

Friends of the Big Empty

Board Meeting Minutes

DATE October 17, 2023

TIME 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Alex Vukasin

IN ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Exa Lee Smith, Cindie Kesler, Dee Shoemake, Alex Vukasin, Marcella Barden, Brandi Kureska, Jessica McDermott (6p-7p) **Volunteer Members:** Mariah McDermott (6p-7p)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6:06 PM

Marcella provided the minutes of the 09-26-2023 meeting. Changes made to add the **Motion** to end the meeting at 9:08 pm: Dee **Second:** Exa Lee, **Approval:** No other changes were made.

Motion to approve 09-26-2023 Minutes: Exa Lee, **Second:** Cindie, **Approval:** Unanimous

NEW BUSINESS

1. Kent county is home of Jayton where Jim Corder was born, lived, etc., and yet we do not have Kent County on our list. Could we add it?
Motion to add Kent County to our list: Exa Lee, **Second:** Cindie **Approval:** Unanimous
2. Can we have signage on the building or window of the building where we have our office and list the open hours?
ACTION: Cindie said Jenna Searcy is ok with this and will discuss it with her further to get more details.
3. Those who want to participate in Explore the big Empty cannot get on the website for their town yet. Goree and Weinert women who want to be the ones to do this for their town are still not on it. Suggestion?
ACTION: Anyone can:
 - submit a photo from <https://explorethebigempty.com/submit-a-photo>
 - subscribe to Explore The Big Empty at <https://explorethebigempty.com/subscribe>
 - send an email with questions to contact@explorethebigempty.com
4. When does a place of interest become an advertisement? We talked about listing anyone in the Places section but then if they wanted to advertise, we could link them to a Sponsors or Advertising section that has more details?
ACTION: This is resolved in the Item 6 discussion to send an introduction email with membership levels/benefits for places and sponsors.
5. Exa Lee provided safety information, location of fire extinguishers and exit, need for a doorbell, surveillance. There are plans to set up a schedule for use of the conference room which is shared with other tenants in the building.
ACTION: We will add a **Building Business** section to future agendas to cover any changes or new information.
6. **Moved from 9/26 TABLED:**
Send an introduction email with membership levels/benefits to board members for review that will go to Chamber of Commerce office emails or physical address obtained so far.

7. **Moved from 9/26 TABLED:**

Review draft content of www.friendsofthebigempty.org and www.explorethebigempty.com. All photos are stock photos from GoDaddy. Changes will be made as needed going forward. **NO FURTHER ACTION.**

OLD BUSINESS

9/5 TABLED:

1. Contest - Exa Lee suggested asking Wyman and Penny, if available at the right time, to judge the photographs of which one would be chosen to represent the Big Empty when the website is set up. Exa Lee added that David Kachel agreed to be a judge.
2. Contest - Alex brought up an inspiration idea (tumbleweed) for the mascot/logo contest. Others mentioned horned toad, RV, jackalope. Cindie offered a new purple video camera as a prize for the contest. Need a list of ISD's in all 10 counties to contact Superintendents.
3. Fundraising - Ideas from the group include a recipe book, including photo winners in a calendar, postcards, or puzzles of website photos.
4. Social Media Admin - Official emails are obtained for both websites. Ready to create facebook (created 10/1/23), Instagram, etc. accounts. Determine who will administer these accounts.

9/26 TABLED:

1. Create a Membership Committee to add new members, provide instructions to subscribe to either Friends of The Big Empty or Explore The Big Empty notifications, where to find calendar events on ETBE or minutes on FOTBE websites. Unsubscribe Option always provided on notifications generated by either website.

BOARD

1. Cindie provided the Treasurer's Report dated 10/17/23.
Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Exa Lee, **Second:** Brandi, **Approval:** Unanimous
2. **Motion** to end the meeting at 7:54 pm: Dee, **Second:** Brandi, **Approval:** Unanimous

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, November 7th, 6p-8p, 111 N Munday Ave, Suite 1, Munday, TX 76371
or online via Google Meet (email contact@friendsofthebigempty.com for the link)