

**Minutes of Meeting
Coppell Historical Society
January 14, 2017**

Present: Lloyd A. Webb, Joyce Webb, Betsy Wilcox, Pete Wilson, Martha-Allison Blewer, Ron L. Chapman, Dave Murph, Pat Quinlan, Jan M. Lorrain, Cliff Long, Patricia Carpenter, Shaun Jex, Philip LaBerge, Jackie Parrish, Don Carter, Andy Johnsen, Sue Miller, Judy Conger, Dave Murph

The meeting was called to order in the Kirkland House by President Don Carter at 1:03 p.m.

Previous to the business meeting, Jamie Perkins presented information about the City's new Life Safety Park, whose opening activities are January 28, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The park is an all-encompassing educational facility which will concentrate, at first, on curriculum for young children, but additional activities for older participants are being developed. Children will be taught to exercise safety on the streets and in the home. There are community meeting rooms, and fire personnel training facilities, and the park houses the City's emergency response offices. There may be areas that can accommodate some historical displays.

The business meeting began at 1:34 p.m.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Moved by Patti Carpenter; seconded by Jan Lorrain.

The treasurer's report by Jan Lorrain showed the following:

The city grant fund remains unchanged.

The operating account received dues of \$10 and \$100 donated by the authors of the new Coppell history books.

Expenses included electrical wiring supplies for the Ihnfeldt House, \$1200.00, and mail box rent of \$48. The balance is \$5,278.73.

The treasurer's report was approved as amended. Moved by Lloyd Webb; seconded by Jackie Parrish.

Committee Reports:

Archives. Dave Murph reported that items in the Society's filing cabinet have been removed as a result of the library's move and are ready to be replaced. Dave will assemble his committee to work on the project.

Heritage Park – Acquisitions. Pat Quinlan reported that the following have been donated to the Society:

A pew from the old Methodist Church, given by Charles Chance.

A collection of old Coke bottles, given by Linda and James Prater.

Historical Markers. Pete Wilson reported that there has been no activity since the last meeting.

Education. In the absence of Jean Murph, Don Carter expressed the need for the Society to have a presence at the opening of the Life Safety Park. There was consensus during and after the meeting that the Society should set up a table with membership forms, brochures, and possibly some artifacts, especially about the railroad since our table will be near the façade of the old depot.

There was discussion that possibly in the future the Society should consider erecting some sort of plaques near the historical facades in the Life Safety Park, giving some history of those buildings.

Old Business:

An update on the Inhfeldt House by Patti Carpenter revealed that her son Kurt, the Eagle Scout whose project was to install the handicap ramp, had collected \$711 more than needed for the project and is donating it to the Society to continue renovation of the house. Lloyd Webb suggested that we write a letter to invite Kurt to the February meeting to thank him for his donation.

Dave Murph reported that the electrical work in the house is going well. The electrician has been able to install electrical outlets throughout the house, putting them near the floor, despite the fact that it was unknown that to do so meant cutting through wood rather than drywall.

Phil LaBerge reported that he and his wife, at their own expense, have set up a geocaching activity that incorporates Coppell history. This is a new pastime that allows participants to use their cell phones to locate hidden items throughout the city and, in doing so, learn more about Coppell history. Two locations that Phil has included are the antique windmill and the old water tank in Old Town. In the future, Phil suggested that the Society might want to consider purchasing 100-200 bonus tokens that are used in the game. Each token costs about \$1.00.

Betsy Wilcox suggested that the Society might raise funds by selling Christmas tree ornaments made to resemble the antique windmill. It was suggested that Kimberly Jones, who operates part of Coppell Home Décor, might be able to give us a lead on someone who could make the ornaments.

Betsy Wilcox reported that the next open house at Heritage Park will be in April, and she is accepting names of volunteers to be docents.

Phil LaBerge reported that he has sent the Society an online document about his findings of the mansion built and owned by the Coppell family in California.

Pete Wilson reported that the sale of his family's land to complete Heritage Park is in the works. It is too soon to make many plans regarding the Wilson house since it will be some time, even

after the sale, before the house is completely vacant. Also, the Society's current project of the Ihnfeldt House is foremost, and most of the Society's funds are committed to that.

Open Forum.

Phil Laberge reported that he went on a trip to the Northeast Texas Trail and learned that the county seat of Montague County was renamed Paris at the suggestion of Thomas Poteet in 1840.

Pete Wilson reported that the community theatre has "commissioned" a play about the history of Coppell. It is too soon to speculate on how the play could be performed, but, when it is, Pete hopes the Society can be involved.

Both Betsy Wilcox and Patti Carpenter reported visiting their family cemeteries. Betsy discovered that there are two cemeteries instead of one, as she had thought.