

Friends of the Big Empty

Minutes

Board meeting

DATE June 4, 2024

TIME 6:10 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Alex Vukasin

IN ATTENDANCE

Exa Lee Smith, Cindie Kesler, Alex Vukasin, Marcella Barden, Jessica McDermott, Mariah McDermott, Becky Offutt.

GUEST: Daniel McDermott

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jessica made a motion to approve 5/7/24 minutes with changes to New Business, Newsletter ideas section, move item e. and h. to July. Becky seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously after corrections.

BOARD UPDATES

Chamber of Commerce Project:

County	Town	Application Submitted	Non-Profit Option Y/N	Cost	Type	Active Y/N
Dickens	Spur	Ready for Cindie to mail check with application on 7/2/24 @ 50% Cost for remainder of year, \$17.50	Y	\$35	Non-profit Org	Y
Throckmorton	Throckmorton	5/6/24 Included flyer and latest newsletter		Free this year		Y
Jones/Haskell	Stamford	Ready for Cindie to mail check with application on 7/2/24 @ 50% Cost for remainder of year, \$30.00	Y	\$60	Non-profit Org	Y

Places Project:

Board members agreed to review the Places to be sure the following helpful information for travelers is included.

Place Name: **County:** **Address:** **Website and/or Facebook:** **Description:**

Find an Email contact on their website or facebook to explain our plan of action. If an email address cannot be found, a physical address will be needed to mail them information instead.

Mascot Contest:

1. Closed mascot contest on May 31.

2. May 31: Cleaned up websites and removed mascot contest related materials.
3. June 4: Voted for the mascot. Final entries were available at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YV4mcD56yv-thB4ID8CnKGm4ZYHKX4NU?usp=drive_link
Winner: Ashton Kuehler/Tele
4. Based on winner's location, discuss options where to schedule presentation to be awarded in person by June 30th. We want to have as many board members present as possible.
5. Alex/Marcella will notify Ashton and confirm to board members that contact was made.
6. Take photos during presentation of check and video camera.
7. Marcella will post final announcement of the winning mascot on both websites, newsletter, facebook.
8. Jessica will post final announcement of the winning mascot on Instagram.
9. Becky will notify local newspaper(s) and provide a copy of the final announcement/photos. (Haskell Free Press)
10. Becky will a request digital file from Ashton Kuehler.

FOTBE Booth at 4th of July Thing –ideas for 10x10 booth:

1. Setup can start at noon
2. Event hours are 3p-10p, booths are expected to close down by 6p
3. Staffing the booth:
 - a. Marcella/Alex available 2p-5p
 - b. Exa Lee available 2p (possibly with help from Selena Callicotte)
 - c. Cindie available around Cakewalk duties at 4p and 5p
 - d. Becky at Welcome area duties
 - e. Mariah and Jessica at Salt Fork Ham Club duties
4. Expenses to be reviewed/approved at July 2 Board Meeting for sale items:
 - a. Cookbooks - \$0
 - b. Munday history books - \$0
 - c. T-shirts with mascot (delayed for future discussion)
 - d. 2 Raffles for a metal photo of Brazos with Explore The Big Empty and Puzzle of same photo, \$1 per ticket, \$5 for 6 tickets, Drawing at 6pm, Raffle tickets provided by Exa Lee/Becky/Cindie
5. Drawing at 6 pm for a free one-year Vaquero membership by dropping business cards or filling out a business card. Winner to be announced by event host. Marcella will print a small batch of blank business cards to fill out in case they are needed.
6. Advertise in advance the items we will be selling. Include graphics and text for Marcella/Alex/Jessica to post on facebook and Instagram. (none received)

Newsletter ideas for July 1:

1. Upcoming Events – 4th of July Thing,
2. Photo of the Month – mascot winner
3. Recipe - Becky
4. Main article – contest winner/article by Alex/Marcella
5. Featured Sponsor – Moved Texas Ag Insurance Agency from June to July, need video link from Becky
6. Exploration Suggestion – Brine Lake in Truscott by Exa Lee
7. Notable Resident – Moved Don Thompson from June to July, still need his photo
8. New Member/Sponsor: Shirley Welch, Munday

Membership Committee:

1. Membership Committee created to provide a thank you and welcome process for new members/sponsors to be sure they are introduced in newsletter and facebook and subscribed to the newsletter.
2. Becky will send Shirley Welch an official thank you on behalf of Friends of The Big Empty and encourage subscription to the newsletter at <https://friendsofthebigempty.org/subscribe>.
3. Mariah will make sure new members are mentioned in the newsletter.

FUTURE NOTABLE RESIDENTS TO CONSIDER

1. Mary Jane Young
2. Dr. Phil
3. Joyce Turner
4. Calina Mishay
5. Charles Baker
6. Charles Durham

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, July 2, 6-8 pm, Becky's house