



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021 AT 5:00PM
311 NAT HICKEY LANE, FREEPORT, TX 77541**

Chairperson:

Sandra Barbree

Board Members:

Nat Hickey
Carolyn Weatherly
David McGinty
Margaret McMahan
James McDonald
Amanda Petty
Edmeryl Williams

Vice Chairperson:

Brenda George

THE FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD MET ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021 AT 5:00PM, AT THE FREEPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 311 NAT HICKEY LANE, FREEPORT, TX 77541.

THE MEETING WAS HELD FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:07pm. The following Board members were in attendance:

- Sandra Barbree
- Nat Hickey
- David McGinty
- Margaret McMahan
- James McDonald
- Amanda Petty
- Edmeryl Williams
- Brenda George
- LeAnn Strahan
- Wade Dillon
- Carolyn Weatherly

Additional attendees included Texas Main Street Assistant Coordinator, Cara Lowrimore and The Facts reporter, Raven Wuebker.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was opened in prayer by Mrs. George; the Pledge was led by Mr. McGinty.

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

1. 2022 Texas Main Street Introduction – Cara Lowrimore

Via Zoom, Cara Lowrimore, Asst. State Coordinator for the Main Street program, shared the news of our acceptance into the Texas Main Street program. Freeport joins Conroe in entering the program as recertified cities. January 2022 will be the official date we enter the Main Street program. Amy Hammonds will be our new point of contact.

Ms. Lowrimore reported that Freeport is in new community launch period. Next steps would typically include seating of the board and hiring of a Main Street manager. Manager is to be a full-time employee must be solely invested in the Main Street program. After the first 3 years, the Main Street manager may have split duties.

The contract will be sent for signature in December. Annual fee is \$535 dollars. After paid, services such as organizational, design services, etc. may be accessed while we remain a Main Street community.

Quarterly reporting is required by Director. New Main Street Manager training in the winter. The Board will also participate in virtual training to learn more about their responsibilities in the program.

A TMSP Resource Team from THC will schedule a two-day visit to set up a series of stakeholder meetings with city council, EDC, community partners, churches, organizations, etc. This will be a conversation driven series, outlining the challenges and opportunities we will face with the program. Subsequently, their report will provide a series of recommendations and a work plan from THC's meeting with Freeport in the spring.

Design services, economic services are open in January. A design team member can come out to discuss facades, etc., in February or March. Ms. Lowrimore and Ms. Strahan will schedule a meeting via Zoom with THC Main Street staff. THC will create 2 highways signs to display the Freeport Main Street designation.

The Freeport board is "ahead of the game" according to Ms. Lowrimore. We will appoint four committees of the 4-point approach. Design, Promotion, Economic Vitality, and Organization. Ms. Barbree asked if we need to design our own logo for Main Street? Ms. Lowrimore advised that it would be lovely to design our logo, but that we not rush it. Get community input and gather intel. Express "what we are" and "what we see for the future". Mr. Hickey suggested a slogan idea: "Today's happenings are tomorrow's history".

Mr. McGinty thanked Ms. Lowrimore for taking time to join us.

2. Board Member Announcements

Mr. Dillon shared news about ongoing museum projects, such as the order of new display cases and the development of new interpretive panels.

Ms. Strahan announced our new Administrative Secretary, Crystal Ruiz, who joins us from the Recreation Center. Mr. McGinty reported a \$3,500 EDC sponsorship for the Downtown

Christmas Market, as well as a budget to include 10% of the EDC budget being worked on towards similar projects.

Ms. Williams reported that she changed the letter to schools to include the Shipmates. Freeport Intermediate has three groups who accepted the invitation to participate in the Holiday Market.

BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:

3. Consideration and possible action to approve meeting minutes from October 11, 2021.

With a motion by Mr. McGinty and a second by Ms. Williams, the board unanimously approved the minutes from the October meeting.

WORK SESSION:

4. Main Street Events Discussion

A. Upcoming Museum Exhibits & Events (Dillon)

i. Texas Navy Room Update

Mr. Dillon updated on the status of the Texas Navy Room. He completed the mural but had to redo once he learned that the battle had taken place at night instead of during the day. He received a quote for the tile installation and also put together a sponsor packet to present to companies or other organizations interested in a partnership. Discussion ensued on hosting an after-hours event to invite community leaders. The Board agreed on presenting “A Night at the Museum” on Thursday, December 9th at 5:30pm as a celebration of our Main Street designation and a presentation of sponsorship opportunities. Staff will work on plans and invitations.

ii. Remember in Freeport, Texas When... Event

Mr. Dillon announced the event dates of Friday & Saturday, January 14-15 for the upcoming exhibit and event. Mrs. Barbree suggested we contact Congressman Randy Weber to be the guest speaker for Remember in Freeport TX When...

B. Seasonal Events (Strahan)

i. Historic Downtown Holiday Market

a. Tree Lighting Ceremony

Mr. McGinty is working on the tree design and plans to use the large palm tree with support rings with cables zip tied to the ring and rope lights from ring to the ground.

b. Market Vendors

Ms. Strahan reported that market vendors are picking up. We will assign vendor spaces for the holiday market as advised. She has secured hay bales to be placed throughout the park for guest seating.

c. Entertainment

Ms. George reported she has coordinated with four churches to participate in the Holiday Market. Ms. Barbree confirmed the Lions Club will provide the hot chocolate booth from 4-6pm, and she will save some Amazon boxes to wrap for decorations. Mr. McGinty advised we hand out our old sandcastle kits as gifts under the tree on event day.

Ms. Weatherly stated we need backdrops for photo shoot stations. Mrs. Barbree offered to contact her niece for a photo shoot station, as Ms. Strahan reported she had no luck securing any photographers. Ms. Williams had confirmed with FIS who requested their performances be from 3:30-4:30pm.

Ms. Strahan asked for a volunteer to drive the Elvis impersonator back to Hobby Airport after the event. Mrs. Petty advised we hire an Uber to take him back, and discussion ensued on other possible options.

ii. Mardi Gras Celebration – February 26, 2022

Ms. Strahan led the discussion regarding tentative plans for a chicken & sausage gumbo cook off and a zydeco band for the festivities. Mr. McGinty advised that we keep the event family oriented and need to plan for a parade. Mrs. Barbree suggested we host a King & Queen pageant. Discussion ensued regarding the permitted sale of alcoholic beverages and a possible open container license for downtown events. Mr. McDonald advised we pursue an ordinance for an ‘alcohol barrier zone’. Mrs. Petty advised we amend our ordinance allowing alcohol downtown. Mrs. George suggested we hand out sponsor invitations.

5. Items for Future Discussion - Next Scheduled Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 5:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

6. Adjourn.

With a motion by Ms. Weatherly and a second by Mr. McDonald, the board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:31pm.

LeAnn Strahan, Museum Director/Main Street Coordinator
City of Freeport, Texas