

Houston Historical Society
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2007

Present: John Hunter, Nora Lane, Dorothy L. Everett, Lucille White, Bobbie Garrett, Betty Godsey, Carl Godsey, Tom and Betty Denton, Celia Sampley, Howard Estill, Linda Moody.

Betty Denton presiding in the absence of Jeff called the meeting to order. She welcomed new Life member, Howard Estill. Betty announced that Jeff and Rick had recently met with Leatherwood Inc. about the status of beginning the restoration/preservation work on the jail. An onsite visit was made on Friday, September 7, to take final measurements in preparation for beginning the work. A contract should be received this week and they anticipate beginning work as early as the week of September 17. They have requested setting a temporary power pole to be used during the work. A request was placed with Cullman Electric on September 10 for the temporary power. Betty also contacted Cullman Electric to see if they would consider assisting with the cost of the power, but has not had a response as yet.

Jeff, Rick, and Greg have been making contacts for funds for the jail project. The funds received to date are over half of what will be needed for the Phase I of the project and they are confident that the remainder of needed funds will be in place by the completion of Phase I work. Civitan clubs across the county have contributed toward road signs indicating direction to the jail. The signs have been ordered, will be shipped to the road department and should be in place prior to Houston Heritage Day. The Mike Beasley Memorial Benefit Association has contributed \$2500.00. A benefit poker run for motorcycle riders is being sponsored by Southern Eagle Motorcycle Resort with funds benefiting the Houston Historical Society is scheduled for Saturday, October 6. One of the stops is the Houston Historic Jail. Members are needed to man the stop at the jail from 10am to 1pm. Celia, Nora, Howard, Bobbie, Dorothy, and Lucille volunteered.

Heritage Day (October 27) planning meeting is scheduled for noon, Friday (September 14) at Houston Methodist Church. Claudia will be chairing the meeting and all who are available are encouraged to be there. Jeff and Donna are planning a day for 4th graders to be at the jail on Wednesday (October 24th) prior to Heritage Day. They will be contacting Cheryl Patton to participate both for the Wednesday, education day, and Saturday, Heritage Day. Nora volunteered to be available in period dress for the education day. Nora also volunteered to contact the Walker County newspaper and TV station for publicity for Heritage Day.

Betty shared information regarding a historical preservation conference to be held in Huntsville/Decatur the weekend of September 22. No further business, meeting adjourned at 7:15.

Addendum: The Board of Directors of the Historical Society met following the regular meeting and voted unanimously to request letter of credit from Traders and Farmers Bank which would provide a means for a short-term loan should it be needed for completion of the Phase I work.

Betty G. Denton, Secretary/Treasurer