

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
February 13th 2014

Members Present: Jennifer Larned, Richard Magrill, Rose Mary Magrill, Ann Brannon, Alaina Pool Jones, Karen Taylor, Jean Birmingham, Marty Vaughan, and Tom Speir.

Guest Present: Griffin Jones.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Jennifer Larned called the meeting to order on Thursday, February 13th 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the Visual Arts Center in Marshall, Texas.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of October 10, 2013 and November 14, 2013 were approved.

III. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of Deon Behrman, Chairman Jennifer Larned reported that the balance in the checking account was \$3,350.15. Money Market balance was \$5,520.27.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

IV. A. Archaeology

Tom Speir reported on work toward accessing the Collier Plantation Cemetery. Contacts so far have not been successful.

The videotape concerning the Marshall Powder Mill site has been copied at a cost of \$35. The commission viewed the tape. Other tapes were not converted to dvd format because they were not relevant to Harrison County. All videotapes will be sent to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in Austin.

Jennifer McWilliams is the new Historic Cemetery Preservation Coordinator for the THC. Errors in the state listing of cemeteries can be reported through the website. Specifically, Tom can get "unknowns" corrected to "knowns" with their proper designations. He has already asked for the correction of Ewing Chapel Cemetery (from Rosborough, a designation which was never used).

There was discussion of historic cemeteries, specifically the Old Town Elysian Fields Cemetery. Margaret Agnor helped in a cleaning years ago. Jennifer will search the commission files for documents relating to an application for a historical marker for this cemetery. This cemetery is on the west side of Old Town Road. The current contact is Tracy Mayer. It will have to be marked as a Texas Historic Cemetery before any Historical Marker application can be made. Edward Smith, the founder of Elysian Fields, is widely-believed in the community to be

buried there. For confirmation of this burial someone might check the newspapers at the public library and/or the Lintz Collection at ETBU. Jennifer will contact Tracy Meyer who has a deep interest in historical preservation.

Ann Brannon shared a newspaper advertisement referring to an "Oakland Cemetery" adjoining "Powder Mill."

B. Archives

No report.

C. Cemeteries

There was no report from Thomas Richardson, but Ann Brannon reported that one grave has totally collapsed in Greenwood Cemetery and others need additional fill.

D. Education

No report.

E. Historical Markers

Jennifer reported that we have three marker applications from Wiley College approved. They deal with Melvin Tolson, H.B. Pemberton, and Matthew Dogan. There is one other marker for which she hopes the narrative will come in soon. Jack Canson is to write a narrative for the Boogie Woogie marker. (This is the free marker for which we been approved in the category of "undertold stories" celebrating Marshall as the birthplace of boogie woogie music which centered around African American railroad and logging camps in the county.)

The Piney Cemetery marker was approved.

The narratives for the East Texas Baptist University markers are still in preparation. Text for one was submitted at the beginning of this year.

Pop Long, a football coach at Wiley College, might be a candidate for a free marker in the "undertold stories" category.

We currently have three Texas Historic Cemetery applications in and we have heard nothing regarding them.

F. History Museum

Jean Birmingham reported that phase two of the museum's new exhibits, the military displays in Memorial City Hall, is still in process. She also reported that "Journey Stories" (an exhibit sponsored through the Smithsonian) is expected to be located here for six weeks on its tour of the country. THC has said we are next in line to get the exhibit. We would be the first in Texas display it. In fact, in relation to the exhibit, THC is planning to do its training here for the rest of state.

Jean also reported on the very successful celebration in January of the 175th anniversary of the formation of Harrison County. It went well and was attended by an overflow crowd in the courtroom of the 1901 Courthouse. Sandy Hooker, who did the story on the court house cat "Little Buddy", plans to develop the story into a children's book which can be sold to help support the work of the museum.

Tom Speir reported that the Natural History Museum in Houston will be displaying a copy of the Magna Carta from February to August this year.

G. Oral History

No report.

H. Preservation

Richard Magrill asked about the building at 307 Alamo which is under some manner of rather slow repair. It has recently sprouted a sign: "Origin: Old Negro Tenement House Built 1894." Nobody present knows anything about this building but we hope to find out something by the next meeting.

Barbara Judkins is the new site manager at the Starr Home. She seems very nice and we hope that she may be able to work amicably with the Friends of the Starr Home. She is from the Dallas area. We will invite her to the next meeting.

East Texas Baptist University is studying the use it will make of *The Marshall* now that the university owns it.

The old Marshall National Bank building is for sale now that Chase Bank has moved into its new building on the square. Perhaps, the bank will donate it to someone interested in its renovation/preservation.

I. Publications

No report.

J. Tourism

No report.

K. Goals

No report.

L. Annual Preservation Awards

Jennifer noted that we need to be looking toward nominees for preservation awards.

V. Special Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

Jennifer reported that County Commission approved the Marshall Landmark Marker Application and the application fee.

B. Depot

No report.

C. Starr Home
See IV.H. above.

D. Michelson Museum of Art
No report.

E. Historic Designation of Downtown Marshall
No report.

F. Historic Landmark Preservation Board
No report, but Jennifer noted that the County Commission has approved the expenditure of \$500 toward the cost of the Buard Trail video and will be listed as a sponsor.

VI. Other
East Texas Historical Association will hold its spring meeting in Emory, Texas at the Best Western Plus Inn and Suites.

VII. Adjournment
The next meeting will be March 13th 2014. The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill