

**Minutes of Meeting
Coppell Historical Society
May 9, 2015**

Present: Laura Nesuda, Lloyd A. Webb, Joyce Webb, Cecil Dobecka, Patricia Carpenter, Cliff Long, Barbara Lee, Pat Quinlan, Jackie Parrish, Sue Miller, Pat Lambert, Shaun Jex, Hayden Jex, Betsy Wilcox, Pete Wilson, Jean Murph, Dave Murph

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. in the Kirkland House by Vice-President Pat Lambert.

The pre-business meeting program was presented by Shaun Jex, who is writing a book on historical figures from Coppell. He showed examples of some of the persons he is profiling. He reported that much information has been lost due to the recent passing of a number of long-time Coppell residents, such as Bettye Parker, Foy Layton, and Juanita Strong. An interesting new find is more conclusive evidence that the 1860s hanging along Hackberry Creek of five local persons was motivated by controversy about the Civil War.

After the program and after refreshments, the business meeting started at 1:53 p.m.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Moved by Jean Murph. Seconded by Sue Miller.

The treasurer's report, prepared by Jan Lorrain, and presented by Pete Wilson showed:

Grant Fund:

Expenses: \$1,965.00 for the sign in front of the Kirkland House

No income.

Balance, \$5,265.38

General Fund:

Expenses: \$38.49 for office supplies for the treasurer

No income.

Balance, \$10,707.91

CD balance, approximately \$20,326.47

Committee Reports:

Docents: Betsy Wilcox reported that only one volunteer had signed up for each of the open houses in June and July. Patti Carpenter volunteered to help on June 13.

Archives: Dave Murph reported that he, Barbara Lee, and Pete Wilson met with the librarian to determine what will happen to the Society's two filing cabinets, now located in the library, when the library is undergoing renovations. The cabinets will be moved by the city to off-site storage along with other library materials and will be unavailable for approximately a year. Dave expressed gratitude to the city for handling this matter because it had been uncertain if the Society would have to do the moving itself. When renovations are complete, the cabinets will

still be located in the library. The librarian has said that eventually she hopes that some of the historical photos in their possession can be framed and displayed permanently in the library.

Most of the library's newspaper collection is being scanned electronically, currently through a state-wide program by the University of North Texas, and later locally. It is not expected that any hard copies of newspapers will be kept after the scanning process. The librarian assured us that before any hard copies are discarded, the Society will have an opportunity to save some issues for historical purposes.

The Archives Committee will continue to meet to organize materials that will eventually transfer to the library cabinets.

Heritage Park: Pat Quinlan reported no new acquisitions.

Historical Markers: Pete Wilson reported that the new historical marker at Bethel School/Church has been installed by the city, and that marker, along with the one on the replica pillars along S. Coppel Road, are the final two markers that have been planned for this year. Pete commented that the committee has not been meeting lately due to the fact that once its plan for the markers was set in place, it has been a matter of proceeding as funds were available to make and install the markers. There was a suggestion that the committee make a list of additional markers to be considered. Pete reported that the committee made such a list early on, but there have been additional suggestions since then and some complications in finding historical documentation for sites on the initial list. The committee will meet again soon to discuss these matters.

Sue Miller asked if the Society can make a map of the markers so that interested parties can view them all. Jean Murph mentioned that a map of historical sites has been in the works for some time now, and it could include the markers.

Pete said that since there is still available money in the city grant fund, it would be possible to construct one or two additional markers this year. The most obvious locations for markers at this time would be at the Old Town water tank and at the Coppel House of Style/Citizen's Advocate office. There was consensus that the committee should consider constructing additional markers while the funds are available. The committee will meet and prepare suggestions.

At the last meeting, Pete suggested looking into plaques that can be placed on the six donated items in the Kirkland House, to recognize the donors and record acquisition dates. He presented information about small metal plates that can be engraved and attached, made by a local trophy firm in Lewisville, for approximately \$13 each. There was discussion about how the plates would be attached. Pete said that the only attachment available through the company was with adhesive. It was suggested that the Society ask a local museum how it attaches such plates to items. Jean and Dave Murph will consult a museum in Grapevine.

Historic Preservation: Pat Lambert reported that concrete has been unearthed at the site of the first Coppel Schools and is assumed to be part of the foundation of the school built in 1907. There was discussion about preserving some part of the concrete, possibly marking it with a

plaque, and possibly converting part of it into a bench to be placed in a public area. The committee will look into these possibilities.

Pat Quinlan displayed items such as bricks, a bottle, and an old plowshare that were also unearthed at the school site, which is the location of the new Coppell Crossroads development by Bennett Ratliff.

Jean Murph mentioned that WFAA television had produced a news story about the Ratliff development, with an emphasis on his attention to preserving the city's history by constructing buildings that have facades resembling his ancestors' business that started out in the 1800s. Pete Wilson represented the Society and Clay Phillips represented the city in the TV segment, along with Bennett Ratliff.

Pat Lambert referred to facts reported in *The Citizens' Advocate* concerning the filling in of wetlands along East Beltline Road by the Billingsley company as part of the Cyprus Waters Development. In addition to environmental concerns, there is evidence that historical sites will be destroyed. Jean Murph moved that the Society draft a letter in opposition to the project on historical grounds, to be sent to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, which is accepting input from interested parties. Shaun Jex seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Pat Lambert will prepare the letter, to be reviewed by the Executive Committee so that the letter can be mailed quickly to meet the upcoming deadline. Pat Lambert, as Vice-President, was authorized to sign the letter in the absence of President Don Carter.

Pat Lambert also reported that the City Council is discussing the revisions to the tree ordinance in its work session on Tuesday. Members are encouraged to attend.

Education: Jean Murph reported that Patti Carpenter will be calling a meeting of the docents to discuss new ideas.

Old Business:

Shaun Jex reported that a letter from the Society was sent to the Mayor regarding naming future streets for the Gentrys and Ottingers.

New Business:

According to an article in the Society's most recent online newsletter written by Don Carter, the company working on completing the city's trail system has said that the trail may not pass through Grapevine Springs Park but, instead, beside it. The Society has been concerned about construction of a trail through the park might compromise the historical nature of the park.

A nominating committee for a new slate of officers needs to be appointed by the September meeting.

Shaun Jex and Pete Wilson have contacted a relative of the original owner of the Childres Boys' Ranch that existed in Coppell in the 1960s. He has promised to provide information and photos to the Society.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.