Agenda

Bastrop County Historical Commission

3rd Quarterly Meeting 2021

September 9, 2021 - 2 p.m.

To be held in person in the meeting room of the Bastrop County Courthouse, Bastrop, Texas,

and by Zoom

Please inform the chair about whether you will meet at the courthouse or by zoom,

or will be unable to attend at all – Ken.Kesselus@gmail.com

**Susan Smith is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7740811666?pwd=RURFd3pFazN4aXY2RXBjSGR6UzQyZz09>  
  
Meeting ID: 774 081 1666  
Passcode: VBastrop  
One tap mobile  
+13462487799,,7740811666#,,,,\*98414353# US (Houston)  
+12532158782,,7740811666#,,,,\*98414353# US (Tacoma)  
  
Dial by your location  
        +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
        +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
        +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)  
        +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)  
        +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)  
        +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
Meeting ID: 774 081 1666  
Passcode: 98414353  
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kesYfSzZTP>

1. Call to order and Welcome
2. Roll call. Each member will answer present and then provide a very brief reminder of who she/he is, lives, represents, and any particular interest(s) in the work of the commission she/he has already begun or and desires to engage in.
3. Declaration of Quorum
4. Notification of Possible Action – All items, unless listed otherwise, are subject to action by majority vote of those present in person or by zoom.
5. Approval of minutes of the March 2021, meeting, as follows or as amended.

Bastrop County Historical Commission 2nd Quarterly Meeting

The Bastrop County Historical Commission met for its 2nd Quarterly Meeting on June 10, 2021, held as a hybrid meeting with in the person meeting held at the Bastrop County Courthouse and virtual meeting via Zoom conference services (by authority of Governor Abbott.)

At 2:05, Chairman Kesselus called the meeting to order and the following members, constituting a quorum, answered the roll call: Sydna Arbuckle, Krista Bartsch, Judy Bergeron, Duncan Charlton, Sandra Chipley, Geoff Connor, April Daniels, Judy Davis, Faith Franklin, Rebecca Gleason, Ken Kesselus, Mikki Meyer, Amy Miller, Dianne Mills, David Robinson, Audrey Rother, Kaye Sapikas, John C. Smith, Susan Smith, Carol Snyder and Debbie Wahrmund. Twelve commissioners attended online with the remainder attending in person. Other attendees: County staff - Fran Hunter and Adena Lewis, cemetery survey volunteers - Allison Russell and William A. Smith; and visitor, William 'Bill' Seward. (Commissioners were asked to share biographical information and interests related to their involvement in the commission during roll call.) Chairman Kesselus declared a quorum at 2:25 pm.

Susan Smith moved that the Commission accept the minutes of its March meeting as included on the agenda. Amy Miller seconded the motion which passed unanimously vote.

Historic Tourism Task Force - Susan Smith reported that the committee held two meetings, with low attendance at the second one. She will send out a date for their third meeting. There was a discussion on the historic tourism value of cemeteries with mention of the Mount Pleasant African American Cemetery in Elgin's ground radar project for locating unmarked graves and the Bastrop County Historical Society's planned Fairview Cemetery tour this October. An example was mentioned of a historical society in Bath, New York that holds an annual tour to three to four cemeteries with a bus and box lunches.

Executive Committee - Chairman Kesselus reported on the Website redevelopment status. This committee consists of Ken Kesselus, Debbie Warhrmund, and Fran Hunter. Fran keeps the county's calendar updated with important commission dates. The committee is cleaning up the links and logos along with adding stories and undertold stories. Each subject will be a separate page. Commissioners were reminded it is the commission's duty to become familiar with the website and keep it current.

Heritage Awareness Committee *(*Archives & Records Survey, Historical Photo Survey, & Oran History) - Oral Histories Report - Elgin had a past program that resulted in 29 interviews on cd's that were read to computers. Ten of those have been transcribed to paper. Judy Bergeron reported the Smithville Library uses Story Corps and Military Voices initiatives. Kay Sapikas reported that Bastrop County Historical Society borrows Smithville Library's the Story Corps equipment to do its interviews. Their equipment is available for others to borrow. Chairman Kesselus urged commissioners to use phones to record interviews if they have to, suggested interviewing at events, and paying children to interview their grandparents. Duncan Charlton will look into a YouTube Page for BCHC to post interviews. Elgin merged offers to do interviews with cemetery work days. It is important to know what questions to ask. StoryCorps has pre-written questions. Archival Records Report - Adena has two file cabinets for our use. Ken Kesselus will go through them this summer. They will be housed at the county clerk's office. Volunteers are needed to help. Newspapers Records Report - Bastrop Library and Bastrop County Historical Society have *Bastrop Advertiser* originals and microfilm. They have also been scanned and can be found on the Portal to Texas History at UNT. *Smithville Times* from 1936 forward are also on the Portal. The Library has the originals? Elgin has the Elgin Courier from 1908-1958. Some have been digitized, selected representatives of years. They did have cd's of them for sale but they sold out. Hard copies are in archival storage. They are working on digitizing more.

Grants & Finance Committee (Treasurer's Report) – Treasurer Duncan Charlton reported that $250 from Bastrop County had been deposited and that Chairman Kesselus had been reimbursed for his previous expenses. Various items were suggested for inclusion in the budget: rotating exhibits, support for collaborative efforts between the county's museums, aid for archives, purchasing drop box accounts. Commissioners were urged to send additional suggestions to Duncan Charlton or Ken Kesselus. The Executive Committee will discuss the budget and make a recommendation. Sandra Chipley suggested the commission begin to discuss setting up rules and a dollar amount structure for the grants. Ideas for grants discussed were maintenance of cemeteries and purchasing Past Perfect software.

Historical Markers & Research Committee – Vice Chair Carol Snyder distributed handouts from information that can be found on the Texas Historical Commission's website. If anyone has questions concerning the rules regarding markers, call Carol for help. Chairman Kesselus will send out a report on the current status of the county's applications and markers to the commissioners by email. Some applications and marker production experience delays due to sponsors changing their minds, corrections and foundry delays. It is also important to meet the state set annual application deadlines.

Announcements - The Smithville Railroad Museum moved into its new building. A ribbon cutting is planned for April.

June Meeting Program - Bastrop County Cemeteries - Audrey Rother and Debbie Wahrmund joined by a few of our cemetery survey volunteers presented a fascinating program on the history, practice, and current status of the county's cemetery survey efforts. Handouts were provided to the in person attendees and example surveys were on display.

The Bastrop County Historical Commission, for the time being, will continue to hold its Quarterly Meetings in person on the 2nd Thursday.

All commissioners motioned, seconded and voted approval to adjourn at 4:01 pm.

1. Reports and possible action in response.
2. Historical Markers and Research Committee - Vice Chair Snyder
3. Cemetery Survey Committee, Audrey Rother
4. Historic Tourism Task Force, Susan Smith
5. Executive Committee, Ken Kesselus
   1. Website redevelopment –
      1. presentation, suggestions, approval (see attachment A)
      2. Maintenance
         1. Discussion about in general
         2. need for a volunteer to provide services
         3. possible authorization for hiring a professional to provide necessary services.
6. Heritage Awareness Committee (combining Archives and Records Survey Committee, Historical Photo Survey Committee, and Oral History Committee) – Ken Kesselus
   1. Report and discussion of archival records formerly held in the county office of Adena Lewis – and records retention and redistribution
   2. Oral histories
      1. Suggestions, comments, decisions, actions
7. Grants and Finance Committee, Duncan Charlton
   1. Report about expenditures since last meeting
   2. Consideration of items for possible inclusion in a proposed budget and request for inclusion in the county budget
8. (not subject to action) Opportunity for reports and/or announcements by organizations county and by individual members
9. Suggestions for topics for future meetings
10. Adjournment

ATTACHMENT A follows on next page

*(Home Page)*

A picture containing text

Description automatically generated A white and blue plate with writing on it

Description automatically generated with low confidence Text

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

*Home County Markers County Cemeteries Quarterly Meetings   Contact the Board*

-------------------------------------------------------- COME ON IN !

- (IF POSSIBLE) a series of rotating photos - We want to tell you about our efforts to

- `- - promote and preserve the history of Bastrop

– including an optimum number to be - share our appreciation of our past, and - determined after consulting an expert - encourage understanding of and participation

- ------------------------------------------------------ in the activities and programs described here.

OUR STORIES MUSEUMS/ARCHIVES HISTORIC TOUR**I**S**M** HISTORIC SITES

* The Bastrop County Historical Commission (BCHC) is an arm of the county government appointed by the Bastrop County Judge and Commissioners Court. This site provides information about the cemeteries,historical markers, historical sites, museums, historic tourism, and more.
* If you have questions or suggestions about this website or our work, please contact us.
* We look forward to working with Bastrop County residents as we preserve our remarkable history.
* For more information about Bastrop County, scroll upward and click on one of the yellow buttons or try ExploreBastropCouunty.com.

Text

Description automatically generated

Table

Description automatically generated with medium confidence