

The May meeting of the Burton Heritage Society was held May 3, 2023 at 6:14pm at the Burton Railroad Depot with eight members present.

Present: Charlene Free, Manny Gonzales, Mary Grace Hearnberger, Steph Jarvis, Susan Kiel, Lindy Varner, Bill Whitener, and Tom Whitesides.

The minutes were approved as written (motion, BWhitener, 2nd LVarner).

The treasurer's report was passed out for everyone in the absence of Barbara Schoenemann. General account \$9,947.07, Chapel restoration \$43,012.40. The report also showed the total deposit made from Texas Ranger Day minus expenses as \$4,076.48. We need to check if the expense for the tent has been taken out. Individual breakdown for deposit: Fajita tickets \$2,800, silent auction \$1,619, donations at info table \$550, money for warrants by Judge \$115, donations made for books taken \$117.48, buggy rides to go to stagecoach restoration \$240. The group then discussed how this compared to the 2022 event.

We must add in expenses for the meat that we bought for the cookers. Tom W said that the money taken in by the judge was down from last time.

Moving on to old business, the group continued discussion of Ranger Day. For next year, we need to make sure the Banner Press has the correct price info because we think that might have caused some folks not knowing correct prices when they arrived. Everyone agreed that it would probably be good to have a wrap up meeting on how it all went and take notes. Also we need to write down how we do everything for the event so everyone knows what is involved in planning and execution. Tom W discussed the difficulties that we had with the Wild West Rangers and them not coming for this year. He suggests that rather than rely on folks from other places to look locally (Paul M, Ronnie S, Dave from Bryan etc.) and that we plan to do the same thing that was done in the past and add back elements that people miss along the lines of live action. Tom also wants to keep it separate from the Legends group and have them focus more on Texas Ranger talks, etc. Tom also wants badges that match for them to wear. Another point made was to add more Ranger history during the event AND be sure a good schedule is posted around for everyone to see & know what is happening and when. We still need sound on the far end of the depot by the cookers. It was suggested to limit the amount of vendors and charge them a booth fee (as opposed to them simply making an auction donation). Another good topic for a separate meeting is the food side of Ranger Day. We don't make enough on the cooker side to really rationalize the work. This isn't working as a fundraiser since we are now having to buy meat for cooking teams to participate. This discussion was tabled for another meeting.

Other discussions: There was new information from the depot committee but Lindy noted that the paint on the 390 end of the depot is looking bad and we should consider plans to address that soon. Steph shared that there is no additional information on the stagecoach beyond what Denise shared with us previously (that deaccession by UT is still in the works and she hopes to resolve soon).

Mt Zion Chapel restoration: Steph reported that the committee is discussing a fundraiser out at the church for September. She will talk with Kent Hargett about possible period music, we hope to have light food/drinks and charge per individual/couple. It was also suggested that we consider some of the fundraising options from the past such as fundraising dinners at member's homes. Steph will follow up with Gary Ladewig again on the bid for siding. That is needed before we can seek grant funding. The long-term lease must also be completed prior to any grant requests and the one thing lacking for that is the survey of the land.

Other items discussed: included the current status of the membership and the need for Barbara S to share the most updated list. Lindy noted that they did not receive a membership letter in the mail. Since the hot months are approaching and the plan is to skip meetings for July and August, the group discussed other options. Gherlaine Hofmann has invited the society to have a meeting at Bethany Christian Church to see its new location and learn about its history. Another idea is to set up some fun "field trips" to other places to learn history such as the Hearne Depot.

With there being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.

(Motion, BWhitener; 2nd, MHearnberger)