

**Minutes of Meeting
Coppell Historical Society
September 12, 2015**

Present: Fran Richardson, Pat Quinlan, David Murph, Jean Murph, Joyce Webb, Lloyd A. Webb, Pat Lambert, Shaun Jex, Hayden Jex, Cecil Dobecka, Jackie Parrish, Cliff Long, Don Carter, Sue Miller, Chris Long, Jan M. Lorrain, Barbara Lee, Pete Wilson

President Don Carter called the meeting in the Kirkland House to order at 1:04 p.m.

Jean Murph made a presentation about old books. Betsy Wilcox provided various books for inspection and she will be making a future presentation about justice in the past. Officers read interesting sections from the book, If You Lived 100 Years Ago, provided by Martha-Allison Blewer.

At 1:18 p.m., the business meeting started.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Moved by Jan Lorrain; seconded by Sue Miller.

The treasurer's report was given by Jan Lorrain, as follows:

City Grant Fund:

Recent income: \$100, refund from overpayment of rental for the Senior Citizen building.

Recent expenditures: \$75.61 for maintenance of the Kirkland House garden.

Balance in the City Grant Fund: \$5,289.77

General Fund:

No activity.

Balance of the General Fund: \$10,707.91.

CD Balance: \$20,326.47

The treasurer's report was accepted unanimously. Moved by Jean Murph; seconded by Jackie Parrish.

Jan reminded members that dues are due this month.

Committee Reports:

Archive Committee. Dave Murph reported that the committee will be meeting next Thursday to continue work on organizing materials owned by the Society.

Heritage Park Committee: Pat Quinlan reported that she and Pat Lambert and others are working to build flower beds around the Kirkland House.

Historical Markers: Pete Wilson reported that the committee has recommended proceeding with plans to install additional historical markers, particularly two in Old Town, and to reinstall the one that had already been put up at the Old Coppell School site. Additional markers are being considered and include not only the Society's standard markers, but also a plaque for the

Ratliff's replica store in Old Town and assorted markers for Witness Trees and the concrete slabs unearthed by the construction of the Ratliff development, which the city is planning to use in a garden in the square of Old Town. (The Rotary Club has expressed an interest in paying for all or part of the latter marker.)

Pete moved that the committee be authorized to spend all but \$500 of the current balance of the city fund on markers and that \$500 be authorized to be spent by the Education Committee on upcoming activities. Seconded by Jean Murph. The motion carried unanimously.

Pete also moved that the marker committee be authorized to spend up to \$5,000 of the current balance of the general fund on markers, with the general fund to be reimbursed with money from the city grant fund when that money is received from the city. Seconded by Pat Lambert. The motion carried unanimously.

Historic Preservation. Pat Lambert reported that the committee has met with John Elias and Guy McLain from the city regarding Coppell's Witness Trees (called Historic Trees by the city). The city has requested a list of trees which the Society has identified. There are seven trees that have been so identified by the Society, and Pat has submitted this list to the city. There was also discussion with the city about Specimen Trees (trees which are valuable for their size and/or age, but not necessarily for their historic value).

Cliff Long mentioned that since the new tree ordinance has been enacted, the city is much more attentive to a developer's plans and requires more diligence from the developer to accommodate valuable trees rather than removing them. Jean Murph observed that trees are now often brought into a discussion when the city is considering new development and improvements.

Shaun Jex asked if it might be feasible to put up a plaque or marker in the Bethel Cemetery that lists the names of known burials there. Barbara Lee said that she has a list that was made when Bethel Cemetery was dedicated in the 1980s. The marker committee will consider a plaque for those names.

Education Committee: Jean Murph reported that the following activities have taken place this last year or are being planned for the near future:

Ice cream social for senior citizens – There was a very good turn-out, and the ice cream was provided by Barbara Lee and Patti Carpenter.

At the October open house and meeting there will be canning demonstration. Kara Jex will be helping with that presentation.

Members are encouraged to bring old recipes to be included in a cookbook that will be compiled.

At the November meeting, Phil LaBerge will be presenting a talk on cotton and its presence in Coppell.

In December, children will be encouraged to make holiday decorations.

On December 5, there will be a vintage Christmas celebration in Old Town. The Society will have decorated Heritage Park and Shaun Jex will be providing old-time music on the lawn.

Archeological dig in March.

Future activities being planned by the Education Committee include:

Collection Day – Members will display their personal collection of favorite items.

Theatre performance – A scene from a play by Theatre Coppel.

Knitting demonstration.

Commemorating one of Coppel's earliest schools by helping the city locate slabs of concrete into a small garden in Old Town.

Continuing Camp Kirkland for kids.

Printing a new Heritage Park brochure.

Making a booklet about Coppel history for fourth graders.

Providing a coloring book for kids.

Creating postcards to be given as souvenirs to guests.

Presenting a preservation recognition award to a citizen or business that has helped to preserve Coppel's history.

Presenting an award to a student who has made a substantial contribution to preserve Coppel's history.

Dave Murph reported that the next display in the Senior Citizens' building will consist of Native American artifacts discovered by Paul and Jan Lorrain.

Old Business:

Jean Murph reported that research by Dave and herself suggests that no markers or plaques should be placed directly onto items donated to the Kirkland House to recognize the donors. A list in a book would be more appropriate. Pete Wilson had originally volunteered to make small plaque for the items, but now any method of recognizing the donors will assumed by the Heritage Park Committee.

Pat Quinlan, at the request of Martha-Allison Blewer, reminded the Society that it was decided by the group to include copies (both digital and original) of Jean Murph's recent editorials which relate to Coppel historical concerns.

New Business: There was no new business.

Open Forum:

Pat Lambert asked if the Society might consider making T-shirts for members and for sale. She will gather information and the Education Committee will consider it.

Jean Murph recognized Shaun Jex for writing an article in *The Citizen's Advocate* about the Cyprus Waters development. There was discussion about this subject. Cliff Long explained about ongoing development and the current ownership by the city of land in this area, including the remaining portion of the lake.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.