

CITY OF HURST

COUNTY OF TARRANT

STATE OF TEXAS

On the 10th day of November, 2017, at 2:00 p.m., the Historic Landmark Preservation Committee of the City of Hurst, Texas, convened in Regular Meeting at the Library, 901 Precinct Line Road, Hurst, Texas with the following members present to-wit:

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|--------------------|---|---|
| Georgia Kidwell |) | Chair |
| Betty Whiteside |) | Members |
| Larry Kitchens | | |
| Charles Swearengen | | |
| Kyle Gordon |) | Managing Director of Community Services |
| Jesse Loucks |) | Library Director |
| Hannah Titony |) | Library Assistant – Administration |

with the following members absent to-wit: Carol Cole and Billye Runnels-Jones, constituting a quorum, at which time the following business was transacted.

I. Call to Order

Georgia Kidwell called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call of Members

Hannah Titony conducted the roll call of members.

III. Approval of Minutes of the January 31st, 2017 meeting

The minutes of the January 31st, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

IV. Communications

None at this time.

V. Unfinished Business

None at this time.

VI. New Business

A. Election of Officers

Betty Whiteside made a motion for Georgia Kidwell to continue as chair.
Larry Kitchens seconded the motion.
Ayes: Larry Kitchens, and Betty Whiteside

Noes: None

Larry Kitchens made a motion to add Betty Whiteside as Vice Chair. Georgia Kidwell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Georgie Kidwell, and Larry Kitchens.

VII. Information Items

A. Hurst History Project

1. **Phase IV Update:** Jesse Loucks presented the progress of the Oral History Timeline for 2015 through 2017. Eight candidates were selected to be interviewed for the videos in 2017, five have been completed, and three are in the editing stage. Approval of the videos will be left to the Committee. Jesse Loucks presented the video of Patsy Smith for the review and the Committee approved the final copy. Mr. Loucks will add Mrs. Smith's oral history video to the website now that the Committee has given their approval.
2. **Phase V Candidate Selection:** Mr. Loucks presented the Committee with the names remaining to be interviewed for Phase V of the Hurst History Project. He requested that the Committee come up with two more names to complete the full docket of eight videos as approved by the City Council. Videos will resume production in the spring or summer of next year.

- B. Parker Cemetery Restoration Update:** Kyle Gordon reported that Texas Cemetery Restoration, LLC has finished restoring the tombstones complete with matching mortar.

The Committee agreed that Texas Cemetery Restoration, LLC has done all they can do to restore the remaining headstones and tombstones and the City will proceed with the completion of the project with the company. Kyle Gordon reminded the Committee that they can seek other options with another company to try to match names Mr. and Mrs. Kitchens have found through their extensive research.

Kyle Gordon presented the history of the surveys done over the years by companies who visually observed graves for both the entire cemetery and the public cemetery. Previous surveys were presented to the Committee including a survey from the 1960's showing 60 graves observed, as well as a survey done by April Parsons, recorded in her 1986 UTA Resistivity and Magnetic Study, showing 48 graves observed. Mr. Gordon then presented a 2017 report by Dr. Ken Schneider showing that 41 graves were detected using Ground Penetrating Radar.

From the 1960's survey to the 2017 report, the data shows we have lost 19 graves. Kyle Gordon asked the Committee if they would like the opportunity to speak with Dr. Kent Schneider via teleconference or Skype. The Committee voiced their interest in that idea so Mr. Gordon told the Committee they will be given time over the next month to review the data and come back with questions to ask Dr. Schneider at the January meeting.

C. Parker/Post Oak Cemetery Project

1. Historical Research Update (Mr. Kitchens): Larry Kitchens introduced his wife, Carolyn Kitchens. Mrs. Kitchens prepared a presentation providing information pertaining to Parker/Post Oak Cemeteries that both she and Mr. Kitchens have researched. Before Mrs. Kitchens began, she introduced Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) members from the Nathaniel Mills Chapter, Regent President Sharon Katz and Donna Moore. Ms. Katz and Ms. Moore offered their guidance and participation with the restoration of Parker/Post Oak Cemetery.

Mrs. Kitchens gave a detailed presentation of historical findings which included maps and information of important historical figures who resided in Hurst. Mrs. Kitchens also featured the history of Hurst's first residents who are buried in Parker/Post Oak Cemetery.

Mr. Kitchens distributed four informational handouts which included: "Recommendations for a Revised Master Plan for the Restoration and Conservation of the Parker Family Cemetery and the Post Oak Public Cemetery", "A Timeline of Parker/Post Oak Cemeteries", "Suggestions for Parker Cemetery Project submitted by Tarrant County Historical Commission", and his written draft of "A History of Hurst".

The Committee agreed that the first step should be submitting for historic cemetery designation.

2. Volunteers in Action Program: Kyle Gordon presented resources available to assist with Parker/Post Oak Cemeteries and announced that a Volunteer Guidelines Subcommittee would be very helpful for this project. The Committee agreed that a subcommittee consisting of DAR representatives, City of Hurst's Parks Director, and a Historical Committee Member would be very useful. Mr. Kitchens volunteered to be the Historical Committee Member representative on this subcommittee and the Committee Members agreed.

i. Mr. & Mrs. Kitchens: Mr. Kitchens volunteered to get the application started to get Parker/Post Oak Cemetery designated as a historical cemetery with Texas Historical Commission.

- ii. **DAR (Ms. Katz and Ms. Moore):** Sharon Katz told the Committee she has many resources she can offer to help the Committee achieve our goals, including grants to help with funding.

Mr. and Mrs. Kitchens stated that the volunteers and staff who participate in the upkeep of Parker/Post Oak Cemetery need to be trained on proper maintenance including mowing of the site. Kyle Gordon asked the Committee if they want to authorize the DAR to take over until we can have guidelines set in place by the subcommittee. The Committee approved Mr. and Mrs. Kitchens to work with DAR to keep the cemetery maintained.

Mrs. Kitchens asked who can help with types of restoration pertaining to remnants from gravestones and tombstones left throughout the cemetery. Ms. Moore recommended The Association for Gravestone Studies (AGS) to help with this sort of project.

D. Hurst 2017 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan

1. **Cemetery Update:** Kyle Gordon distributed handouts to the Committee pertaining to Parker Cemetery and noted that the description of Parker Cemetery has been updated for the 2017 Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan.
2. **2017-18 Project Presentation:** Mr. Gordon presented Recommended Park Improvements which included short-term projects, mid-term projects, and the costs of each. He mentioned the Parks Board has reviewed this and it was approved.

The Committee stated that they would like to remove the ideas of adding benches and installing irrigation. The Committee also would like to add wrought iron fencing around the perimeter of the property.

Mr. Kitchens voiced his opinion that this should be withdrawn from the Parks Master Plan so as not to hold up the approval by City Council. The Committee agreed that items need to be edited regarding Parker Cemetery. The Committee would like to have it sent back to Half Associates and discuss it further at the next meeting. The Committee agreed they will look at the Tarrant County Recommendations information Mr. Kitchens handed out and come back with ideas at the meeting in January.

Mr. Gordon went over the Parker Cemetery Budget and presented Staff Recommendations to the Committee. The Committee agrees the property should be secured with wrought iron fencing along all four sides of the cemetery. Mr. Gordon will present an updated plan at the next meeting in January.

E. Hurst History Website Update

Larry Kitchens would like the Committee to approve his written draft of A History of Hurst, which he handed out earlier in the meeting. The final copy will be added to the Hurst History Website. Jesse Loucks mentioned that the website is in its infancy state and this would be a great addition to help expand what we have featured on the history of Hurst.

F. Arwine Cemetery Address Update

Kyle Gordon stated that although Arwine Cemetery is in Hurst, Google Maps says it is located in Euless. The City has passed this information along to the Geographic Information System (GIS) Department and they have contacted Google to get this issue corrected.

VIII. Other Business

A. Next Meeting Date

The next Historic Landmark Preservation Committee meeting will be held on Friday, January 12th at 3:00 p.m.

IX. Board and Citizen Comments

Larry Kitchens asked if a copy of the hand-drawn map of Tarrant County from the University of Texas at Arlington had been attained. Jesse Loucks announced he had contacted UTA and will follow up with them.

Donna Moore asked the Committee if there is any collaboration with the Arwine Cemetery to see how those responsible for the property maintain the cemetery. Kyle Gordon said he will review their guidelines as well as Birdville Cemetery's guidelines in Haltom City.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Georgia Kidwell at 5:37 p.m.

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2018

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

CHAIR

RECORDING SECRETARY