

**Minutes of Meeting
Coppell Historical Society
October 10, 2015**

Present: Pat Lambert, Pete Wilson, Lloyd Webb, Joyce Webb, Sue Miller, Barbara Lee, Pat Quinlan, Jackie Parrish, Kara Jex, Shaun Jex, Hayden Jex, Kathleen Jex, Phil LaBerge, Betsy Wilcox.

Pat Lambert, in the absence of President Don Carter, called the meeting in the Kirkland House to order at 1:00 p.m.

A program on canning was presented by Kara Jex:

Napoleon created canning to help supply his military troops about 1795. Commercial canning became popular about 1830 and was widespread during the Civil War. Home canning became common in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Until the FDA created canning standards, botulism was a common cause of illness. Canning was very important during the Depression. People tried not to throw away any food, so they used used all parts of fruit. Canning peaked during World War II. By 1915, the expense of canning was more manageable because of the availability of pressure canning and lower sugar prices. In the Coppell area, according to Joyce Webb, typical items that were canned were peaches, pears, figs, and apples. Kara provided canned items for those present, including some provided by Barbara Lee.

The business meeting began at 1:25 p.m.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Lloyd Webb moved; Barbara Lee seconded.

Treasurer's report:

Jan Lorrain's report included the following:

General Operating Fund:

Income	\$70.00 dues
No expenses	
Balance	\$10,777.91

City Grant Fund:

No income	
Expenses: Materials for summer camp	\$53.58, archive supplies \$30.29
Balance	\$5,205.90

Reserve Fund (CD):

Approximate balance	\$20,326.47
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Committee reports:

Archive Committee: In the absence of Dave Murph, Pete Wilson reported that the committee met and completed categorizing and storing its document collection. The committee's work is finished until the library reopens.

Heritage Park Committee: Pat Quinlan made the following report:

Flower beds around the Kirkland House have been put in by Pat Lambert and Pat Quinlan, with help from the city. It was confirmed that a new sidewalk will be installed on the west side of the Kirkland House by the city to comply with ADA provisions. The sidewalk may require the modification or removal of some of the new flower beds.

The Society will provide a community Christmas tree – 10 to 11' tree outside decorated with old-fashioned-looking lights and items, to be ready by December 5. The tree will be obtained and delivered Saturday or Sunday, November 28 or 29, and decorated on Tuesday, Dec. 1. The community will be asked to help decorate the tree. The activity at the open house on November 14 will include having children make decorations for the tree. Families will also be asked to make decorations at home and provide them.

Betsy Wilcox moved, Pat L., seconded to appropriate up to \$500 for the tree and decorations. The motion was approved unanimously. Lloyd Webb suggested that a tree merchant might provide a free or discounted tree.

Historical Marker Committee: Pete Wilson reported that the marker at the site of the original Coppell Schools has been reinstalled and is in front of the new Ratliff development. Immediate plans include constructing and installing markers at the old water tank and in front of the original post office building/general store site in Old Town. Progress is being slowed because of a lack of response from the owners of the old post office building. The owner's permission is probably not required, but the city prefers to get positive support from the property owners. Wilson also stated that there is work to be done to word the new plaques, especially the one to be at the post office because that plaque must address not only the location of the original post offices but also the locations of the two general stores and the Oak Tree behind the post office.

Phil LaBerge suggested that the Society consider erecting a bust of George Coppell somewhere in the city. Wilson said that it was a good idea – one that could be addressed by both the Society and the Arts Council, which is about to make recommendations to the city regarding public art.

Historical Preservation Committee: Pat Lambert reported that the community garden is still in the planning stages.

Education Committee: In the absence of Jean Murph, Pat Quinlan reported:

At the November 14 meeting, Phil LaBerge will present the opening program on the influence of cotton farming in the area, including Coppell. At the open house that day, children will be able to make Christmas decorations.

The Old Town Christmas event will be held on December 5. Shaun Jex will be providing music from the porch of the Kirkland House from 10:00 until 2:00, and refreshments will be available inside the House. Pete Wilson moved and Jackie Parrish seconded that the Society's December meeting be moved to December 5 to coincide with the Old Town event. The motion carried unanimously. It was agreed that there would be no food collection this year.

Betsy Wilcox reported that the number of active docents has dwindled. Currently there are only 9 persons participating. More people are needed to work. Jackie Parrish volunteered to be a docent. After December 5, there will be no regularly scheduled open houses until April.

There was no old business.

There was no new business:

Open forum:

Phil LaBerge presented a map of Coppell farms, evidently made after 1888, because the map shows the railroad through Coppell. A lot of parcels, all isolated from each other, are identified as being owned by railroad companies. This unusual discovery may have something to do with plans that apparently existed at the time for other railroads to be built.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.