

Friends of the Big Empty

Minutes

Board meeting

DATE April 16, 2024

TIME 7:10 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Alex Vukasin

IN ATTENDANCE

Exa Lee Smith, Alex Vukasin, Marcella Barden, Jessica McDermott, Mariah McDermott, Becky Offutt, Brandi Kureska.

Absent: Cindie Kesler

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes with no changes to the 3/26/24 meeting by Becky, second by Exa Lee and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Jessica created a Google Map of The Big Empty locations we've visited. Marcella has posted a link to the map on Explore The Big Empty. Scroll down to the bottom of the home page to see it. Discuss the location on the website, photos to add, layout before adding same to Friends of The Big Empty website and where to link it.

Action: Everyone will review the map for placement on the website before deciding at next meeting where to add on friendsofthebigempty.org.

2. Status of the Places Project from all Board Members:
 - **Arts & Sciences:** Brandi; **Churches:** Cindie; **Dining:** Alex; **Golf Courses:** Exa Lee; **Lakes, Hunting, Fishing:** Jessica/Mariah; **Lodging & RV Parks:** Jessica/Mariah; **Museums:** Cindie; **Rodeos:** Marcella
 - Received list of all county courthouses from Cindie.
 - **Action: We will add a separate Courthouse section to the Places section.**
3. Status of Chamber of Commerce Project from Marcella. Locate at least one Chamber of Commerce office in each of 13 counties. 10 had email addresses to inquire about non-profit memberships. 5 have responded so far. Memberships vary. At least one Chamber of Commerce in each county: Responses As of 4/12/24

County	Town	Non-Profit Option Y/N	Cost	Type	Active Y/N
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Baylor	Seymour	N	\$250	Business	Y
Cottle	Paducah				
Dickens	Spur	Y	\$35	Non-profit Org	Y
Foard	Crowell				
Haskell	Haskell	N	\$120	1-4 Employees	Y
Kent	Jayton				N
King	None				
Knox	Knox City				N
Hardeman	Quanah				
Throckmorton	Throckmorton		Free this year		Y
Stonewall	Stonewall				
Wilbarger	Vernon				
Jones/Haskell	Stamford	Y	\$60	Non-profit Org	Y

Action: Join Throckmorton COC for now and TABLE the rest for next meeting. We will see if any more responses arrive and decide on joining Dickens and Stamford.

4. Verify info received from Don Thompson to be included in our Notable Residents section of the website.

Action: Mariah will check with Cindie to see if it will be ready in time for May newsletter.

5. Jessica received a text from Ronda Thompson with the Lions club. She is wanting a representative from our club to talk about Friends of the Big empty on Tues, April 23rd at noon.

Action: Jessica will text Ronda for more information, # of members, location (Mati's?), time needed to present and if we can change to 4/30 to have more time to prepare. Exa Lee wants to be one of the reps.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Penny Bisbee with Jim Bob Art Park & Nature Trails has invited FOTBE to sponsor their April 20 Earth Day Celebration from 10-2. The cost is a minimum \$25 donation, and we are welcome to set up a display/table.

Action: Exa Lee motion to sponsor this event. Brandi second, pass unanimously. Becky gave Marcella \$25 and Marcella will add \$25 to give to Cindie to make a \$50 sponsor donation. Marcella will obtain payment details from JBAPNT and send to Cindie. We will not be able to attend the event and Penny Bisbee has been notified by Marcella.

2. Need a motion to spend money on boosting a facebook ad for the mascot contest. We've been spending \$25 to run for 4 days in a 50-mile radius with Goree in the center. Can run ad over a weekend beginning April 19.

Action: Exa Lee motion to run this ad. Brandi second, pass unanimously. Becky gave \$15 and Brandi gave \$10 to Marcella to spend \$25 on a facebook ad the weekend beginning 4/19. For accounting purposes, should this go through Cindie/FOTBE?

REPORTS

1. 4 total contest entries
2. No new sponsors

NEW TOPICS

1. The Munday Market was a success for Moving Munday Forward in April. Their next event is May 11th and we may want to obtain a space for FOTBE. We can decide at our May 7th meeting if we haven't discussed beforehand. We need to get better prepared for future events and have a table/tent/promotional information/items.
2. A rummage sale was suggested on July 4th at the concrete park to benefit FOTBE. Cindie provided further information via email:
 - a. Let's participate in the next Munday Market (in May) with a space or two and have a rummage sale of donated items.
 - b. Let's have a booth in the MEC (Munday Event Center) during the 4th of July Thing event. Moving Munday Forward has in the past allowed Non-profits to set up a booth inside for free. We could sell the Munday history books, our Cookbook if it is ready, Tee shirts, buttons, etc. And memberships and donations could be taken then too. If we had a super cool framed photo of something in the Big Empty, we could have a raffle.
3. Exa Lee is expecting to have information on a Rule Notable Resident, Larry Westbrook sp? She ran into someone who is gathering historical information in the area and mentioned she was in the process of writing about him.
4. Newsletter: Becky will provide a recipe to Mariah for the Newsletter.
5. Newsletter: We will spotlight our board meeting trip to Rochester in the Newsletter.
6. Newsletter: Two new photos have been posted in Throckmorton County. Either can be one of the photos of the month.

CLOSE MEETING

- Motion to close meeting 8:00 PM: Exa Lee, 2nd: Brandi Vote: Yes, unanimous

NEXT MEETING

- May 7th, 6-8 pm, Becky Offutt's house