

**Limestone County
Nineteenth of June
Organization**



Revised Constitution

May 11, 2017

**Booker T. Washington Park
at
Comanche Crossing**



CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

LIMESTONE COUNTY NINETEENTH OF JUNE ORGANIZATION

(Revised May 11, 2017)

PREAMBLE

In order to establish a code of rules that will coincide with the Charter No. 00133031-01, (formerly No.22042, July 6, 1910) granted by the State of Texas to the Limestone County Nineteenth of June Organization, on the 21st day of May 1956, and meet the necessities of the present day activities and the prospective surroundings of a more geographically extended membership. We do ordain and establish the following Constitution:

ARTICLE I

Section 1 The purpose of the Limestone County Nineteenth of June Organization (“the Organization”) is to commemorate the freedom of the Negro slaves of Texas, same being on the 19th of June, 1865, and the Emancipation Proclamation, to maintain and operate the Booker T. Washington Park, a State Historical Site, at Comanche Crossing in Limestone County, Texas, as a symbol of the achievements and contributions of the slaves and their descendants, and other Afro-Americans, and setting forth other objectives which improve the moral, physical, and educational development of the community.

Booker T. Washington Park, designated by the Texas Historical Commission, as a Historic Site, serves as celebration ground for the 19th of June and an amusement park that accommodates churches, schools, clubs, and other family and community activities on an availability basis. First priority is given to events sponsored by the Nineteenth of June Organization. All other activities are to be coordinated by the Officers and/or Board of Directors of the Organization and must conform to the policies established for the care and operation of the park, based on this Constitution and pertinent governmental regulations. Groups and individuals are expected to help with the financial obligations associated with operating the Park.

Section 2 The officers of the Organization shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Chaplain, General (Business) Manager, and a Board of Directors composed of nine (9) members elected at large. All officers shall be elected by the Organization at the general election held every two (2) years.

Section 3 The duties of the President: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Organization. In the absence of the President the succession as outlined in Robert’s Rule of Order shall prevail. The President shall also fill any vacancy on committees or any board member or officer position in the organization provided the same is approved by the organization. Such appointed person(s) shall serve in the position until the end of his/her term. The President shall be in consultation with the Board, as the Board set forth polices for the organization. The President shall implement such policies as set forth by the Board.

- Section 4 The duties of the Vice President: To preside in the absence of the President or at the request of the President.
- Section 5 The duties of the Secretary: He or she shall serve as Secretary at all meetings, draft and sign all orders drawn on the treasury, with signatures of the Treasurer as ordered by the Organization and keep records of all proceedings.
- Section 6 The duties of the Assistant Secretary: To preside in the absence of the Secretary. In the absence of the Secretary and Assistant Secretary, the presiding officer has the authority to appoint a member to record the proceedings of the meeting.
- Section 7 The duties of the Treasurer: To receive and deposit all monies of the Organization in a National or State Bank in Limestone County, Texas in the name of the Limestone County Nineteenth of June Organization; pay out money only by warrant signed by the Secretary, the same being ordered by the Officers and/or Board of Directors of the Organization. The Treasurer also signs all checks. The Treasurer shall maintain simple financial records of the monetary transactions of the Organization that show intake/disbursement of funds and current financial status of the Organization on a monthly basis. A current report of the financial position of the Organization should be read as a matter of record at all called or Constitutional meetings of the Organization.
- Section 8 The duties of the Parliamentarian: To insure orderly conduct and progress in all meetings through the use of Roberts Rules of Order, so that business can be carried out in the most expedient manner. During the meeting the work of the Parliamentarian should be limited to giving advice to the presiding officer, and when requested, to any other member regarding the proceedings. It is also the duty of the Parliamentarian to call the attention of the presiding officer to any error in the proceeding that may affect substantive rights of any member or may otherwise do harm.
- Section 9 The duties of the Chaplain: To offer prayer in all Constitutional or called meetings.
- Section 10 The duties of the General (Business) Manager: To serve as the head of the Arrangement Committee, superintend all work and workers around the grounds and buildings as directed by the Organization. The General Manager alone, is authorized to make his or her requisition, for supplies and materials as necessary for the maintenance of Park grounds, to the Organization.
- Section 11 The duties of the Board of Directors: The Board in consultation with the President shall set forth policies for the Organization and shall direct the President to implement the same. The Board shall be the custodian of all property belonging to and under the control of the organization; the property buying, selling, or leasing of land etc., provided that the buying, selling, or leasing of land has been concurred in by a unanimous vote of the members who have held membership for two consecutive years, including the present year, and membership for at least four years total overall, and having been active members by verified attendance at a majority of all constitutional and called meetings of the organization. The total voting membership of the

organization as prescribed under the conditions set forth above must be a minimum of 100 persons. The Board of Directors shall not exercise any duties conveyed under this section without the concurring voting requirements of the membership of the organization as set forth above. Such a vote shall take place in a called or constitutional meeting after proper notice of the meeting has been given, as provided for in the constitution. Section 11 shall be inviolate, and shall not be changed, modified, deleted, or otherwise altered by the members of the Limestone County Nineteenth of June Organization.

Section 12 Attendance of Officers and Board of Directors: Any officer who does not attend five (5) regular or called meetings in succession, unless such is caused by sickness, he or she is automatically suspended from office. The President shall submit a person; a member of the organization who is otherwise qualified under Article II section 4 and 4A to fill the vacancy thus created, and whose appointment must be approved by the Organization's membership body, and that successor will continue to serve until the next election.

Section 13 The Privilege Committee shall be composed of the President, Secretary, Treasurer and any number of persons elected by the Organization on the first Saturday in April of each year.

Section 13A Duties of the Privilege Committee: To advertise prior to selling of all privileges (stand rights) and conduct the selling of same, of which shall be sold to the highest bidder, under these conditions: that the bidder be a descendant of a slave emancipated by the Emancipation Proclamation of 1865. The highest bidder shall pay the whole sum of his/her bid to the committee at the time of the bidding. All bids shall be listed and those not sold shall come back as property of the Organization for their disposal. All privileges sold must be pre-approved by the Organization. No monies shall be refunded to the bidders for any reason.

Section 14 The Arrangement Committee shall be composed of the General Manager and any number of persons that he or she may select to assist at this work. The General Manager may bring a list of names of persons whom he or she intends to utilize to maintain Park grounds and buildings, to a Constitutional or called meeting for approval by the Organization.

Section 14A Duties of the Arrangement Committee: To prepare Park grounds for the 19th of June Celebration and other events.

Section 15 The Grounds Keeper, if and when needed, shall be selected by the Organization.

Section 16 The Program Committee and its chairperson shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Organization to work on development of a Program for the 19th of June Celebration each year.

Section 17 The Membership Committee and its chairperson shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Organization the first Saturday in April and are to serve for a period of two years. The membership committee shall consist of a minimum of three (3) members.

Section 17A The duties of the Membership Committee: The appointed committee shall act in accordance to the rules governing membership within this Organization as outlined in this Constitution,

act to recruit members, maintain membership records, issue memberships, and conduct membership drives. Provide an annual statistical report at the April constitutional meeting.

Section 18 No officer, Board Member, or appointed committee member shall be compensated for performance of duty. All officers and appointed committee members serve in their capacities without charge, or any type of compensation whatsoever, as this is a non-profit organization whose main purpose is outlined in Section 1, Article I.

ARTICLE II

Section 1 The Constitutional meeting days shall be as follows: the first Saturday in April of each year to make preparation for the Celebration of the 19th of June and to elect necessary committees and to conduct other business; the second Saturday in July of each election year for general reports, other necessary business, and election of officers and directors; the second Saturday in July in each non-election year for the conduct of necessary business; the second Saturday in September of each election year for the installation of newly elected officers and directors, and other necessary business; the second Saturday in September of each non-election year for the conduct of necessary business.

If a meeting shall fall on a federal or state holiday, or if the meeting was replaced by a pro forma meeting then said election shall be moved to the following Saturday provided the conditions are suitable for the holding of the meeting. If any circumstance as noted above shall reoccur in a manner that affects the changed meeting date then said meeting shall be moved to the following Saturday. As a matter of definition, a pro forma meeting is “one that is done or produced as a matter of form”. With reference to the use of the term in this document, it is a meeting that is called to order and is immediately adjourned. A quorum for a pro forma meeting shall consist of a minimum one person who is qualified to conduct a meeting under Robert’s Rules of Order.

The president will give notice of meetings in the newspaper, by e-mail, or by the Organization’s website at least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled meeting.

Section 2 The Order of Election: All Officers and the Board of Directors shall be elected by popular vote of qualified members. A majority vote is required to elect any candidate for office. A “qualified member” is defined as a member meeting the qualifications of membership as described in Article II, Section 4 and 4A.

A qualified member may vote via proxy only in an election held for the selection of members of the Board of Directors and Officers of the Organization under the following stipulations: (1) only the approved proxy form issued by the Limestone County Nineteenth of June Organization shall be accepted. Any proxy issued by the Limestone County Nineteenth of June Organization that is attempted to be used at the originally scheduled date of the July Constitutional meeting of an election year must be signed and notarized in the member’s

state and county of the member's legal resident. A signed and notarized copy of the proxy must be received in the Organization's P.O. Box, e-mail box, or delivered to the membership committee chair no later than the third Saturday in June, of an election year; (2) the original of the proxy shall be brought to the meeting and provided at the time of voting. Prior to the election of officers and directors taking place, the Organization shall determine the number of eligible votes that can be cast by counting the number of members present at the meeting, and adding the number of valid proxies to be voted. Voting by proxies cannot be used in any other situation requiring a vote by members of the Organization.

The address for the Limestone County Nineteenth of June Organization is as follows:

Limestone County Nineteenth of June Organization
P.O. Box 1305
Mexia, Texas 76667

Section 3 Qualifications for Officers or Board Members: The candidate must be a current member in good standing, be a descendent of a slave, and have good attendance in Constitutional and called meetings after becoming a member of the Organization. Candidate for President must have held office in another capacity in the Organization.

Section 4 Qualifications for Membership in the Organization: The candidate must: a) be a descendent of the Founding Fathers of the Organization or Booker T. Washington Park property, or b) has a foreparent who was emancipated as a result of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1865, or c) be the legal spouse of a member as designated in section 4(a) or section 4(b) above. Any person admitted as a member as designated in section 4(c) above retains membership or eligibility for membership as long as said person is in good standing with the organization. A candidate must be at least eighteen (18) years old and be in good standing with the organization. The Organization reserves the right to request verification of identity and minimum age requirement. Forms of photo IDs accepted will be a state driver's license for current resident, a passport, or an official state ID card.

Section 4A Membership Dues: Membership dues are \$25.00 per member per year. Dues are not refundable and are to be paid only on an annual basis corresponding to the fiscal year which extends from September 1st of any year through August 31st of the following year.

Section 4B Voting privileges for the election of officers and directors in a constitutional election year shall be extended to any member whose dues are paid during the fiscal year up to the first Saturday in June.

If proxies are used, a copy of the signed and notarized proxy must be received in the Limestone County Nineteenth of June Organization's P.O. Box, e-mail box, or delivered to the membership committee chair no later than the third Saturday in June, of an election year.

Section 5 Trial for Impeachment: When a member or group of members of the Organization shall present a written accusation against any officer or member of the Organization alleging any act(s) that is deleterious to the best interest of the Organization, or deleterious to the well-being or the character of a member, the Organization shall elect from amongst its members, a committee to investigate the accusation or indictment. The committee shall report its

findings at the next called or regular meeting. If the individual is found guilty as charged, the Organization, in the case of an Officer, will declare the position vacant; in both cases the impeached officer or member will have their membership immediately canceled.

Section 6 Any deposed or impeached member or officer shall be ineligible for membership or office for three (3) years; thereafter if the deposed or impeached person proves his or her worth, honesty and restores any damage made to the Organization then that person may be presented to the Organization for a majority vote back into the Organization including restoration of all rights and privileges of membership.

Section 7 Any officer or member of the Organization who is found guilty of misappropriating funds of the Organization shall be impeached under the procedure outlined in Section 5 above. Restoration of an individual impeached under Section 7 shall be as outlined in Section 6 above.

Section 8 No officer, or member, who is convicted of a felony offense, or incarcerated may remain a member of the organization. Such persons shall be deposed or impeached as outlined in section 5 above. A candidate for membership who is convicted of a felony offense, or incarcerated shall be ineligible for membership. Any person whose conviction or felony offense charge has been disposed of is eligible for membership. Any person whose term of incarceration has been completed is eligible for membership.

ARTICLE III

Section 1 The Limestone County Nineteenth of June Organization is organized exclusively for (1) preserving and perpetuating the history of the slave population in Limestone County, Texas and (2) for the preservation of the grounds on which the celebration of freedom from slavery began.

Booker T. Washington Park not only serves as a celebration ground for the Nineteenth of June Organization, but also as an amusement ground for Negroes of Limestone County as well as to a more geographically extended area. All Churches and schools of the County may use the grounds free of charge at any time save the 17th, 18th, and 19th days of June each year or those days on which the Organization reserves these rights. The Organization's priorities are given to events as conducted by the Organization. Requests for using the Park for family reunions, picnics or other private events are to be made to the General Manager. Requests made must be accompanied by the listed fee for park usage and made payable to the Nineteenth of June Organization. Fees paid are non-refundable. No one is allowed to use the park without permission of the Organization.

Section 2 Christian Sabbath Observances: This Organization was founded upon Christian principles and faith in Almighty God. As our forefathers were slaves who struggled in this life for freedom that we now possess and believe in the Christian way of life, we will observe the 19th with a Memorial Service to be held at 11:00 a.m. All concessions are to be closed during these services.

Section 3 A Constitutional or called meeting with the exception of a pro forma meeting, a meeting conducted under the stipulations of Article I Section 11, Article III Section 4, or Article III Section 5, shall be legal when at least 20 members are present. Of these twenty (20), seven (7) must be a combination of members of the Board of Directors and Officers of the Organization, with at least one Officer who is qualified under Roberts Rule of Order to act as presiding officer in the absence of the President or Vice-President. A meeting held under the provision of this section can conduct any business of the Organization with the exception of the duties afforded to the organization under the stipulations placed in Article I Section 11 (buying, selling and leasing of land), Article III Section 4 (Amendment of the Constitution), Section 5 (the dissolution clause).

Section 4 Amendment of the Constitution: Amendments to the Constitution shall be made to any part with the exception of a section or parts designated as inviolate. All other proposed amendments must be made with the concurrence of a unanimous vote of the members who have held membership for two consecutive years, including the present year, and membership for at least four years total overall, and having been active members by verified attendance at a majority of all constitutional and called meetings of the organization. The total voting membership of the organization as prescribed under the conditions set forth above must be a minimum of 100 persons. The Board of Directors shall not exercise any duties conveyed under this section without the concurring voting requirements of the membership of the organization as set forth above. Such a vote shall take place in a called or constitutional meeting after proper notice of the meeting has been given, as provided for in the constitution. Section 4 shall be inviolate, and shall not be changed, modified, deleted, or otherwise altered by the members of the Limestone County Nineteenth of June Organization.

Section 5 Dissolution of the Corporation: Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all of the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the court of common pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located exclusively for such purposes or to such organization, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

In reference to the section above regarding the dissolution of the corporation, the board of directors shall not commence, or execute any action or privilege granted to the board under Section 5 regarding the dissolution of the corporation without the concurrence of a unanimous vote of the members who have held membership for two consecutive years, including the present year, and membership for at least four years total overall, and having been

active members by verified attendance at a majority of all constitutional and called meetings of the organization. The total voting membership of the organization as prescribed under the conditions set forth above must be a minimum of 100 persons. The Board of Directors shall not exercise any duties conveyed under this section without the concurring voting requirements of the membership of the organization as set forth above. Such a vote shall take place in a called or constitutional meeting after proper notice of the meeting has been given, as provided for in the constitution. Section 5 shall be inviolate, and shall not be changed, modified, deleted, or otherwise altered by the members of the Limestone County Nineteenth of June Organization.

ARTICLE IV

This Constitution supersedes and replaces any and all previous constitutions of the Limestone County Nineteenth of June Organization and any accompanying amendments formulated prior to the date of this constitution.

Resolution

Be it resolved that this Constitution for the Limestone County Nineteenth of June Organization shall take immediate effect on May 13, 2017.

Officers: President
Vice President
Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Treasurer
Parliamentarian
Chaplain
General Manager
Board of Directors

Committees: Privilege
Arrangement
Program
Membership
Nomination
Constitution

Constitutional Days: 1st Saturday in April Privilege Committee
2nd Saturday in July General Meeting and Election of Officers
(every 2 years)
2nd Saturday in September General Meeting and Installation of Officers
(every 2 years)

Fiscal Year: September 1st through August 31st
Dues of \$25.00 due on or before August 31st in order to have a valid membership
on September 1st. Membership becomes active upon payment of dues thereafter.