

Minutes of the Knox County Historical Society

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Members of the Knox County Historical Society met at Lucky's Cafe at 6:00 p.m. Brent Karhoff called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Motion was made by Pam Witherow and seconded by John Webb to approve the August 22, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried. Motion was made by Pat Shultz and seconded by Pam Witherow to approve the September 19, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Margaret Gibson in the absence of Janice McGinnis, Treasurer.

Brent confirmed that the annual Trivia Tournament will be November 4th at the Knox County Community Center. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and trivia begins at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this important fundraiser by volunteering. Please come early and help set up; bring refreshments to share; and assist out wherever you can. I nvite friends and family to put together a team and participate in this event.

The historical society will have a booth at the Knox County Extravaganza on Saturday, November 25th. Donations of items to sell are always appreciated, especially seasonal items. Workers at the booth are also needed. Chances are being sold on a quilt, and a winner will be drawn at the end of the day.

This is the last regular meeting for the season and meetings will resume in March 2024. Brent said the National Honor Society from Knox County R-1 will be helping to close the Museum for the season by covering the displays.

Brent stated that we continue to receive donated items, and it was agreed that some things can be rotated next year to make repeat visits to the Museum more interesting.

Motion was made by John Webb and seconded by RaNae Vaughn to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned to the St. Joseph Church Parish Center for the program.

Brent welcomed everyone to the Parish Center for the program on Knox County plat maps and atlases over the years. He had his personal collection on display and began by sharing the definitions of an atlas and a plat map. He also shared the fact, which we should all have known, that Section 16 of each township was designated to be used for public education according to the Land Ordinance of 1785. This was plain to see in the older plat maps on display.

Anita James, Knox County Assessor, shared information regarding the current plat books and how things have changed over the years. She noted that the measurements of link, rod, chain, and mile that were used by George Washington are still used today. Anita said Knox County, as well as surrounding counties, hires out the development and printing of the current plat books

which takes about a year to complete. She noted that there continues to be more good information in the plat books and they are popular among the residents and visitors.

Ryan Bishop, Edina Chief of Police, shared some mapping information he uses when he is pursuing his hobby of metal detecting. He said Historic Map Works has 1876, 1898, and 1916 maps of Knox County. Other online sites he uses are the Sanborn Fire Maps and Historic Aerials. Locations of fairgrounds, churches, and businesses that no longer exist are visible on these old maps. Ryan said he has detected some interesting historical pieces over the years.

All three presenters had excellent information to share regarding atlases and plat maps through the years and how to access some Knox County history through different websites.

Submitted by Margaret Gibson, Secretary