

Historical Advisory Committee BPAC Report  
September 23, 2022  
Submitted by Barbara Black, Historical Committee Advisory Chair

It is with regret I inform the members of BPAC of the loss of Historical Advisory Committee member Mr. Philo Waters. Mr. Waters passed away March 24, 2022. His presence at our meetings is missed. The Historical Advisory Committee was blessed to have his wisdom. Philo Waters enriched our lives and lives of many in the community of Burleson.

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At the Historical Advisory Committee meeting in March, the Committee recognized the ten-year anniversary of the gift of Russell Farm Art Center by Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Boren to the City of Burleson. A Spring bouquet with a note from the Historical Advisory Committee members was delivered to Mrs. Louise Boren by Mary Ann Spaun and Barbara Black. The Historical Advisory Committee members assisted in the planning of the 10 Year Anniversary. Invitations were sent to former board members, Mayor Chris Fletcher, City Council members and city staff, supporters of Russell Farm Art center and citizens of Burleson. The celebration was April 23, 2022 in the Chesapeake Building.

Lee Jarrett was honored for his years of service at Russell Farm Art Center. A breakfast was given in the newly remodeled Chesapeake Building March 29, 2022. Members volunteered to serve as cooks and servers for the thank you breakfast.

A sign for the cistern in the backyard of the Russell Boren Home was discussed during April. Mrs. Louise Boren requested the sign as a way for guests to learn about cisterns. Members were asked to work on information for a narrative to be placed on the sign. The narrative will be as follows pending additions or corrections.

Cistern

A cistern is a rain water collection device as opposed to a well which draws water from the ground. Stone cisterns were found near older houses and on farms. The roof of the kitchen, which was near the cistern, was used as a rain collector, with downspouts delivering rain water to the cistern. The collected water was used for laundry and to water gardens.

It is under consideration to add a picture to the sign showing what the cistern might have looked like during the time it was used on Russell Farm.

The Russell Boren Home was open to guests 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. April 23, 2022 for docent guided tours on April 23, 2022 for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The home was temporarily closed at 11:00 a.m. for docents to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ceremony. The Russell Boren Home has been open for tours in May and June and will continue to be open the First Saturday of each month.

May 13, 2022, members discussed a schematic sign of the Russell Farm Art Center and narrative historical signs for the Russell Boren Home, Dairy Barn, Baker Building, and Chesapeake Building. Specific requirements were established. All signs will be weatherproof, metal, font suitable for a historical farm, sepia in color and mounted on a standard display pole. The funding for the cistern sign will be paid for with funds provided by Russell Farm Art Center and narrative historical signs will be paid for with donations. Plans for securing donations have not been decided at this time.

Historical Advisory Committee members met June 7, 2022 and discussed the size specifications for the narrative signs and the schematic sign for Russell Farm Art Center. Specifications were suggested 8 ½" x 11" for the cistern, Russell Boren Home, Dairy Barn, Baker Building, and Chesapeake Building and the schematic map to be 18" x 18". The narratives for the buildings and a redrawing of the schematic map have been placed on hold as the Historical Advisory Committee members did not meet in July or August.

A debriefing of the Texas Heritage Festival was also discussed. Positives: The Honda Helpers, helpers from the Brick, water available for volunteers, food trays for volunteers, donuts for vendors and volunteers before opening. Suggestions for 2023: Keep the time 10 AM-4 PM for Texas Heritage Festival, provide preordered lunch for volunteers/vendors, the office sofa and chair area to be designated as a cool space for volunteers, more hand-held tally counters for staff/parking attendants and a hand-held PA system.

September was a short meeting with an update about some improvements to the farm during July and August. The Dairy Barn and Chesapeake Buildings have new ADA toilets and entrance ramps. The Dairy Barn storage closet near the back door has been converted to additional gallery space for Charlie Boren Art, the interior of the Chesapeake Building was repainted, and internet connection is in the process of being updated.

Also, some of the many classes and presentations in the summer for children and adults were shared with the members. There were writing workshops, a talk by an arborist, Fun on the Farm Camps, Junior Master Gardner classes, an herbal presentation, Saturday science classes for youth, A Watermelon Afternoon celebration for Parks and Recreation month, the Texas Heritage Festival, art classes for youth and adults, and homeschool classes. The farm has been a busy happy place this summer for the citizens of Burleson. The members were pleased the farm continues to serve the community in such a positive way.

Members of the Historical Advisory Committee appreciate your support in their efforts to support and sustain history at Russell Farm Art Center. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.