

Bastrop County Historical Commission
2nd Quarterly Meeting -Thursday, June 12, 2025

FILED

June 3, 2025 11:50 a.m.


Bastrop County Clerk

- I. Opening items (2:00 - 2:15)
 1. Call to Order and Roll Call -- Galynn Fogle, Secretary
 2. Declaration of Quorum
 3. Recognition of new member Kristina Alvarez and Tom Phillips
 4. A moment in memory of Carol Kysar and update on possible memorial service
 5. Notification of possible action - All items listed, unless noted otherwise, are subject to action by majority vote of members present.
 6. Approval of Minutes of March 2025 meeting (see addendum A)

- II. New items
 1. History Contest – (2:15 - 2:45)
 - A. Report of spring contest – Sandy Chipley and Ron Ramirez
 - (1) Entrants -- 1 student from McDade – and 95 students from Cedar Creek Middle school (teacher’s assignment)
 - (2) Gratitude for judges
 - (3) Possible presentation to Commissioners Court
 - B. Discussion and possible action related to future contests
 - a. Cedar Creek teachers as model
 - b. Other ways to encourage more participation
 - c. Possible Association with State Historical Commission’s call for participation with the American 250th Celebration

 2. Financial Matters – Ron Ramirez, Treasurer (2:45 - 3:00)

Report on income and spending

Conversation about activities not done via current budget of \$5,025

 - Admin expenses \$ 300
 - Historical Marker Maintenance and Events \$ 1,000
 - Go-Daddy preserving website name (2025-2026) \$ 125
 - Adobe Pro - \$ 600
 - Website Maintenance --\$0 (funding carried over from last year)
 - History Fair/contest \$ 1,000
 - Training opportunities for Commission members \$1,000
 - Community events (sign up for booth at events, etc.) \$ 500
 - Support for local historic entities \$

Developing budget request for 2026

Other

BCHC Website - Fran Hunter - (3:00 – 3:30)

Decision regarding BCHC Logo



General

Immediate needs

Data Collecting and writing for Website Content

Adobe Pro for Website development -- 2 licenses

Carol had planned to purchase 1 license and then add another when needed for additional person to use will be needed to work with conversions of documents from Word into searchable and editable PDFs regarding cemeteries and website content.

Reports – (3:30- 4:00)

Ideas for participation in American 250th Celebration - Sandy Chipley

Real Places Event – Ken Kesselus

Opportunity for other reports:

El Camino Real De Los Tejas Commission Representative - Ron Ramirez

Cemetery work

Historic Tourism - Adena Lewis and Fran Hunter

Social Media Committee - Linda Quiroz

Historical Markers

HEART - Judy Bergeron

Oral Histories - John C Smith

Other County entities

Smithville -Judy Burgeon or others

Bastrop County Historical Society - Sandy Chipley

Sayersville - David Robinson

Bastrop Co. African American Cultural Center & Museum - Dianne Mills

Kerr Center -Dock Jackson

Elgin

Rockne Museum - Galynn Fogle

Other Business and reports

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Adjournment

Addendum A – minutes of March 2025 meeting

*Bastrop County Historical Commission
First Quarter Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 13, 2025*

The meeting was called to order at 2 pm by Chair Ken Kesselus.

Recognition of guest Commissioner David Glass, Precinct 3 Elgin, by Ken Kesselus

Members present took the opportunity to introduce themselves, highlighting their interests in Bastrop County and their roles within the commission. Those members present were Ken Kesselus, Judy Burgeron, Sandy Chipley, Pat Cunningham, Galynn Fogle, David Herrington, Marilyn Jones, Ken McAllister, Dianne Mills, Shana Quintanilla-Boyd, Linda Quiroz, Ron Ramirez, David Robinson, John C Smith, Debbie Wahrmond, Ken McAllister

Ken McAllister is a new member of the Commission. He shares an interest in history and has published a book titled “Cattle to Courts,” which chronicles the history of tennis in Texas, dating back to the 1880s.

Tom Phillips, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, is also a new commission member. He was unable to be here today due to prior commitment.

Declaration of Quorum – Quorum met.

Minutes from the September Meeting were amended to show that Debbie Wahrmond is only retiring from being chair of the Cemetery Committee. She remains a member of the commission. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 2024 meeting by Ron Ramires, 2nd by David Robinson and was unanimously approved by members present. Notification of possible action – Unless noted otherwise, all items listed are subject to action by a majority vote of those present.

Election of officers (other than the chair, who the county judge appoints) - Chair Ken Kesselus announced that Carol Kysar has submitted her resignation from the commission due to ongoing health issues. Ron Ramirez was nominated for the position of Treasurer, while the other officer positions remained uncontested, with the current individuals in those roles renominated by Ken Kesselus. Judy Burgeron proposed a motion to elect Sandy Chipley as Vice Chairperson, Ron Ramirez as Treasurer, and Galynn Fogle as Secretary. This motion was seconded by Dianne Mills and was approved unanimously.

• Motion by David Robinson to update the signers on all accounts at Roscoe State Bank. This motion involves removing Carol Kysar from the treasurer position and officially adding Ron Ramirez as the new treasurer while keeping Ken Kesselus as a signer. Second by Sandy Chipley. The motion passed by all present.

Sandy Chipley motioned to authorize Chairperson Ken Kesselus to attend the Real Places Conference in Austin, TX, from April 14 to 16. The motion includes attending sessions that align with the commission’s goals, with members encouraged to suggest specific sessions to attend. Ron Ramirez seconded the motion. The motion passed by all present.

Ken Kesselus updated the commission on the History Fair. There are 4 judging categories – Texas History, essay; Texas History, display; Bastrop County History, essay; Bastrop County History, display. Flyers have been handed out to public schools and the homeschoolers' contact person.

Per the budget, the commission will use \$1000 from the fund to go towards prizes for the winners in each category in addition to all other expenses associated with the event. Discussion led to purchasing cash cards that allows full access to the funds, with the committee deciding on the type of cash card to purchase.

Provide a list of sources for help; how to access the portal to newspapers

April 4 th the deadline to submit

Ken Kesselus opened the floor for input from the commission members for guidance on topics to present. Some suggestions were to narrow down the time period for the topic to the Republic times, colonial times, civil war times, etc.; select a major event, person, or certain area of significance to Bastrop County, and why.

The representative from the Texas Historical Society provided input and expressed that he likes what we are doing. He also provided information about the National History Day NHD.

Committee Reports

El Camino Real de Tejas – Ron Ramirez discovered recently that Bastrop is NOT listed on the National Park Service map even though Bastrop State Park is shown. Ron is working with the National Park Service to have Bastrop to be certified for inclusion on the map as time and staffing allows.

Ken Kesselus reported that we are waiting on the county to implement the new county website that BCHC will house its website on; have information gathered to place on the website once it is ready.

The Cemetery Committee is looking for a new chairperson following Debbie Wahrmond's resignation. Debbie will continue collaborating with THC to update the Atlas map and other related tasks. Dianne Mills has volunteered to assist, as she and Allison are actively working on documenting black cemeteries in Bastrop County and can help with some responsibilities under Debbie's guidance. Several individuals have expressed interest in obtaining markers for specific cemeteries. There was also discussion about providing incentives for landowners to maintain the cemeteries.

The tourism report by Adena Lewis outlines plans to increase the use of tours associated with the Independence and Brazos Trails travel routes.

John C. Smith presented the Oral Histories report and is prepared to add oral histories and YouTube videos to the BCHC website. Ron Ramirez noted that the Bastrop County Historical Museum also has a collection of oral histories to submit.

The Marker Committee report, presented by Ken Kesselus, indicated that Robbie Sanders resigned as chair due to family obligations but is still available for consultation via phone for the time being. The commission can contact THC for assistance if necessary.

Elgin has an opening as Amy Miller joined the Main Street Program. Will contact the City of Elgin to fill this vacancy.

Sayersville report, by David Robinson, indicates that there is no new business for this quarter. Additionally, David reported that Shotgun McCollum has departed from the group.

Bastrop County Historical Society events reported by Sandy Chipley include:

- Stitched quilt exhibit through March 29 with raffle tickets available*
- Upcoming exhibits are being scheduled*
- New president and executive director, plus new members*
- Book signing by Maurice Cook*
- Texas Rangers speaker Byron Johnson on April 24, 6:30-7:30 pm*
- 250th anniversary of Paul Revere's ride Event*
- DRT meeting tomorrow, 11 am-12 pm at FNB with a speaker from Goliad Historical Association*

Kerr Center Report by Dianne Mills: Meals on Wheels is utilizing facility, and weekend rentals have increased notably.

Dianne Mills: report states that the African American Cultural Museum is collaborating with County commissioner Mark Meuth to install markers indicating the location of freedom colonies in the county. Working with the Bastrop County Museum to host the lunch and lunch on March 29th from 11: am to 2:30 pm Children in Freedom Colonies: Legacy Kids – for 8- to 12-year-olds

The Smithville Heritage Museum report given by David Herrington noted the acquisition of a new computer, new members on board; and the Smithville Garden Club is volunteering at the museum on the 1 st Saturday of each month.

Rockne Historical Association Museum report given by Galynn Fogle: continuing to input artifacts in the PastPerfect Museum Software, update of brochure, and a report on the attendance of the Gonzales Immortal 32 Annual Recognition in Gonzales.

Other Business

- Linda Quiroz from Bastrop Cares announced that BCC has a grant program available starting at \$5,000.00, for which entities in Bastrop County can apply.*
- Sandy Chipley reported that Pam from the Brazos Trails System reached out to ask Sandy to prepare an article on the Leah Moncure Historical Marker dedication event for the April edition of Authentic Texas magazine.*
- Debbie Wahrmond reported that she and David Robinson presented a library talk on the History of Elgin, including the Perryville cemetery with the idea of a "Cemetery Safari". Meeting adjourned at 3:59 motion made by Sandy Chipley, 2nd by Galynn Fogle*