

**Farmersville Main Street Board
Meeting Minutes November 29, 2011
5:00 p.m., Best Center**

The meeting was brought to order at 5:05 p.m. Present were Main Street Manager, Adah Leah Wolf, and board members Jim Dawkins, Matthew Busby, Bryan Williams, and Randal Shinn.

Visitors: Linda Dawkins, Loydell Seward, Diane Piwko

Minutes from September 20, 2011: Randal Shinn made a motion that the September 20, 2011 minutes be accepted as printed; Matthew Busby seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Consider for approval September and October 2011 Financial Statements: Randal Shinn made a motion to approve the September and October 2011 financial statement as printed; Bryan Williams seconded the motion, which passed.

Museum Planning Committee Progress: Linda Dawkins reported that the committee several times, and are identifying possible downtown buildings which might be available. The Farmersville Historical Society discussed loaning items from the collection to be used in the museum setting. An oral history project with FISH videotaping class is planned; suggestions for questions and persons to interview are welcomed. The next Museum Planning Committee meeting is planned for December 5.

Security System for Downtown: Guest Diane Piwko reported that Police Chief Mike Sullivan had attended a Downtown Merchants meeting to talk about vandalism including BB gunshots at downtown windows. Sullivan suggested a video surveillance system in the downtown area might help catch the culprits. Piwko and Sullivan gave a presentation to the 4B board to request monies for a downtown video security system. The 4B board suggested the issue be discussed at Main Street board to get more downtown input. Piwko feels that approximately \$3000 could be raised toward a system from downtown building/business owners. Dawkins pointed out that a system would have to be comprehensive to be effective, and might be controversial due to perceived loss of privacy, and would be time intensive to review video tapes. Randal Shinn made the motion that the board request more detailed information on a system from Chief Sullivan, so that this can be discussed in more detail. Motion seconded by Matthew Busby, and passed.

City Historical Marker Program: Guest Loydell Seward discussed the idea for the creation of a city historical marker program. Many cities have their own marker programs to designate historical buildings and sites; this adds prestige to the sites and makes them more appealing to tourists. This program would augment the existing state and county marker programs. The cost of the markers would be in the \$200-\$300 range and could be borne by the building owner. Many historic commercial buildings and residences are in the city. Seward felt that Main Street could provide the initial program

organization. Adah Leah Wolf noted that the Main Street Program is focused on the Main Street District, which are mostly commercial buildings. She also noted that Main Street has many programs it is currently working on, which does not leave time to take on many new programs, even if they are worthy ones. Piwko relayed that her Travellers insurance agent had indicated to her that marking her building as historic would result in a rate increase. Randal Shinn made the motion that more information be obtained so that the discussion could be held in more detail at a future meeting. Matthew Busby seconded the motion, which carried.

Main Street Manager Report: Adah Leah Wolf reported that research on the Post Office had turned up the original 1938 site plan, which shows nearby buildings and features. She attended the Texas Downtown Association conference in Nacogdoches on Nov. 1-3, where Farmersville Main Street was awarded National Main Street recognition. She distributed copies of the reinvestment statistics graph. She reported on the Doggie Day Festival and the Bike Ride. Christmas décor was selected and purchased by Diane Piwko (funded by 4B), and decoration day downtown was Nov. 22. A postcard will be mailed soon listing all of the Christmas events to be held on December 10. The Sugar Hill banquet room roof has been replaced, and the front columns painted. The Hurst Fielder Baker Home will be undergoing some inside updates. New city street signs are being planned and will include the city logo. A new trailhead sign was installed, and the awning on the Visitor's Center was replaced. The Meguires have done extensive interior work on their building. The Critter Cabin business has been sold; details aren't available yet. Clay Potter has held 2 successful auctions and his next one will be on January 21. Tammy Fording has leased 106 McKinney Street, and Becky Mounger has relocated her business to 101 McKinney Street.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, motion to adjourn was made by Matthew Busby and seconded by Randal Shinn. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.