Meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Chairman Russell Cushman.

Members present were: Russell Cushman, Robert Goldstein, Denise Upchurch, John Maxwell, Margaret Bailey and Sarah Nash. Prospective members present were Vanessa Burzynski and Hazel Weidman.

Reading of Minutes: Rebecca Duff was not present so no minutes were read. Since there was no meeting in October no minutes were prepared.

**Committee Reports**

**Treasurer’s Report: Malcolm Green, Chairman**
Malcolm Green was not present so no report was given.

**Nominating Committee: Malcolm Green, Chairman**
Russell Cushman reported that Malcolm Green had been hospitalized so in his absence he instructed the Nominating Committee to present the names of the persons to be nominated to the Grimes County Historical Commission. These names will be given to the County Judge Ben Lehman for approval by the Commissioner’s Court. Names of persons requested to be nominated are:

1. Hazel Weidman
2. Rebecca Duff
3. Vanessa Burzynski
4. Robin Montgomery
5. Sandy Stribling
6. Susan Beaudreaux

A motion was made by Robert Goldstein and seconded by Sarah Nash to accept the seven names stated above to be presented for approval to the County Judge. Motion Passed by a unanimous vote.

**Historical Markers Committee – Denise Upchurch, Chairman**

Denise Upchurch reported no applications for markers had been received. Russell Cushman asked for some ideas on places that we could place some historical markers. Vanessa Burzynski recommended that we get a Historic Cemetery marker for the Odd Fellows Cemetery and possibly a Subject Marker as well. She has already done some research on the cemetery and taken photographs. Vanessa said that she would contact the Odd Fellows Cemetery Association about the marker.
Sarah Nash recommended the Rosenwald school house in Anderson for a historical marker. Russell Cushman commented that Erna Freeman of Anderson has been talking to the Calhoun family about the school building and the plans the Commission has for possibly using it for a museum. The building is owned by the Anderson Shiro CISD but the Calhoun family is using it for personal storage at this time. Russell Cushman stated that someone has already done a great deal of research on that building so it would not be hard to get the documentation needed for a marker. Vanessa Burzynski also commented that the St. Stanislaus Catholic Church in Anderson wanted to purchase a Historic Cemetery medallion for their cemetery. That cemetery already has the Historic Cemetery Designation that was done several years earlier. Vanessa stated that she asked the church if they were interested in a Historical Marker but that they did not seem interested because of the cost of the marker and the restrictions that would come from the church being listed as a Registered Historic Landmark. The church was built in 1917 and will be celebrating the 100th Anniversary in 2017 and several activities were being planned in advance of that event. Russell Cushman stated that the Historical Commission might be willing to split the cost of the marker with the church. Robert Goldstein commented that it might not be a good idea and that we would have to offer that to others as well. Russell Cushman stated that the Historical Commission would be willing to pay for markers if others could not afford to. Vanessa said she would contact the Church and see if they were still interested in a Historical Marker. She also stated that the church has already done a written history of the church building.

Discussion was held about a cemetery near Bedias called the Mooring Cemetery that is in need of protection and is located on private land and that we might need to find a living descendent to gain access to the cemetery for preservation and cleaning purposes. It is a very old cemetery on approximately 2 acres with only about 5 or 6 tombstones that needs a fence. Vanessa Burzynski indicated that she had been in contact with someone looking for information on the Mooring Cemetery and that she would look into who that was and give that information to Denise Upchurch and Russell Cushman.

**History Appreciation Committee – Vanessa Burzynski, Chairman**

Vanessa Burzynski passed out copies of the October and November newsletter that she created for the Historical Commission. She stated that she has also created a Facebook page for the Historical Commission and gave out the URL. She informed us that she is able to publish these newsletters online for free on a website called [http://www.issuu.com](http://www.issuu.com) and that she had already published the October and November newsletter. Vanessa also stated that she is working on a website but that we would need to pay for a server to host the website and that we can continue to use Facebook instead which is free and we can post our meeting notices and upcoming events to Facebook.
Robert Goldstein suggested that we advertise in the Newspaper and the Radio. Vanessa stated that she has already asked the Navasota Examiner newspaper to put our meetings on the Community Calendar page. Vanessa stated that she has already created a URL for the Historical Commission which is www.grimescountyhistoricalcommission.com. Vanessa said that she is looking for comments on the newsletter and welcomes stories and input from all of the members.

A discussion was held about making the newsletter quarterly instead of monthly. All agreed that a quarterly newsletter would be adequate. A discussion was also held about the cost of having these newsletters printed in color and placed at prominent locations throughout the county like the Navasota Library, Navasota City Hall, and the Courthouse in Anderson for people to pick up and read and take with them. Russell Cushman said that he would ask the County Judge if we could use the county’s printer to print these, otherwise we would need to get bids from several printing companies. Vanessa Burzynski said she would get a quote from Precision Printing in Navasota.

**Historical Preservation Committee – Sarah Nash, Chairman**

Sarah Nash and Hazel Weidman discussed the boxes of items that are stored at the Bedias Library and other locations and that one of the boxes contained old pictures in old frames. John Maxwell stated that he had the boxes with the cemetery books in them. He also asked where the boxes with the loose photographs were but nobody seemed to know who had them. Sarah stated that she would continue to locate the other boxes.

**Old Business**

Russell Cushman again asked the members of the Historical Commission if they would be interested in joining with the Two Rivers Heritage Foundation to act as the “Friends of the GCHC”. After some discussion it was decided that it was not in the best interest of the Grimes County Historical Commission to join the Two Rivers Heritage Foundation and that we needed to have our own 501(c)3 organization for that purpose according to State Law. Russell Cushman asked if anyone was willing to get that done but nobody volunteered.

**New Business**

Russell Cushman presented the members of the Historical Commission with a letter from the Two Rivers Heritage Foundation that he had written to the Mayor of Navasota concerning items that were removed from the Horlock House that were given to the City of Navasota. They claim that these items were improperly transported and were not being stored properly. These items have been damaged by flood waters, mold, insects and extreme temperatures. Some of the items have already been damaged beyond repair.
The Two Rivers Heritage Foundation is asking the City of Navasota to give these items to the Two Rivers Heritage Foundation for proper storage and preservation. Russell Cushman asked the members if they would be willing to endorse this letter and allow him to sign it as Chairman of the Grimes County Historical Commission. A discussion was held and it was decided that he should sign the letter as Chairman of the Two Rivers Heritage Foundation and that a separate letter should be written coming from the Grimes County Historical Commission and given to the County Judge Ben Leman. All were in agreement that something should be done. A motion was made by Robert Goldstein and seconded by Denise Upchurch to attach a cover letter from the Grimes County Historical Commission and submit it to the County Judge for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

A monetary collection was taken from the members for flowers for Malcolm Green who is hospitalized.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Vanessa Burzynski for Rebecca Duff, Secretary