

**Minutes of Meeting
Coppell Historical Society
May 13, 2017**

Present: Christine Douglass, Philip LaBerge, Judy Conger, Jan Lorrain, Dave Murph, Jean Murph, Betsy Wilcox, Shaun Jex, Pat Lambert, Patti Carpenter, Mary Foreman, Martha-Allison Blewer, Pat Quinlan, Barbara Lee, Richard Lee, Joyce Webb, Lloyd A. Webb, Ron L. Chapman, Curt Carpenter, Pete Wilson, Jack Carpenter, Lynn Chapman

In the absence of President Don Carter, the meeting was called to order by Patti Carpenter at 1:04 p.m. at Heritage Park, outside at the location of the preceding hot dog roast.

Program:

Patti Carpenter thanked those who helped with the hot dog roast. It was attended by members and guests and was planned so that persons from the Farmers Market and the Old Town Merchants Association could be specially invited.

Curt Carpenter, one of the two Scouts who built the ramp for the Ihnfeldt House, presented a check to the Society for \$711, which represented money that he had collected for the project and had left over. He asked that the money be dedicated to extending the ramp and constructing the sidewalk to the Ihnfeldt House.

Jean Murph announced she and Lou Duggan have donated to the Society \$500 of their profits from their book on Coppell history. They are also presenting 20 copies of the book which can be sold by the Society. Jean asked that their donation also help fund the sidewalk to the Ihnfeldt House.

Christine Douglass, representing the Chamber of Commerce, was to speak briefly about the Chamber's plans for a Pioneer Day on June 10. (She was delayed, not knowing that the meeting was outside the Kirkland House.) She later helped Jean Murph describe Pioneer Day that will take place on June 10 in conjunction with the Farmers Market. Its purpose is to increase awareness of Old Town businesses and do so with a historical theme. Various participants will be present to demonstrate bread-making, blacksmithing, washing clothes, and sewing, and there will be a fishing pond for children. The Society will be helping with this project, and Jean encouraged members to volunteer and also to present other ideas for activities.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously. Moved by Jan Lorrain; seconded by Jean Murph.

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

City Grant Fund:

Beginning balance	\$16,878.71
Expenses (frames and prints for the Inheldt House)	221.39
Ending balance	\$16,657.32

General Fund:

Beginning balance	\$2,096.37
Income (dues, donation)	520.00
Ending balance	\$2,616.37

The treasurer's report was accepted unanimously. Moved by Pete Wilson; seconded by Jean Murph.

Committee Reports:

Archives Committee. Dave Murph reported that the committee will meet again shortly to finish organizing materials. The archive materials will soon be moved to the Society's cabinets in the renovated library.

Heritage Park Committee. Pat Quinlan acknowledged the upcoming receipt of old books, given by the Friends of the Library. Mary Foreman was present to explain that many of these books are first editions and are signed by their authors. Pat reported that her committee will review the books to determine which ones, and possibly all, will be preserved by the Society and possibly placed, eventually, in the Inhfeldt House.

Historical Marker Committee. Pete Wilson reported that the committee met and discussed the creation of three new historical markers. Two of them, the ones which might be placed at two locations along the Trinity River, have not been discussed at length, and the committee will address them later. The third marker is ready for implementation after approval by the membership. It will mark the site of the original railroad depot which first took on the name Coppel. The depot was originally located on the northeast side of S. Coppel Road at the railroad tracks, facing south. After consulting the City, it was determined that this marker should not be as close to the railroad as planned, due to the fact that the City is considering placing a future monument marker nearby. Instead, a better location is about 150 feet north of the railroad, by the sidewalk that runs on the west side of the new Life Safety Park. The marker can be placed across from the replica of the depot that's now in the Park, and the text of the marker can indicate that the actual depot was a distance from the marker, similar to at least two other markers in town. Each marker costs approximately \$2400.00, plus shipping.

Pete Wilson moved that the Society approve a maximum of \$7,000 of the City Grant Fund to construct a maximum of three markers, with only the depot marker being constructed immediately. Jean Murph seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Historic Preservation Committee. Pat Lambert reported that she is still waiting on word from the City regarding the foliage that was supposed to be planted by the developer in the easement of the Bullock Cemetery.

Education Committee. Jean Murph reported that she will follow up on the drawing by 4th grade students which is to appear on the cover of the Society's history book.

Jean recognized Betsy Wilcox, who maintains the schedule for docents at Heritage Park, and Jean thanked all the docents for their work. Jean and Betsy will be asking for additional volunteers who might agree to "shadowing" the docents on one Saturday and eventually conduct one tour under the supervision of docents.

Pete Wilson referred to an email from the library, which hosts a student volunteer session each year. Depending on the date and time of the fair and on her schedule, Betsy Wilcox said she might be able to attend. At any rate, the Society is revising the written information that the library prints.

Jean reminded the Society about the new Pioneer Day being hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

She also recounted the historical walking tour that a number of Girl Scouts created.

Old Business:

Representing the committee that is overseeing the interior work of the Ihnfeldt House, Jean Murph reported that Dave Murph and Pat Quinlan are working with a carpenter to do the repairs inside the House, such as minor insulation, covering up the open area at the back, refinishing the ceiling, etc. Dave Murph said that the carpenter is planning to start work next weekend.

Accommodating the air conditioning/heating needs are being explored.

The City has given its approval to use City Grant funds for work inside the house and for furnishings and other items that will contribute to the Society's educational use of the building.

The City has agreed to provide electricity from the Kirkland House to the Ihnfeldt House.

Pat Lambert reminded the Society that the Ihnfeldt House is being equipped as a meeting place and possibly as a repository of artifacts and records.

Jean stated that this committee is willing to add to its responsibilities the first phase of constructing the sidewalk to the Ihnfeldt House that is required by ADA law. This will include exploring the idea of personalized brick pavers that could raise funds for the Society.

Pete Wilson encouraged any members to become involved in the various committees. Not only will it aid the committees, it will make the City aware of members other than just the ones who constantly deal with the City, as long as the membership has approved the actions of new members.

Pete Wilson reminded the Society that once the rest of the Wilson land is transferred to City ownership, the City will assume responsibility for all maintenance of Heritage Park, just like at the Kirkland House, such as mowing, landscaping, and maintenance of the exterior of the buildings. The transfer of title to the City has taken longer than planned, but Pete said that his family has hopes that the legal work will be completely shortly.

Pat Lambert moved that the Society allocate a maximum of \$7,000 from the City Grant Fund for repair work and the installation of air conditioners inside the Ihnfeldt House. Jan Lorrain seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Patti Carpenter suggested that the Society might be interested in constructing a monument to Coppell veterans. Discussion revealed that there are many decisions to make about such a project, such as whether to include only veterans who are deceased, the ones who were assigned to war zones, only veterans who have lived in Coppell a certain amount of time, etc. Jack Carpenter agreed to look into the process and take the first exploratory steps in implementing such a project. It may be that the project could be taken on by Boy Scouts. Pete Wilson moved and Pat Lambert seconded that the Society authorize Jack to proceed. The motion carried unanimously.

Philip LaBerge submitted a paper he has prepared on the visit he made to Coppel in Ontario, Canada, and on the existence of a mansion called Mi Sueño, which Herbert Coppel, son of George Coppel, built in Pasadena, California. The paper includes many historical facts that have been unknown until now. Pete Wilson mentioned that a copy of the paper will be included in the Society's archives.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.