



**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 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 5:07pm. The following attendees were present:

Board Members: Sandra Barbree
Carolyn Weatherly
David McGinty
Margaret McMahan
James McDonald
Amanda Petty
Brenda George

Staff Members: LeAnn Strahan
Wade Dillon
Tammy Bell

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. George opened the meeting in prayer; Ms. Strahan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Main Street Application Update (Strahan)

Ms. Strahan reported that the Main Street recertification application had been successfully submitted to the Texas Historical Commission. Announcements will be made at the THC Quarterly Commissioners Court in Austin the last week of October. Mrs. Barbree discussed that

in the past several board members drove up to be at the quarterly meeting as a show of support for the program, and suggested we schedule a group to do so this year.

2. Upcoming Museum Exhibits/Events

Mr. Dillon updated the Board on plans for Texas Navy Day scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 18th from 10am-2pm. Described to be a low-key version of Fort Velasco Day, he will have three guest speakers and an artillery demonstration to close out the event.

In addition, Mr. Dillon is currently working on updating Haunting Tales of the Texas Coast for October. There will be two new stories to accompany the four from 2020, along with correlating displays for all six stories in the temporary exhibit hall throughout the month. Ms. Barbree shared her own personal local ghost story about Isaac from B&B Seafood for consideration in years to come, and Mrs. George discussed reported sightings at the church on Ave. A that was originally the old masonic lodge. Mr. Dillon mentioned hearing the story about the Greenroom Ghost at the old theater. Mrs. Petty reported that she had read a post on BC Updates regarding a podcast on local paranormal activity.

3. Board Member Announcements

Ms. Williams reported about a little boy who had such a wonderful time at the Barcadia Car & Bike Show, and she wants to see more activities just like that downtown.

Mr. McGinty advised that our board members should reach out to the EDC members via email or letter to establish contact and develop a partnership as we go forward in the revitalization of downtown, planning and promotion of Main Street events and museum exhibits and activities.

Mr. McDonald inquired about signage in the downtown area. Ms. Strahan explained that the smaller downtown signage would be included in the wayfinding signage project she is currently researching for EDC.

BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:

4. Consideration and possible action to approve meeting minutes from July 15, 2021.

With a motion by Ms. Petty and a second by Mr. McGinty, the minutes from the meeting on July 15, 2021 were unanimously approved.

WORK SESSION:

5. Main Street Events Discussion

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

In recognition of World Suicide Prevention Day, Mrs. George updated the Board on the status of the Youth Mental Health First Aid Class scheduled for Friday, September 10th

from 10am-4pm at the museum. The Youth Mental Health training certificate is valid for three years. So far there are twelve spots filled leaving eighteen seats open. Mrs. Petty suggested we reach out to local churches who might have interest in attending the class. Several Board and staff members are interested in attending as well. As a co-sponsor, Ms. Strahan agreed to provide box lunches for the attendees.

B. Seasonal Events (Strahan)

Discussion ensued regarding September themes to coordinate for market days such as Grandparents Day and Hispanic Heritage, live Tejano music or possibly a DJ for entertainment. The Board agreed to hold off until spring to schedule market days and instead focus on events for the remainder of the year.

Ms. Strahan updated the Board on FrightFest to be held at Riverplace on Thursday, October 28th. The Christmas market is scheduled for Saturday November 20th in Memorial Park, and in lieu of the snow hill we are looking at pricing for an ice-skating rink for unique entertainment. There will be a snow hill at Holiday on the Brazos that will take place at Freeport Municipal Park on Saturday December 4th.

6. Code of Ordinance Review

A. § 32.20-32.22 – Historical Commission & Main Street Advisory Board

No discussion.

B. § 155.046 – Historic Landmark District

Mr. McGinty advised that when the ordinance was rewritten, the Historical District was removed – the item was tabled in 2009 and never readdressed. He compromised with Kely to have this Board have some say-so on the four blocks of E. & W. Park.

C. § 155.049 – Downtown Zoning District-1 (DT-1)

Planning Commission passed new Historic District Building Blocks program in the 90's which included fixing up building facades.

7. Items for Future Discussion - Next Scheduled Meeting

Next meeting scheduled for September 2, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT:

8. Adjourn.

With a motion by Mrs. Petty and a second by Mrs. George, the meeting was unanimously approved to adjourn at 6:21pm.

LeAnn Strahan, Destinations Director
City of Freeport, Texas