



**REGULAR MEETING
FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28th, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.
430 NORTH BRAZOSPORT BLVD., FREEPORT, TEXAS**

Chairperson:

Sandra Barbree

Board Members:

Nat Hickey
Carmen Read
Cliff Vandergriff
Carolyn Weatherly
David McGinty
Edmeryl Williams
Jessie Parker

Vice Chairperson:

Brenda George

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Sandra Barbree called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Attending Board members included Chairperson Sandra Barbree, Vice Chairperson Brenda George, Nat Hickey, Cliff Vandergriff, Carolyn Weatherly and Edmeryl Williams. Board members not in attendance included Carmen Read, David McGinty, and Jessie Parker. Staff members LeAnn Strahan and Wade Dillon were also in attendance.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mrs. George led the meeting in prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS:

None

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

1. Status update regarding Texas Main Street Re-certification application.

Ms. Strahan reported to the Board that the TMS re-certification application has been denied. She is expecting a report outlining the details of the denial and will share that information with the Board at the next regular meeting.

BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:

Consideration and possible action to approve meeting minutes from October 1, 2020.

With a motion by Mr. Vandergriff and a second by Mrs. George, the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the meeting held on October 1, 2020.

WORK SESSION:

2. The Board may deliberate and make inquiry into any item listed in the Work Session.

A. Discussion Regarding Museum Exhibits and Events (Dillon)

i. Haunting Tales of the Texas Coast

Museum Coordinator Wade Dillon reported the completion and launch of the original video series of classic tales he has rewritten and graphically designed. He previewed for the Board the first episode in the series, The Devil of Old Velasco.

ii. Fort Velasco Re-enactment Event

Mr. Dillon advised of the upcoming Fort Velasco exhibit and Living History Event coming this summer. The exhibit is scheduled to run throughout the summer and will showcase personalities and politics that led to the battle of Fort Velasco in 1832. The Living History Event will be held on Saturday, June 26th in Freeport Memorial Park and will include visitors' displays of firearms, clothing, and textiles.

B. Discussion Regarding Upcoming Special Events (Strahan)

i. Holiday on the Brazos

Ms. Strahan discussed plans for the upcoming event expected to be held at Freeport Municipal Park on Saturday, Dec. 5th from 2-8pm. Scheduled socially distanced activities include market and food vendors, live music, a holiday boat parade bringing Santa to wave at the crowd, fireworks and a showing of the movie *ELF* at the landing. Continuing with tradition, the Freeport Lions Club will serve hot cocoa.

ii. Mardi Gras Celebration

Ms. Strahan informed the Board of tentative plans for a cookoff and live music in historic downtown to celebrate Mardi Gras on Saturday, Feb. 13th.

iii. Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Ms. Strahan stated that there are tentative plans for a Cinco de Mayo celebration as another downtown annual event that could include live music, food trucks, and participation from school groups and local organizations.

C. Discussion Regarding Subcommittee Formation (Strahan)

Ms. Strahan explained that with the constant planning for special events and activities within the CRT Department, we have formed a weekly steering committee that includes

museum and Rec Center staff. She suggested the Board form a sub-committee to attend the Monday meetings generally held at 1pm and to act as liaison between the Board and staff on event plans. Volunteers included Mr. McGinty, Mrs. Barbree and Mrs. George. A fourth spot would remain open for other members to fill in as needed without having a quorum. With a motion by Ms. Weatherly and a second by Ms. Williams, the Board unanimously approved the members of the subcommittee.

3. Items for Future Discussion

A. Ideas for Future Downtown Events

Discussion ensued regarding the expansion of RiverFest to include downtown to make it a city-wide event. Ms. Strahan proposed small weekend events downtown to include music, market vendors, and food trucks, and Mr. Vandergriff suggested car shows would be a good draw. Ms. Williams suggested free outdoor movies downtown.

B. Annual Museum Tour

Discussion ensued regarding an upcoming day trip for the Board to explore and examine new museum exhibits and practices to implement in our future plans, particularly to help get ideas for the upcoming Texas Navy permanent exhibit.

ADJOURNMENT:

With a motion by Mr. Vandergriff and a second by Ms. Williams, Chairperson Barbree called the meeting to a close at 6:42pm.

LeAnn Strahan, Destinations Director
City of Freeport, Texas