

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

May 12th 2016

The Harrison County Historical Commission (HCHC) is the county agency in Harrison County, Texas for historic preservation. Its mission is to assist the commissioners' court and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in the preservation of our county's historical and cultural resources and to protect and preserve the county's historic and pre-historic resources for the use, education, enjoyment and economic benefit of present and future generations.

Members Present: Tom Speir, Rose Mary Magrill, Richard Magrill, Robert Wood, Thomas Richardson, Elizabeth Bradshaw, Barbara Judkins, Gail K. Beil, Ann Brannon, Doc Halliday, Marty Vaughan, and Becky Palmer.

I. Call to Order

Tom Speir, chair, called the meeting to order on May 12th 2016 at 1:34 p.m. in the conference room of the Marshall Depot Museum and welcomed all to the meeting. Robert Wood provided a pound cake.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of April 14th 2016 and the called meeting of April 22nd 2016 were approved as distributed.

III. Treasurer's Report

Tom indicated, contrary to previous minutes, that Elizabeth Bradshaw would *continue* to report on the Friends accounts to the Commission. She reported on the accounts as follows:

Brokerage account	\$ 5,520.28
Certificate of deposit	3,300.00
Certificate of deposit	7,075.12
Greenwood Cemetery Fund	3,217.78
HC Historical Commission Fund	2,470.35

Tom then reported that \$2,616.64 remains of the \$3,000.00 provided in the county budget.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

A. Archaeology

Tom Speir reported that there was no opportunity this month to record new sites. Hynson Springs is recorded, but family loss has preoccupied the owners and no visits are in the offing, although a brick foundation and a well have been located.

B. Archives

Tom Speir reported that work continues slowly in the archives. Elizabeth Bradshaw came and helped with the filing since the last meeting. Doc Halliday shared a copy of the current Historical Preservation Plan for the City of Marshall and indicated that the Historic Landmarks Preservation Board members all have copies of the book. Commission members may request copies of the book from Tom.

C. Cemeteries

Thomas Richardson reported briefly on the Young-Price Cemetery. Rose Mary Magrill reported that the Ewing Chapel Cemetery had a good day on April 2nd with Doc Halliday as the principal speaker. Ewing Chapel has received notice from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) of its historic cemetery designation and will now apply for a historic cemetery marker. New fencing has been installed and a new sign at the entrance will be in place shortly.

D. Education

Tom Speir reported on the work toward reestablishing a History Fair in the Marshall ISD. The History Fair Committee (composed of Sharon Dews, Becky Palmer, Barbara Judkins, and Elizabeth Bradshaw) has had meetings, established a time-line, and developed packets for parents and for students who might want to participate. They plan to provide 100 packets for each school that has expressed interest in the event. It was decided that color should be used for the front page and black and white inside. Doc Halliday will do a press release to the *Marshall News*

Messenger this month. It was suggested that information regarding progress on the Fair be put it on the Commission's Facebook page and that an update be done every two weeks. Materials should not be distributed until August.

There will be a Powerpoint presentation of the Commission's work on June 13th at the Region VII social studies gathering.

E. Historical Markers

Gail Beil reported that the dedication of the marker for the Bethel United Methodist Camp Meeting and Church in Elysian Fields is scheduled for August 21st. We have a request for a marker for the Booker T. Washington High School in Elysian Fields. The money sent for the James Farmer marker did not arrive in time for this year's deadline. That means that the marker cannot be done until next year. The marker was a major hook for the events planned this fall. Gail hopes that we can at least get the text of the marker and do an "unveiling" in a manner similar to that employed by Wiley College at the dedication of their three markers. (The markers were installed in different locations on the campus but photographic images were used in the dedication ceremonies in the chapel.) Gail and Doc Halliday need to get to the Elks Club marker and finish the application. The "Pop" Long marker is in limbo. Gail also reported that there is interest in a marker for Young's Mill Pond in Hallsville.

Tom Speir reported that Judge Taylor has asked to get the Stagecoach Road marker into his office so that he can proceed with work towards its re-erection at the Pine Bluff Baptist Church. He has a letter confirming that the church will accept the marker being on its grounds.

Ty Weekly will refinish markers as an Eagle Scout project. He will practice on out of the way markers and then get a media event for the refinishing of markers on the courthouse lawn. Gail noted that the Central School and Sam Houston School markers need to be refinished. Tom noted that the County is providing the funds for the supplies. Automobile grade enamel will be used in the refinishing.

F. History Museum

Becky Palmer reported that there have been lots of school tours in May at the History Museum. (Also there have been school tours at the Starr Home, the Michelson, and the T&P Depot.) The Museum's Adult Day Camp at Caddo Lake went well. Summer children's day camps are planned at all four local museums

(History, Starr, Depot, and Michelson); \$35 will be the charge for the week. Pop up stories are scheduled on July 12th.

G. Information Technology

Elizabeth Bradshaw said there was nothing to report in the area of information technology except that our website is upgraded with many improvements and looks good.

H. Oral History

Elizabeth Bradshaw reported that she still needed to work on familiarity with the recorder. At this point we cannot hear the playback on the recorder. Doc Halliday is forming a list of people to be interviewed for oral history.

I. Preservation.

Gail Beil reported that at the quarterly meeting of the preservation council there was discussion regarding locating a venue for a gathering of Preservation Texas. The possibility of the old Elks Building was discussed briefly.

Note was taken of the reproduction of a vintage Texaco station on Ponder Road as a part of Gene Ponder's automobile museum. (The museum is not open to the public; it is on the north side of Victory Drive.) It was also mentioned that Karma Farms recently suffered storm damage.

J. Publications

Tom Speir reported that Dr. Teresa Case from Houston is working on a book concerning black railroad workers, anti-catholicism during the 1930s, and also boogie woogie. She was planning on coming today to our meeting but had a conflict at the last minute. Tom is also trying to contact Swepco for a record of previously existing high lines. Sam Moseley has reported that Bill O'Neil, the state historian, will speak to the Sons of the Republic of Texas at Catfish Express.

K. Tourism

Tom Speir reported that there is no paid staff in the Convention and Visitors Center. It is currently being handled by volunteers. He noted that there will be 170 bags handed out at the Region VII social studies meeting that should help promote tourism in the county.

L. Goals

Tom Speir asked if anyone had any new goals to discuss.

M. Annual Preservation Awards

Tom Speir reported that the awards ceremony is this Sunday at 2 p.m. in the courtroom of the 1901 Courthouse. There will be no refreshments of any kind. Tom will make our presentations.

V. Special Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

There was discussion of attendance at the upcoming THC workshops in Austin. Gail Beil is interested in the workshop for county historical commissions and Sam Moseley is considering going for the workshop on courthouses.

B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum

Robert Wood reported that the Depot Museum was receiving lots of visitors. AMTRAK is moving forward with putting in the new handicapped elevator. Work should start soon.

C. Starr Home

Barbara Judkins reported that the Starr Home is doing a lot of restoration work which includes replacing the old galvanized plumbing. A new sink and a new floor have been installed in the kitchen area. Restoration continues in the kitchen and the cook's quarters. The most exciting discovery during the work was the speaking tube system. Tubes went from the kitchen to different places in the house.

This summer work will be done on major projects. An irrigation system will be installed on the two acres across from the front of the home. The new gazebo named in memory of Marjorie Perkins is being used for wedding photos. There is staff turnover at the moment. The Victorian Fair will be in the fall rather than the spring.

Attendance is up, especially from local people. A wedding reception for 250 people was recently held. The home is getting a lot of different people from the community to use the site.

D. Michelson Museum of Art

The Bluebonnet Bash this Friday, May 13th was mentioned. It is the Michelson's annual fundraiser.

E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board

The commission will jointly present its annual awards with the Landmark Preservation Board on Sunday.

VI. Other

Nothing to report.

VII. Administrative

Budget. Tom Speir is working on the budget. Let him know if there are particular needs. He suggested that we postpone the pop-up sign and just get a banner for the social studies event in the interests of time. However, the Commission asked that we try to get the pop-up sign in time for the Region VII event.

Meeting in Alto. Tom reported that he and Rose Mary Magrill and Richard Magrill had attended the THC workshop on May 6th for commission members at the Caddo Indian Mounds site near Alto, Texas.

In particular he mentioned the participation of staff from the Texas Department of Transportation in the training event. He called attention to the website showing the things that TXDOT is doing in Harrison County and noted that anyone can log on and see what might be impacted by their road work in the county. TXDOT maintains an active archeological staff that is involved whenever there is road work which might uncover or impact on the archeological record in the state.

Photos. Tom Speir called attention to the continuing need for photos for the Commission's Facebook page.

Friends. Doc Halliday and Tom Speir met with the CPA for the Friends organization. There was discussion of the classification of the organization. It was

noted that there would be a meeting of the Friends immediately following the meeting of the Commission.

VIII. Adjournment

The next meeting will be June 9th at the T&P Depot Museum at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill