

# Friends of the Big Empty

## Board Meeting Minutes

**DATE** August 26, 2023

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**TIME** 10:00 AM – 11:45 AM

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**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY** Exa Lee Smith

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### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Exa Lee Smith, Cindie Kesler, Dee Shoemake, Alex Vukasin, Marcella Barden, Jennifer McDaniel

### **ABSENT**

Brandi Kureska, Jessica McDermott, Becky Offut

### **GUESTS**

Penny Bisbee - JIM BOB ART PARK & NATURE TRAILS – Benjamin, TX

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

As this is the initial creation of the board for Friends of The Big Empty (FOTBE), there are no prior minutes to read and approve.

### **BOARD**

Alex Vukasin was nominated as President. Cindie Kesler was nominated as Treasurer. Marcella Barden was nominated as Secretary. All present voted in favor of all three positions. The terms for each position will be defined in the next board meeting.

The following 3 website domains received a unanimous vote to proceed with purchase:

[www.friends of the big empty.org](http://www.friends of the big empty.org)

[www.friends of the big empty.com](http://www.friends of the big empty.com) (for redirect to [www.friends of the big empty.org](http://www.friends of the big empty.org))

[www.explorethebigempty.com](http://www.explorethebigempty.com)

Marcella Barden will pay GoDaddy and be reimbursed by FOTBE at a future date once funds are available.

A unanimous vote was received for Cindie Kesler to proceed with the filing of “Form 202 - Certificate of Formation - Nonprofit Corporation” with the Texas Secretary of State.

Cindie Kesler will pay TXSOS fees and be reimbursed by FOTBE at a future date once funds are available.

A unanimous vote was received for Cindie Kesler to proceed with opening a bank account for FOTBE with First Bank Texas in Munday.

## **TOPICS OF DISCUSSION**

- Mascot/Logo creation. Possible contest for Knox County students to be involved.
- Finalize Photo Release Form with Description and/or Purpose verbiage used on Form 202.
- Photo Contest to initiate/introduce website.
- Fundraising ideas. Calendars with photos submitted by residents. Recipe book. Puzzles of photo contest winners.
- Meet with EDC for each city to introduce FOTBE and [www.ExploreTheBigEmpty.com](http://www.ExploreTheBigEmpty.com).
- Creation of Bylaws for FOTBE.
- Obtaining Sponsors for website and outreach activities.
- Jim Bob Art Park Arts Festival in November.
- Seymour Helping Hands Spring Fling May 2024.
- Zoom or Google Meet as options to attend meetings.
- Obtain email for 6666 to possibly sponsor [www.ExploreTheBigEmpty.com](http://www.ExploreTheBigEmpty.com).
- Contact Wyman Meinzer to let him know we would like to use his quote from the Texas Highways article on The Big Empty, Marcella will contact Penny Bisbee for his email address.
- Obtain grants for use in promoting tourism.
- Contact Don Thompson to write article for Knox County Courier once the time is right to start making announcements and promoting activities.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **NEXT MEETING**

September 5<sup>th</sup>, 7p-8p, Location TBD