



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, JULY 15, 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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Barbree called the meeting to order at 5:09pm. The following were in attendance:

Board Members: Sandra Barbree
Nat Hickey
Carolyn Weatherly
David McGinty
Margaret McMahan
James McDonald
Amanda Petty
Edmeryl Williams
Brenda George (via conference call)

Staff Members: LeAnn Strahan
Wade Dillon
Tammy Bell

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

1. Fort Velasco Exhibit Update (Dillon)

Wade gave an update on the exhibit and the Fort Velasco Day event. There has been increased foot traffic in the museum during the exhibit and Fort Velasco Day saw between 250-300 guests throughout the day. We look forward to including this as an annual event.

2. Bryan Beach Sandcastle & Sculpture Challenge (Strahan)

Ms. Strahan reported low turnout for the first sandcastle contest with only six teams total participating. Discussion ensued regarding the Board and family member participation and possibly having each city department to have a team for future events. Other related discussion of ideas to increase interest included a cornhole tournament, beach volleyball and kite flying. Mrs. Petty mentioned an issue with the clay at the entrance at the beach and that it is being addressed by Public Works and the GLO.

3. Board Member Announcements

There were no board member announcements.

BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:

4. Consideration and possible action to approve meeting minutes from July 1, 2021.

Ms. Petty noted that her comments regarding the enforcement of ordinances were specifically related to aesthetics and property owners behind held accountable. With that change, Ms. Petty motions to approve and Ms. McMahan seconded the motion. The Board approved unanimously.

WORK SESSION:

5. Main Street Events Discussion

A. Downtown Monthly Events (McGinty, Williams, McDonald)

i. Dates

Mrs. George announced that through her suicide prevention organization S.T.O.P., she has been given the opportunity to host a mental health/first aid certification course for up to thirty (30) people. Ms. Strahan suggested the museum temp hall as a location for the class as it will be in transition between exhibits. On behalf of the event sub-committee, Ms. Weatherly reported a series of monthly events and activities for consideration including the following:

- a. January Bonfires at the Beach
- b. February Black History Month including photo exhibits, videos
- c. March Mardi Gras Cook Off -gumbo, jambalaya
Spring Fling – Pet Look-a-like Contest
- d. April Easter Color Run 5K, confetti eggs
- e. May Cinco de Mayo

- f. June Juneteenth Celebration
- g. July Sandcastle Challenge
- h. September Market Days – Sept. 18 & 25, October 2 & 9
Themes needed, suggestions such as garage bands;
grandparents/grandkids activities; Tejano, Blues music
- i. November Christmas Market
- j. December Model Train Exhibit, Dancing Lights

ii. Causes to Promote

Discussion ensued regarding the possible following partnerships for monthly downtown events:

- a. Suicide Awareness
- b. Breast Cancer Awareness
- c. Veterans – VFW, Warrior Refuge

B. Seasonal Events (Strahan, Bell)

Ms. Strahan tied in the city annual events with the Main Street events discussion including Daddy Daughter Dance, Eggstravaganza, RiverFest, KidFest, FrightFest and Holiday on the Brazos.

6. Main Street Application Discussion

- i. Subcommittee Updates (McMahan, Barbree, McGinty, Weatherly)
Ms. Strahan reported that she had received notes from most of the subcommittee members, and she and Tammy were actively working to incorporate those details into the application. Ms. Strahan plans to forward the final draft to the Board for review by July 27, 2021.
- ii. Support Updates (Strahan)
Ms. Strahan stated that we still need more letters of support. We are well under thirty letters, the goal we wish to submit this year.

7. Items for Future Discussion - Next Scheduled Meeting

Ms. Petty suggested we review the ordinance related to the downtown district to better familiarize ourselves as we go forward with Main Street. Ms. Strahan suggested our next meeting date of Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 5:00pm to review and approve the Main Street application. The next scheduled events subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 5:30pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

8. Adjourn.

With a motion by Ms. McMahan and a second by Mrs. Petty, the meeting was called to a close at 6:12pm.

LeAnn Strahan, Destinations Director
City of Freeport, Texas