

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
June 12th 2014

Members Present: Jennifer Larned, Rose Mary Magrill, Tom Speir, Thomas Richardson, Ann Brannon, and Margaret Agnor.

Visitors Present: Ben Agnor and Barbara Judkins.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Jennifer Larned called the meeting to order on Thursday, June 12th 2014 at 1:40 p.m. in Hutchins Hall of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Marshall. Barbara Judkins, site manager of the Starr Home, was introduced as a guest who may become a member of the HCHC.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of May 8, 2014 were approved as distributed.

III. Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was not available. Jennifer Larned reported that the commission spent \$100 for security (the hiring of a deputy sheriff) for the Preservation Awards Ceremony at the Courthouse.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

IV. A. Archaeology

Tom Speir went with two archaeologists from Austin to the Timber Hill site in Marion County recently. A new timber company (not International Paper) now owns the site. Their plan is to wait until winter (probably January) to return to the site (with the current property owner's consent) in order to determine the extent of the site. Tom has not yet recorded the lost cemetery near Waskom. (off 2625, south of Waskom), but he will soon receive a map that will enable him to do so.

B. Archives

No report.

C. Cemeteries

Thomas Richardson is working on locating a cemetery on FM 449. He is still trying to find out who owns the land. Everything is overgrown. He needs to contact the owner (name unknown) who may be in a nursing home.

Ann Brannon gave an update on Greenwood Cemetery. There is the possibility of a couple of Eagle Scout projects at Greenwood: a decorative gate and special markers for two civil war soldiers. Tom Omick (current manager of Sullivan's Funeral Home) is willing to give cemetery records over 50 years old to the Historical Museum. Ann will check with Janet Cook about storage space for this amount of records.

D. Education

October is Texas Archaeological Month, but brochures have not yet been ordered because of questions about how many we need. The decision was made to order one set of everything (and decide on additional quantities after seeing the examples). Janet Cook has asked for a Power point presentation on Timber Hill (a story about traveling). It was decided that 7th grade students will be our target group for archaeological education. Jennifer will try to get Tom Speir invited to a roundtable discussion organized by the museum directors and the social studies coordinator of MISD (Shirley Fletcher).

Examples were distributed of some of the materials to be available during the Smithsonian exhibit in the fall. Plans for publicizing the Smithsonian exhibit include trying to organize a school tour of the museums in connection with the exhibit. There are also efforts to organize a weekly lunch at Central Perks focusing on the exhibit (which will be on the third floor of the Wiseman Center).

E. Historical Markers

The Tolson proposed marker text has been received and reviewed. No word yet on the other markers that have been submitted. Jennifer is still working on submitting a marker application regarding Pop Long.

F. History Museum

No report.

G. Oral History

No report.

H. Preservation

No report.

I. Publications

Margaret Agnor reviewed her project on identifying sources other than the Historical Museum holding important historical information on Harrison County.

J. Tourism

No report.

K. Goals

No report.

L. Annual Preservation Awards

V. Special Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

The dogwood trees have officially died and they have been removed.

B. Depot

No report.

C. Starr Home

The Starr Home is having tree work done this week and will ask the Texas Forestry Service for a preservation plan for their trees. "Rising from the ashes," the staff is trying to make the Starr Home an asset for the community. They plan to try a spring event – an outdoor 18th-century fashion show (in March). They have also submitted a request to the East Texas Historical Association to have a spring meeting in 2016 here in Marshall.

D. Michelson Museum of Art

No report.

E. Historic Designation of Downtown Marshall

No report.

F. Historic Landmark Preservation Board

No report.

VI. Other

Museums United Front. There was much discussion about how to present a unified front of the museums and the HCHC ... etc. (Right now they are meeting in connection with the upcoming Smithsonian exhibition and they may resurrect the Potpourri, with the Museum taking the lead.)

VII. Adjournment

The next meeting will be July 10th 2014. Meeting officially adjourned and Tom Speir presented his Powerpoint on archaeological sites in southern Harrison County. Discussion followed on how this presentation might be adapted for use with school children.

Submitted by Richard Magrill
(From notes by Rose Mary Magrill)