

**HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 8<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**Members Present:** Jennifer Larned, Richard Magrill, Rose Mary Magrill, Tom Speir, Marty Vaughan, Willa Berryman, Susan Spears, and Mary Price.

**Visitors Present:** Tracey Mayer and Thomas Meyer.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Jennifer Larned called the meeting to order on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 1:38 p.m. at the Visual Arts Center in Marshall, Texas.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of April 10, 2014 were approved.

III. Treasurer's Report

No report. On motion, the move of the checking account to Texas Bank and Trust was approved.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

IV. A. Archaeology

Tom Speir and Jennifer went to a meeting at Tom and Tracy Mayer's which included Mattie Flanagan and George (husband of) Nelly Jones. (This meeting was in regard to a small cemetery where the owner has denied access.) Tom will try to get it identified by next meeting. (The owner is willing to allow Tom access, but not the Scouts.)

B. Archives

No report.

C. Cemeteries

Tom Mayer is working on an Eagle Scout project involving the Old Elysian Fields Cemetery. He has given his Powerpoint presentation seeking approval for the project. The cemetery is owned by the Elysian Fields Independent School District.

The Superintendent is supportive of his project. Tom Speir suggested that he get approval in writing for the work that is projected so that succeeding superintendents will know that it was officially approved.

#### D. Education

Tom Speir has contacted Janet Cook at the Historical Museum and they will display archeological brochures downstairs at the handicapped entrance during Texas Archeology Month in October . We could purchase a pamphlet rack for this purpose or we might borrow one for a month. The brochures are free but we will have to order. Also, we may be able to get holders free with the brochures. We should see if we can place some brochures at the Texas Welcome Center in Waskom. Tom did not bring his Powerpoint today but bring it next time. Perhaps we could have the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting at Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Marshall at our regular meeting time for viewing.

Jennifer called attention to the new Smithsonian exhibit which will be at the Historical Museum from September 22<sup>nd</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>. The theme of the exhibit is "Journey Stories." Journey stories are tales of how we and our ancestors came to America and they are a central element of our personal heritage. From Native Americans to new American citizens and regardless of our ethnic or racial background, everyone has a story to tell. There is a small committee working to get schools involved.

Note: During that time period the Michelson Art Museum is having a large canvas exhibit on the Underground Railroad.

#### E. Historical Markers

Nothing new.

#### F. History Museum

Janet Cook has reported that during the Fire Ant Festival the Historical Museum can pull out some additional Caddo Indian artifacts for exhibition. Also, it has been suggested that Tom Speir could do a presentation perhaps focusing on the forced removal of the Caddo Indians from East Texas.

#### G. Oral History

No report.

#### H. Preservation

Jennifer reported that nominations for the Historic Preservation Awards can still be made.

I. Publications

No report from Margaret Agnor. (She is compiling a list of historic papers in private hands that deal with Harrison County and Marshall. This list can be incorporated into a resource like that produced by Bell County to aid researchers.)

Jennifer also reported that there was no further word on production of the Buard Trail video.

J. Tourism

No report.

K. Goals

No report.

L. Annual Preservation Awards

Jennifer reported that the Annual Preservation Awards to be presented by the Historical Commission will go to the following:

The Max Lale Award for Historic Preservation to the Harrison County Historical Museum;

The Marjorie Perkins Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award to the Ewing Chapel Cemetery Committee for its work in restoring the cemetery;

An Award of Merit to the recently disbanded/suspended Friends of the Starr Home for all their work over many, many years; and

The Chairman's Award to Julia Williams.

Jennifer also reported that the Museum will be open for free admission after the awards presentation.

V. Special Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

No report.

B. Depot

No report.

C. Starr Home

Karen Taylor reported that The Friends of the Starr Home has been disbanded (suspended) until such time as anyone might want to approach them. She noted that the Starr Home has been very active on Facebook. She has contacted the

Master Gardeners who help maintain the grounds and plans to join that organization in order to have some continuing contact with the Home. She also noted that the Friends vision for the gazebo (on which the Friends spent in excess of \$40,000 meeting all the state requirements) in terms of landscaping and public use has not been realized. In disposing of its funds as it disbanded, the Friends made gifts to the Buard Trail brochure/dvd, the Michelson Museum of Art, The 1901 Courthouse, and the city Animal Shelter. Most gifts were about \$5,000.

D. Michelson Museum of Art

A quilt exhibit is coming up.

E. Historic Designation of Downtown Marshall

No report.

F. Historic Landmark Preservation Board

Jennifer reported that the Board now has full membership and is working on the awards nominations.

VI. Other

None.

VII. Adjournment

The next meeting will be June 12<sup>th</sup> 2014 and is planned to be at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Marshall to facilitate viewing of the Powerpoint by Tom Speir.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill