature and not requiring a large shift to the building. There was also concern that the mortar used to repoint the Gilbert House in the 1980s is too hard for the softness of the stone, and could be contributing to the fracture and disintegration of some of the stone walls of the building. Mr. Firsching is willing to work with staff to develop a phased plan for addressing all of the structural concerns including, but not limited to, the mortar issues, the sinking of the south wall, roofing and drainage problems, as well as the interior cracks and settling.\

### **4. Farmers Branch Keenan Cemetery**

Many years ago, Marjorie Cutler brought an urn that was broken off of a Butler tombstone to the park for repair. Staff, along with Marjorie Cutler, cleaned the surface of the break and resealed the urn. The piece was taped up to allow the adhesive to cure for two days. Staff also repaired a vase that had broken off of the Calhoun headstone while the materials and help was there. Staff returned two days later to remove the tape and the joins appear to be holding.

### **5. Christmas Decorations**

Christmas decorations will go up in five of the historic structures (Old Church, School, Queen Anne Victorian Cottage, General Store, and Log House) starting on November 28, 2016 and will be up in time for the Tree Lighting Event on December 3. The decorations will be up through the month of December.