



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021 at 6:00 P.M.
FREEPORT HISTORICAL MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTER
311 NAT HICKEY LANE, FREEPORT, TX 77541**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Sandra Barbree called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Members present: Sandra Barbree, Chairperson
Nat Hickey
David McGinty
Edmeryl Williams
Margaret McMahan
Jessie Parker
James McDonald

Members Not present: Jessie Parker, Carolyn Weatherly

Staff present: LeAnn Strahan, Destinations Director
Wade Dillon, Museum Coordinator
Tammy Bell, Administrative Assistant

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Vice Chairperson Brenda George opened the meeting with prayer; James McDonald led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: Announcements by Board Members and/or Staff.
No presentations or announcements.

1. Strategic Plan Update

Ms. Strahan announced that there will be a Strategic Plan Workshop scheduled in June where directors will present their proposed plans to City Council in a public forum. Ms. Strahan urged the Board to attend, and the need to post a notice if a quorum would be present. She will keep the Board updated of the date and location of the workshop.

2. Museum/VIC Operations Update (Strahan, Dillon)**A. Interpretive Panels**

Mr. Dillon updated the Board regarding the receipt of five interpretive panels for permanent display that include Museum rules and etiquette, brief history of Freeport, Lanier School, the Brazos River. These panels are printed in both English and Spanish. In

addition, he received approximately twenty interpretive panels for the Fort Velasco exhibit to be displayed from June through August.

B. Museum Lighting Upgrades

Mr. Dillon reported that the lighting fixtures in both large exhibit halls have been retrofitted to warm LED lighting. These fixtures are now more suitable for fragile artifacts and provide ample light for exhibits.

C. Identified Water Damage Areas

Mr. Dillon reported that as a result of recent torrential rain, water damage was discovered along the back door to the theater, the research library, and the artifact storage room. Maintenance has made efforts to seal off to prevent future damage.

Ms. Strahan reported that Harvey FEMA funds were made available to replace the flooring in the back portion of the museum, so once the repairs are proven to withstand, we can move forward with the replacement. There is also laminate wood flooring left over at the library that can be utilized in the Texas Navy room to serve as the boat deck.

Mr. Dillon has submitted a Disaster Plan to the City Manager, and once approved he will present to the Board.

BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:

3. Consideration and possible action to approve meeting minutes from April 29, 2021.

With a motion by Ms. McMahan and a second by Mr. McDonald, the minutes from the April 29, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

WORK SESSION:

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

A. Discussion Regarding Museum Exhibits and Events (Strahan, Dillon)

i. Fort Velasco Exhibit & Living History Event

Mr. Dillon reported the status of the upcoming Fort Velasco exhibit scheduled to open in June. He is working on a display of palisade posts, particularly a set donated by his father for the exhibit. So far, he has confirmed 38 re-enactors, recently including San Felipe de Austin and Sam Houston Memorial Museum and have gained the support of the Texas Independence Trail.

Discussion ensued regarding the volunteers traveling to assist with this event. Ms. Strahan noted that we want to feed them an early dinner at the conclusion of the day before they get on the road home. Staff had discussed providing breakfast tacos for the morning then bringing in BBQ for dinner. Ms. Barbree

volunteered to cook breakfast tacos, provided we have a head count for her in advance. Mr. McDonald volunteered to provide and cook briskets, and Ms. Barbree offered to prepare the briskets for him to cook and she will make potatoes as well.

Ms. Williams inquired about what type of media exposure we were planning, particularly on Texas programming such as the Texas Bucket List that recently visited the Freeport area. Mr. Dillon advised that we will have a reporter for Texas Highways to run a feature story on the event. Mr. Hickey expressed interest in erecting a small pavilion in Memorial Park for activities downtown such as our living history events, market days, and live entertainment. Ms. Strahan advised the dimensions of the open park area would only be able to accommodate a 20'x30' pavilion without crossing the sidewalks.

ii. **Texas Navy Day Celebration**

Mr. Dillon discussed ideas for the Texas Navy Day Celebration scheduled for Saturday, September 18, 2021 at Memorial Park. He is planning the event to be a scaled back version of Fort Velasco Day including a living history presence.

B. Discussion regarding Texas Main Street Re-certification application. (Strahan)

Ms. Strahan announced that a meeting with the State Coordinator from THC Texas Main Street Program is coming for a site visit and presentation on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 4:00pm. She inquired how many members wish to attend and most members agreed that they would. Ms. Strahan will see about availability to hold the meeting at City Council chambers. Ms. Strahan will submit the Letter of Intent for the Mayor's signature and appear in front of City Council to request a resolution authorizing participation in the 2022 Texas Main Street Program.

C. New Special Events

i. **Downtown Monthly Events**

Ms. Strahan led discussion for us to schedule events each month through the remainder of the fiscal year, as she will present the budget to the City Manager for approval.

a. **Car Shows**

Mr. McDonald expressed his plans for Barcadia to co-host a Car/Bike show including vendor booths, live music and including the sale of alcohol on Saturday, July 24th. Ms. Strahan advised we would need to obtain approval from City Council for event details and road closures.

b. **Market Days**

Discussion ensued regarding past market days and what aspects need to change going forward. The Board agreed that hosting market days each

Saturday in the months of April and September would potentially allow for farmers market vendors, and milder temperatures would entice more customers. We will coordinate different entertainment and activities during market days to keep it fresh and new.

c. Paint/Craft & Sip Series

The Board agreed to plan these activities throughout the month of October and will be discussed in more detail in future meetings.

d. Fall Concert Series

As these events will be contingent on the next fiscal year, the Board agreed to discuss in more detail in future meetings.

ii. Mardi Gras Celebration

The Board agreed to discuss plans in the next fiscal year.

iii. Cinco de Mayo Celebration

The Board agreed to discuss plans in the next fiscal year.

5. Items for Future Discussion – Next Meeting Date

Next meeting was scheduled for June 17, 2021 at 5:00pm. Agenda items will include:

- New Special Events
- September - Mental Health Month
- Vision Main Street – June

ADJOURNMENT:

With a motion by Ms. McMahan, a second by Mr. McDonald, and all Board members voting “Aye”, Chairperson Barbree adjourned the meeting at 7:04pm.

LeAnn Strahan, Destinations Director
City of Freeport, Texas