

**BOREN PROPERTY ADVISORY**

**COUNCIL June 16, 2023**

**10:00 AM**

**Roll Call**

**Board Members**

In attendance:

Charlsa Boren Bentley, Chair  
Barbara Black  
Pete McCaskill  
Tom Sale

Absent:

WL Sanders

**Staff in Attendance**

Jessica Martinez,  
Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor  
Pamela O'Hearn, Customer Service Attendant/Recording Secretary

**1. Call to order: 10:00 AM**

**2. Consider approval of the minutes from the February 10, 2023 meeting.**

Charlsa asked that members read over the February 10, 2023 minutes at their leisure and notify if any corrections needed to be made.

**3. Reports and discussion items:**

**A. Receive a report regarding activities at Russell Farm Art Center. (Staff Presenter: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor).**

Staff reviewed activities, classes and public attendance in regards to events at the farm.

**Receive a report and hold a discussion regarding the activities of the Russell Farm Historical Advisory Committee Chair) Historical Advisory Committee (HAC) Chairperson Barbara Black reported on the HAC activities and responded to board members' comments and questions.**

Diana Waters was welcomed as a new member of the Historical Advisory Committee in March. Mrs. Waters has served the community of Burleson as a former educator, an artist, a volunteer with the Burleson Lion's Club in their vision program for students in the public schools. She and Philo Waters, a former Historical Advisory Committee member, lived several years beside the home of Russell William Lace and wife Martha (Gigi) Russell on County Road 714.

Many of the Historical Advisory Committee members serve frequently as volunteers for events at Russell Farm. Following the April Easter Egg Hunt and the May Show Me How events the members developed a list of suggestions for the staff at Russell Farm to consider for helping in the use of volunteers at the farm.

- a. A volunteer to be assigned to set up the table of snacks and water in the Office. Volunteers to be informed this is available for all volunteers.
- b. Bright colored lanyards with Volunteer Russell Farm for volunteers.
- c. A list of volunteer opportunities for the day to be posted beside the sign- in sheet in the Office.
- d. Clickers to be used by a volunteer at the gate of entry and on the grounds as vendors are setting up prior to the event and to tally guests arriving for an event.
- e. Volunteers to be encouraged to check in on Facebook while working an event and also to encourage guests to check in on Facebook.
- f. Provide a volunteer greeter to be stationed at the concrete area near the greenhouse with a map to welcome guests to the farm and provide directions.

Eighteen guests were provided a tour of the Russell Boren Home in March. During April the Russell Boren Home was not available for touring due to wildlife under and around the home. The first Saturday in May tours were given to thirteen guests. Private tour of the home was given to 25 guests on May 30th. In total 56 guests toured the house March-May 2023.

The Historical Advisory Committee continues to promote and support Russell Farm with their time and talents. Each member is grateful to have opportunities to share the farm with the community.

Pete McCaskill asked if we did anything for our volunteers. We have an appreciation breakfast for the volunteers in April and a luncheon in November.

**Receive a report regarding activities of the Art Advisory Committee (Presenter: Tom Sale, Art Council Chair)**

A new display area for Gary Burkins wood sculpture was created in the Baker building from previous storage space.

Red Chair Lecture in March with guest artist Gary Burkins shared his personal experience of being mentored by Charlie Boren and how it has influenced his life.

We are pleased with the continued interest of in person and through social media with Saturday morning sketch group.

Planning in process of offering 2-3 public art classes each first Saturday beginning in September.  
(Pending payment method discussions.)

Tom Sale created 4 coloring pages related to Russell Farm that was used by Capital One Bank to enlarge and create an adult coloring station for its employees at its N. Dallas Campus. Capital One bank is donating \$1000 to our garage remodeling project at Russell Farm.

We are closing in on our \$15K fundraising plan for garage remodeling project.

We have made a good relationship with Triangle Nonprofit Publishing out of Bedford who has visited the farm several times and created a "zine" based on one of our Saturday themes. They plan on participating in outdoor events at the farm bringing a tent that can be set up as various things, including a temporary kid reading library.

We currently have art exhibition in the Baker Building Gallery from artist Tiny Irizarry and Maria Villa (Both regular Saturday sketch group artists). August exhibition will be UNT Special Collections, are loaning Russell Farm a collection of historic Texas cattle brands and Texas Photographs that will be on display August through the fall.

Red chair lectures will move to Saturdays and be more family oriented.

Question of how to offer first Saturday classes as many had to be cancelled due to low enrollment. Possibly giving the artist an honorarium and the city/farm get the profit.

The Friends of Russell Farm have charge of the money for the Art Studio/Garage remodel.

Charlsa, that's how you grow community-first you have to get them out here, then people can find opportunities

7. Set next meeting date, October 20, 2023

There being no further business, Chair Charlsa Bore Bently Adjourned the meeting.

Time: 10:58 AM

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Pamela O'Hearn, Recording Secretary