

Friends of The Big Empty

Board Meeting

Minutes

December 17, 2024

6:05 PM

111 N. Munday Ave. Conference Room

Meeting called to order by: Alex

IN ATTENDANCE: Alex Vukasin, Marcella Barden, Exa Lee Smith, Cindie Kesler, Becky Offutt

Absent: Jessica McDermott, Mariah McDermott, Celena Callicotte

GUESTS: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the November 19, 2024 meeting were read and approved unanimously with the following changes:

The heading should say Minutes instead of Agenda.

Attendees were Becky, Exa Lee, Cindie, Alex and Jessica.

Absent were: Marcella, Mariah and CeLena.

Remove December 1 newsletter section since it did not go out.

Numbers from the Website/Facebook reports are attached.

Misspelling on Exa Lee's memorial sponsorship – should be Rue Del Peysen-Roberts.

Jessica can make updates to the November Minutes and send to Marcella for posting on the website.

BOARD UPDATES

None

OLD BUSINESS

CeLena should provide a photo to be published on the website with the other board members. She sent an email that she may have reduced availability and is not sure if she should continue as a board member. This email came in after the board meeting and can be discussed in the next meeting if necessary.

Alex needs to get with Jessica regarding facebook admin on Explore The Big Empty page.

REPORTS

- Treasurer/Fundraising
 - 25 recipe books sold by members

- Christmas Raffle fundraiser – Carolina Torres winner of hand-crocheted wrap donated by Cindie Kesler
- Website/Facebook Statistics – none since newsletter was missed
- Instagram – n/a
- Sponsors - none

NEWSLETTER January 1

- Upcoming Events: Marcella will look on facebook to see what is coming up and add to the Event Calendar for Mariah to include.
 - Haskell County Livestock Show 1st week of January
 - Knox County Livestock Show, January 9-11
- Photo of the Month: Alex has one (sunrise) that he will send with a description
- Recipe: Becky has a Blackeyed Pea Soup recipe, it is not in the book so she will send it to Mariah
- Main article: Alex will put something together for New Years Resolutions
- New Sponsor: Munday Lions Club (Vaquero), Rue Del Peysen-Roberts (In memory of)
- Featured Sponsor: Munday Lions Club (pending receipt of questionnaire)
- Exploration Suggestion: None mentioned
- Notable Resident: Joe Barrington if possible, Marcella will try to make contact (refer to Tri-County Magazine or facebook for contact info)
- Other:
 - Becky will send a photo to Mariah of Don Thompson (one of our Notable Residents) being sworn in as Knox County Judge to serve out the current term of Stan Wojcik for the next two years.
 - Carolina Torres winner of hand-crocheted wrap donated by Cindie Kesler with photo provided by Cindie. Marcella will scan the photo to be included.
 - Marcella will contact the Haskell facebook to see if we can include the Christmas parade on the website which will help us with more content for Haskell County.
 - Becky has a photo of Santa.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Minutes needing to be distributed within 3-5 days of a board meeting. This will help make sure everyone can review while fresh in memory and identify assigned tasks. For example, several items mentioned to put in Dec 1 newsletter did not get passed to Mariah. The newsletter did not go out December 1.

The attendees should be listed on the Minutes. This is part of the template. A copy of the template is included.

We need to have a procedures manual. There are steps we are missing and a manual will be helpful in knowing who does what and how they do it. This will be a work in progress and available for all board members to review. For example, we missed welcoming new sponsors because we didn't get forms filled out and distributed as discussed in the July 2 Board Meeting.

The Munday Lions Club (recent new sponsor) will be added to the sponsors page and will be the featured sponsor of Jan 1 newsletter if questionnaire is received in time. Otherwise, they can be featured in the Feb 1 newsletter.

Cindie and Exa Lee brought up recent discussions with David Trevino and Bob Bowen about the possibility of creating a visitors center for the area. Exa Lee mentioned there is a house on S. 4th/Main in Munday that could be a good spot for something like this. It was originally a home with a flower shop in front. Cindie mentioned there is a state program for tourism which may have grants to pursue funding for this idea. There will be more discussions with the city manager and mayor to see how Friends of The Big Empty might help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CLOSE MEETING

Marcella made a motion to close the meeting at 6:52. Cindie seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

February 25, 6pm, 121 E. B Street, Munday (Cindie's office)