Penatuhkah Comanche Trails Partnership

MINUTES

April 21, 2025

CHAPS Museum, Coleman, and Zoom

11:00 am – 1:00 pm CDT

Attendance:

Pierce Burns	May
Jan Harwell	Goldthwaite
Brenda Brooks	Goldthwaite
Howard Martin	Coleman
Rod Musick	Santa Anna
Kanjana Weaver	Santa Anna
Burgess Weaver	Santa Anna
Sandi Murray	Santa Anna
Jerry Leonard	DeLeon
Linda Frank	DeLeon
Rose Taylor	DeLeon
Virginia Fleming	Comanche
Linda Pelon	Dallas ZOOM
Tammie Virden	Forts Trail ZOOM
Bob Reynolds	Bangs
Jerry Blankenship	San Saba
Eddie Gomez	Brownwood
Kyndall Howard	Brown County Museum ZOOM
Martha Cupp	Brownwood
Frank Hilton	Brownwood ZOOM
Bill Modawell	Brownwood
Janice Modawell	Brownwood
Suzanne Shield-Polk	Santa Anna ZOOM
Randy Polk	Santa Anna Zoom
Montie Guthrie	Santa Anna
Sandra Guthrie	Santa Anna

Executive Director Montie Guthrie called the meeting to order at 11:05 am at the Santa Anna Visitor Center, Santa Anna Texas. The group was welcomed to Santa Anna by Janice Modawell of the Santa Anna Chamber of Commerce. Montie reported on a successful event in April where photographs and explanations about historical artifacts were shared with the public, generating interest. Jerry discussed a presentation by Guy Narcomey, a Comanche educator, at the De Leon Area Historical Museum on May 31st, which was well-received and covered in local media. Montie also mentioned that Mr.

Narcomey, who attended Jerry's event, spoke at the San Saba County Historical Foundation meeting the following day, sharing similar educational content.

Guthrie asked Secretary-Treasurer Bill Modawell to read the minutes. Modawell asked if there were changes to the minutes as submitted electronically, and if none, a motion would be in order to accept the minutes as submitted. Rose Taylor moved adopting minutes as submitted and Jerry Leonard seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The financial report showed a total of $11,488.70 in the bank account, with $2,248 in the general fund and $9,240.70 from a grant.

Old business.

Montie and Linda discussed the success of a recent event featuring a storyteller, Guy Narcomey, which was made possible through cooperation and shared costs among local organizations. They highlighted the positive impact of the event, including strengthened relationships with the Comanche people and increased interest in the area from visitors. Linda emphasized the importance of proactive planning for future events, suggesting the need for workshops and encouraging each partner to plan at least one event. She also mentioned a new opportunity to engage with the Comanche Nation Dallas Outreach Center.

Montie discussed the positive reception of a recent event and the involvement of the Comanche community, emphasizing the significance of powwow gatherings for them. She clarified that the event was not solely her initiative but involved coordination with local organizations. Montie also mentioned ongoing efforts to secure a grant for a mural in De Leon that would promote the town and the trail, and she encouraged the group to consider workshops on grant writing. The team discussed updating the brochure design to make it more eye-catching and agreed to add a QR code for member contact information. They also planned to reach out to Linda for a quote from a printing company in Lawton.

New Business

The group also addressed concerns about a proposed transmission line that would impact historic sites and private property, with Montie suggesting they gather opposition letters and involve the Comanche tribe and local representatives to protect the area. They planned to meet at the ranch on Thursday at 5:30 to discuss the transmission line issue further, with Linda emphasizing the need to inform energy planners about the Penatuhkah trails and historic sites.

The group discussed the potential for Comanche marker trees to become a significant ecotourism attraction, with Linda suggesting guided tours and the creation of a marker tree trail. They explored ways to identify and protect these trees, including training scouts and working with ranchers. The conversation also touched on the threat posed by a proposed transmission line, which could destroy marker trees and other cultural resources.

The group agreed to organize workshops and outreach efforts to raise awareness about the trees and their significance.The group discussed strategies to engage public schools and colleges in their archaeology and history initiatives. Montie shared successful outreach efforts with local high school and college students, including a new "Cowboys and Indians" program for elementary students. Linda suggested offering

prizes for original research presentations, particularly for Texas history students. Randy advised starting outreach to higher education faculty immediately, as course plans for the next semester are due by the first day of class. The group agreed to target not only archaeology professors but also historians, sociologists, and art faculty, particularly at Christian universities and community colleges.
Montie discussed creating a symbolic representation for the group, inspired by abstract metal constructions in a park and traditional Comanche teepees. He suggested building a large, abstract arrow symbol, similar to those used by the Quajata Comanche, which could be constructed for a fraction of the cost of artist-made arrows. Montie challenged the group to come up with ideas for the symbol and proposed a design using pipe sections, asking for their input by the next meeting.
The group discussed growing recognition of the Pentatuckle/Comanche trails project, with Montie sharing several recent contacts from historical associations and invitations to speak at events. Randy suggested creating an Instagram page to expand their social media presence, particularly noting that reels and images get more traction with younger audiences. The conversation ended with a discussion about AI meeting summaries, which Randy warned might be unreliable due to audio quality issues and single-square audio sources.

Next meeting will be (TENTATIVELY) August 12, 2025 in Goldthwaite.
Motion to adjourn at 12:47

AMENDMENT: Because of the transmission line project, Guthre asked Goldthwaite to allow Comanche to host the next meeting on August 11, which they graciously agreed.