

**Houston Historical Society
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2007**

Present: Jeff Gunnin, Tom and Betty Denton, John Hunter, Nora Lane, Dorothy L. Everett, Lucille White, Bobbie Garrett

Jeff called the meeting to order, opening with prayer. Betty provided a financial report to the group. As of 7/10/07 the balance in checking is \$18,522.12. This total is reflective of memberships, general donations, May Music Fest, and response to the Capital Campaign. The Walker Area Community Foundation has awarded our organization a \$5000.00 grant for the Jail Preservation Project. The distribution of that grant is expected this summer. Both the Alabama Power Foundation and the Cullman Electric Cooperative have expressed desire/interest in helping with funding for Phase II of the project.

Prior to the evening's meeting, Betty and Jeff attended a reception for the new Executive Director of the Walker Area Community Foundation, Paul Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy expressed a desire to visit our group and the jail to have a first hand look at the project. He was very supportive of the efforts to preserve a landmark such as the jail.

The group discussed publishing an up-to-date funding status for the project to include funding levels by name/businesses. Updating a sign at the jail itself was discussed and Tom and John agreed to provide an appropriate sign.

The Houston Heritage Day was discussed with a Saturday in October to be determined. Jeff will ask Donna to check on the first, second, or fourth Saturday as best dates which would not conflict with other community activities across the county. Jeff will talk with Claudia about chairing the event again for this year. Ideas for the day were discussed:

- Parade (no earlier than 10)
- Vendors
- Music
- Cheryl Patton for pioneer demonstrations
- Horse shoe pitching contest
- Square dance demonstration

The decision was made to maintain future meeting dates as the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14.

ADDENDUM: The Foundation sponsoring the Smith Lake Poker Run would like to possibly direct some of their fund raising toward the Houston Historic Jail Preservation Project and has asked for volunteers to assist with registration on the day of the event scheduled for the 28th of July.

Betty G. Denton, Secretary/Treasurer