

Friends of The Big Empty

Board Meeting

Minutes

August 20, 2024

6:04 PM

111 N. Munday Ave. Conference Room

Meeting called to order by : Alex Vukasin

IN ATTENDANCE: Alex Vukasin, Marcella Barden, Cindie Kesler, Jessica McDermott, Mariah McDermott, Becky Offutt, Exa Lee Smith (6:56 PM)

GUESTS: CeLena Callicotte, Dave Fisher

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the 7/2/24 meeting were read with these proposed changes:

Removed the following items:

Change in approval of 6/4/24 Minutes: In Newsletter section, move Exploration Suggestion from July 1 to August 1: Exploration Suggestion – Brine Lake in Truscott by Exa Lee

Newsletter section for August 1:

- b. Photo of the Month – Per Exa Lee, Laura Dodd from Haskell is expected to submit photos and one can be chosen from that group.
- c. Recipe – Becky
- g. Exploration Suggestion – moved from Jul 1: Exa Lee expected to submit a writeup on Brine Lake in Truscott or Miller Creek

Cindie made a motion to approve 7/2/24 Minutes with changes, Second: Mariah,

Vote: Yes unanimously, Motion passed

BOARD UPDATES

Cindie proposed renewing post office box for 6 months at \$42.00 and purchase of thank you cards for 30.00.

Becky made a motion to approve \$72.00 proposed by Cindie, Second: Marcella

Vote: Yes unanimously, Motion passed

Annual Board Member Elections/Appointments

- Alex Vukasin is willing to serve as President for another year.
 - Marcella made a motion to vote for Alex as President through 8/26/25, Second: Cindie
 - Vote: Yes unanimously, Motion passed

- Marcella Barden is resigning as Secretary but can continue as Board Member 3
 - Exa Lee made a motion to accept resignation of Marcella as Secretary and continue as Board Member 3, Second: Becky
 - Vote: all yes except for Jessica no, Motion passed
- Jessica McDermott, Board Member 6 is willing to assume role of Secretary.
 - Marcella made a motion to move Jessica into Secretary role, Second: Exa Lee
 - Vote: Yes unanimously, Motion passed
- CeLena Callicotte is interested in the vacant Board Member 4 position.
 - Becky made a motion to approve CeLena Callicotte for the Board Member 4 position, Second: Marcella
 - Vote: Yes unanimously. Motion passed

REPORTS

- Treasurer/Fundraising
 - 1172.48 - FIRST BANK TEXAS
 - 1,182 – PETTY CASH
 - 1,025 – COOKBOOK SALES
- Website/Facebook Statistics
 - FOTBE 2950 last 12 months, 275 last 30 days, 99 peak on 7/14
 - ETBE 5525 last 12 months, 330 last 30 days, 42 peak on 8/1
- Instagram
 - Alex will see about moving Explore The Big Empty on facebook under contact@friendsofthebigempty.com and then linking it to the Friends of The Big Empty on Instagram. Currently the ETBE is linked to Alex facebook account and Jessica runs the FOTBE Instagram.
- Membership
 - Change terminology to Sponsorship going forward
 - Websites, forms, flyer, etc.
 - Two new Buckaroo Sponsors: CeLena Callicotte, Munday; Dave Fisher, Munday

NEW BUSINESS

- Suggestions for improvement from 4th of July Thing Event
 - Set up separate containers to collect for raffle(s), book sales, memberships, etc. to reduce bookkeeping activities during event (Marcella brought a sample of boxes that can be used in the future).
 - Create the layout in advance to agree how display should look and reduce clutter
- Transferred GoDaddy products from Marcella Barden personal account to FOTBE account 618173603
- Post Exa Lee presentation on FOTBE website in About section and add link from ETBE About page
- Reimburse Marcella today for \$477.53 approved GoDaddy charges at the last meeting.
- Steve Bridges from Spur Chamber of Commerce called 8/19/24. They received our membership application/check and have started something new called a reciprocal membership. We can be members/sponsors of each other's organizations. The check for \$17.50 (one half of yearly non-profit organization) will be destroyed. We will create a separate sponsor page for this type and a new form to use for other Chambers or organizations that may be interested in this type. Marcella will notify Steve on 8/21 this was discussed and create a sponsor form.

- Places on ETBE website: Marcella will take screenshots of current pages listed in the Places section and then remove all contact information. Leave only the name and town of the Place. Use the contact information to make the businesses aware of this page and determine if they would like to become a sponsor before we provide free promotion. Marcella will upload the contact information in Google drive with a link via email.
- Post the Once Upon A Town video in the Knox County section.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGnQAdlbpXE> This is a video created by students in Munday HS media class and would be a good example for other similar school projects to post in their county section. This might also encourage more participation in photo/narratives for each county.

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 1

- Upcoming Events:
- Photo of the Month:
- ~~Recipe:-~~
- Main article: My Home Town book on Munday, Alex, pics sent to Mariah
- New Sponsor: CeLena Callicotte, Munday; Dave Fisher, Munday
- Featured Sponsor: Kreations by Gabi, sent completed questionnaire to Mariah
- ~~Exploration Suggestion: 50's museum in Knox City (who?)~~
- ~~Notable Resident: Dr. Phil videos~~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

CLOSE MEETING

Jessica made a motion to close the meeting at 8:14 PM, Second: Mariah, Vote: Yes unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 17, 6-8 PM, 111 N. Munday Ave. Conference Room