

**FREEPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM FOUNDATION
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018 10:30 AM
FREEPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM
311 E. PARK AVENUE
FREEPORT, TEXAS**

MINUTES

1. Call to order

Mr. Hickey called the meeting to order at 10:40am.

2. Roll call

The following attendees were present for the meeting:

- Nat Hickey, President
- Brenda Laird, Vice President
- Brenda George, Board member
- Cliff Vandergriff, guest
- Amanda Danning, guest
- Dan Kessner, Board member
- LeAnn Strahan, Secretary
- Sandra Barbree, Treasurer
- Carmen Read, Board member

3. Approval of Minutes – Meeting July 25, 2018

With a motion by Ms. Laird and a second by Mr. Kessner, the minutes from the July meeting were unanimously approved.

4. Project Updates

a. Skull Reconstruction Project – Amanda Danning

Mrs. Danning discussed her background and experience in forensic sculpture and shared her ‘how to’ presentation with the Board members and sponsors. The live exhibit will be scheduled for a two-week period in March of 2019. In the event that additional costs are necessary, Mr. Vandergriff agreed to match Mr. Yates’ and Mr. Shoemaker’s donation of \$3000 to see the exhibit to its fruition.

b. DOW Grant Status – Digital Media

Ms. Strahan reported that an extension had been granted on this project until more research can be done as to what is required and feasible. Total amount of the grant is \$10,000 to be spent on interactive display screens and revamping the children’s exhibit.

c. Bird Exhibit

Ms. Strahan reported that with the fiscal year ending and low funds, museum staff made the decision to utilize an existing temporary exhibit that has not been set up in several years. Still a work in progress, staff is trying to locate other items that were used in the past.

5. Special Events Updates

a. October – Murder Mystery Dinner, Wedding Expo

Ms. Strahan discussed ideas including a Murder Mystery dinner for as a possible Halloween event, which would include a specific theme, costumes, and acting out a script. Tickets would be pre-sold and the event could accommodate about 50 people.

Another idea staff is working on is a wedding expo at Heritage House that would allow local decorators, caterers and event planners to set up individual exhibits showcasing their specialties, allowing them market themselves and our event venue. This would be an inexpensive advertising opportunity to increase our rental revenues.

b. December - Nutcracker Market

Ms. Strahan discussed the ideas that staff had come up with to make our regular market day a Nutcracker Market, opening up to all vendors, showing a Nutcracker movie in the park with hot chocolate and popcorn provided, entertainment, hay rides, possibly a snow hill and a buffet style dinner served to those who purchase pre-sold tickets. Mr. Vandergriff suggested we reach out to Martha Rhodes Dance Studio for holiday dancers, and Mrs. George suggested we reach out to the BHS choir and band groups.

6. Financial Update

Ms. Strahan reported that we are still waiting on our 2018-19 budget to be approved by City Council.

7. Hickey Heritage House Rental Fees

a. Amend hourly rates

Ms. Strahan brought it to the attention of the Board that the agreed upon hourly fee structure did not work at 4 our minimum because we would lose money on all day rentals. She proposed that we make it a 4 hour maximum to accommodate for meetings, showers, etc.

b. Freeport school discounts

Ms. Strahan requested that the Board address more specifically the rental policy as it pertains to the school district and other non-profit organizations. Following discussion the Board agreed that we should offer BISD two free rentals annually as approved by the BISD Superintendent, and individual schools and non-profits would receive the employee rate.

With a motion by Mrs. George and a second by Mrs. Barbree, the Board unanimously approved to amend the hourly rate and the school and non-profit policies as proposed.

8. Board Member Reports

Mrs. George reported that September is National Suicide Month. The STOP campaign is hosting a rally for Angleton next month, and plans are moving forward to take the campaign to Galveston and Houston in the near future.

Ms. Laird extended her appreciation for Mr. Kessner and his model work for the museum, and Mr. Hickey for making the skull reconstruction project come to life.

Mr. Kessner requested that we see about adding a walkway across Memorial Park, as when the grass is wet the only option is to walk all the way around the park. Ms. Strahan said she would reach out to the Parks Director for a solution.

9. Items for Future Discussion

No suggestions were made.

10. Schedule next Board meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for October 31, 2018.

11. Adjourn

Mr. Hickey called the meeting to a close at 12:30pm.

LeAnn Strahan, Museum Supervisor
Freeport Historical Museum Foundation