

THE CITY OF

200 West Second St • Freeport, TX 77541



FREEPORT

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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022 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
Edmeryl Williams

Vice Chairperson:

VACANT

**THE FREEPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION & MAIN STREET ADVISORY BOARD
MET ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022 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

Chairperson Barbree called the meeting to order at 5:10pm.

Members Present: Sandra Barbree, Chairperson
Carolyn Weatherly
David McGinty
Margaret McMahan
James McDonald
Edmeryl Williams

Members Not Present: Nat Hickey

Staff Present: LeAnn Strahan, Museum Director/Main Street Coordinator
Wade Dillon, Museum Coordinator

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Williams opened the meeting in prayer; Mr. Dillon led members in the Pledge.

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

1. Staff Announcements

i. Board Member Updates (Strahan)

Ms. Strahan announced two vacant positions currently on the Board, one available from the departure of Amanda Petty and most recently with the resignation of Brenda George due to an increase of commitments. Discussion ensued regarding the need for representation of the predominately Hispanic population and millennials to inspire the next generation to carry forward with our local history. Ms. Strahan reached out to a young lady who works for Amtex Insurance who is interested in becoming a member if her schedule allows.

Mrs. Barbree inquired about obtaining the financial disclosure form. Ms. Strahan advised that is available for download from the city's website.

ii. Main Street Update (Strahan)

Ms. Strahan presented the tentative schedule of events for the TMSP Resource Team visit and possible dates for the three-day visit. She explained it would be advantageous to have their visit coincide with the regular Freeport City Council meeting and asked the Board to report any conflicts April 4-6. If necessary, we could also consider the second week of April as an alternative. Mr. McGinty asked that we let him know the time frame so that he may work with EDC to participate.

Ms. Strahan reported that she had attended the annual THC Real Places conference in Austin. Attendance was disappointing due to the freeze, and many of the segments were canceled as guest speakers were unable to travel to the conference.

iii. Departmental Operations (Strahan)

a. Department Restructure

Ms. Strahan reported that the Culture, Recreation & Tourism department was dissolved, so going forward our staff responsibilities include the museum, Main Street, and downtown events only. Rentals are no handled at the Freeport Recreation Center.

b. Upcoming Training Opportunities

Mr. Dillon is scheduled to attend the upcoming Texas Association of Museums (TAM) conference in March.

c. Recent Exhibits/Events

Mr. Dillon reported that the Remember in Freeport, TX When...event was a success bringing a total of \$422 in donations over two days, largely thanks to the generosity of Lester DeMarco who donated all of his book proceeds.

He announced our upcoming March event, Enduring East End, which honors Freeport's vibrant East End community. Lila Mae Lloyd has agreed to be the guest speaker. Ms. Weatherly commented that there had been a great article on East End leading up to our exhibit.

iv. Renaming of Research Library (Dillon)

In honor of the contributions of Nat Hickey and Dan Kessner, every third Friday in January was proclaimed to be Freeport History Day. In addition, the research library was formally named after Mr. Dan Kessner.

2. Board Member Announcements - None

BUSINESS – REGULAR SESSION:

3. Consideration and possible action to approve meeting minutes from November 18, 2021.

With a motion by Ms. McMahan and a second by Ms. Williams, the minutes from the November 18, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

WORK SESSION:

4. Museum Improvements

A. Texas Navy Room Exhibit

Mr. Dillon is working on new interpretive panels for the room. Adhesive issues with the new tile have been addressed, new track lighting was installed, and we received a \$5,000 donation from Pat Flynn, former Freeport resident, to help with the Texas Navy Room.

B. Wilma Exhibit

Ms. Strahan met with Amanda Danning to receive the three 3-D printed facial reconstructions. Discussion ensued on the finish of the 3-D print models to make her appear more life-like.

C. Storm Damage/Repairs

Mr. Dillon updated the Board on the installation/completion of the new metal doors in the theater, new fence and gates, and theater floor repairs.

D. Security Updates

Mr. Dillon updated the Board on the installation of two new security cameras, as well as updates to existing hardware.

E. Visitor Center

Mr. Dillon presented the Board with a concept for expanding the museum to include the old college space, including updated classrooms to use for storage and multipurpose/Main Street offices. Future discussion will include a recommendation to City Council on future plans for expansion.

Mr. McDonald suggested a sponsorship program, highlighting museum sponsors on a wall plaque.

5. Seasonal Events (Strahan)

i. Mardi Gras Festival – February 26, 2022

Ms. Strahan suggested that Board members arrive at St. Mary's Star of the Sea by 11:00am on event day. Additionally, she gave a breakdown as to the structure of the Mardi Gras festivities including the gumbo cookoff, king caked eating contest, etc.

Mrs. Barbree asked how much the king cakes cost. Ms. Strahan reported she anticipated no more than \$200, and Mr. McDonald offered to sponsor the contest. Ms. Strahan emphasized the need for more gumbo teams. Mr. McDonald recommended contacting restaurants who cook gumbo and see if they will participate. Ms. Strahan will request sponsorship by the EDC, and provided more detail as to the progress of the beer licensing and sales. Other anticipated revenues include gumbo wristbands and t-shirt sales.

ii. Earth Day - Health & Wellness Market - April 23, 2022

Strahan was approached by Freddy Aguirre to do a health and wellness market in historic downtown. Ms. Strahan asked for a Board recommendation regarding Earth Day, suggesting that we may want to come up with an agreement on downtown usage for non-city related events in Memorial Park indemnifying the city from any legal action. Mr. McDonald stated that what we need is referred to as a conditional use permit/agreement. With a motion by Ms. Weatherly and

second by Mr. McDonald, the Board unanimously approved the recommendation of a Conditional Use Agreement.

iii. Spring Market Themes

Ms. Strahan requested the Board consider specific dates for upcoming Spring Market Days in March, April, and May. Mrs. Barbree suggested March 26th and inquired about availability in April. Ms. Strahan stated that with the holidays and other activities already scheduled downtown, there is little availability. Ms. McMahan and Ms. Barbree both agreed we should skip April. Discussion ensued regarding May dates, and the Board agreed to partner with Barcadia for the Bike & Car Show for Spring Market Day.

iv. Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Ms. Strahan suggested for Cinco de Mayo, Thursday May 5th, that we have an evening event downtown with a few local taco trucks, live music and play Loteria. Further discussion at next meeting.

v. Fort Velasco Day

Mr. Dillon announced that Fort Velasco Day will be held on Saturday, June 25th this year.

6. Items for Future Discussion - Next Scheduled Meeting

- **Future event center downtown (McDonald)**
- **Strategic Plan/Budget (Strahan)**
- **Fundraiser for next fiscal year (Strahan)**

ADJOURNMENT:

7. Adjourn.

With a motion by Ms. McMahan and a second by Ms. Weatherly, the Board unanimously agreed the meeting to adjourn at 6:09pm.
