

# HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

July 14<sup>th</sup> 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, Richard Magrill, Rose Mary Magrill, Marty Vaughan, Barbara Judkins, Ann Brannon, Thomas Richardson, and Becky Palmer.

**Visitor Present:** Sharon Dews from the Marshall Independent School District (MISD).

### Call to Order

Tom Speir, chair, called the meeting to order on July 14<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 1:33 p.m. in the conference room of the Marshall Depot Museum and welcomed all to the meeting.

Tom announced the death of former commission member Tony Bridge and the resignation of current member Doc Halliday.

### II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of June 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 were approved as distributed.

### III. Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth Bradshaw texted her report (after the meeting) on the various Friends accounts. She reported on these accounts as follows:

Brokerage account	\$ 5,520.28
Certificate of deposit	3,300.00
Certificate of deposit	7,075.12

Greenwood Cemetery Fund	13,420.99
Friends of the HCHC Fund	4,440.84

Tom Speir reported that \$1,395 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 the Koon-Dickard Cemetery in Hallsville has been recorded as 41HS1008. The Turner Spring has been recorded as L41HS1. (“L” because it is not being record as a historical site.) We hope to record springs throughout the county if property owners will alert us to their locations. (There is no charge for this service.) There was a Rosenwald School located in the southwest corner of the county called Canaan School. Tom will try to locate and record its site. Also what was probably called the Mount Pleasant School near the Pleasant Hill Church and Cemetery will need to be recorded. The Rock Springs School, which may be already recorded as Galilee, needs to be clarified and/or recorded. The Grange Hall School has come to our attention as a Rosenwald School. It was unique in reportedly being a school built for Anglo-Americans (at the stipulation of the county) when the other Rosenwald Schools were erected. Tom needs the physical location in order to record Grange Hall. Note: Tom hopes to get these Rosenwald locations found and recorded, perhaps during the upcoming winter season.

**B. Archives**

Tom Speir reported that he still struggles with work in the archives.

**C. Cemeteries**

Thomas Richardson had no report. Canaan Baptist Church is working on securing recognition for the Canann Cemetery as a Historic Texas Cemetery. Temple Emanu-El Cemetery, located in the part of Longview that is in Harrison County, has already been awarded designation as a Historic Texas Cemetery and will apply for a historical marker. Doug Bradaway will be contacted to work on a narrative for Temple Emanu-El Cemetery. (Note: this is the second Hebrew Cemetery recorded in the county.) Marty Vaughan mentioned that she has some cemeteries that she would like to work on having designated as historic. Tom and

Bill Whitis are working on a spreadsheet of county cemeteries. They want it to be as comprehensive as possible. This spreadsheet is for the use of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to use in making its records of Harrison County cemeteries more complete. Cemetery designations for endangerment levels were discussed. THC is interested in adding these designations to the list and they will be worked on in the future. Ann Brannon reported that a woman had contacted the city regarding maintenance problems at Greenwood Cemetery and had gotten no response. Ann noted that the city is mowing Greenwood occasionally. Rose Mary Magrill reported that there was mowing going on there today.

#### **D. Education**

Tom Speir reported that our representatives at the Region VII Conference of Social Studies Teachers were well-received. A letter of appreciation from the conference organizers was read. Approximately one-half of the 170 bags from the Convention and Visitors Bureau were given out. We hope to come back to the conference next year.

Tom noted that the History Fair Committee (composed of Sharon Dews, Becky Palmer, Barbara Judkins, and Elizabeth Bradshaw) had made contact with the Marshall ISD's new superintendent. Dr. Jerry Gibson says "we are in" on the effort. A letter from Shirley Fletcher, social studies coordinator for MISD, was read indicating that she will be alerting teachers about the History Fair. Becky will work with her. The various museums will send their own materials to her. Sharon Dews noted that resources and times for use of the public library cannot be provided since it will be closing for remodeling. This year we will concentrate on reviving the History Fair in the Marshall ISD and later we can expand to other ISDs and to Trinity Episcopal School and other private schools as well as include home schoolers in our efforts. It was noted that participants can still use East Texas Baptist University and Wiley College libraries and that good online resources are available. Sharon will send an email asking for presenters for the MISD August in-service session to Ms. Iverson. In-service is 15<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup> of August. It was suggested that the remaining packets of materials be given out at the in-service training.

#### **E. Historical Markers**

Tom Speir reported that the depot marker has been picked up from the office will be repaired for use at the Depot Museum. The Bethel United Methodist

Church and Camp Meeting in Elysian Fields will celebrate the dedication of its historical marker on August 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 p.m. Ann Brannon said that Trinity Episcopal Church would like Ty Weekly, as a part of his Eagle Scout project, to refinish its marker. Tom indicated that due to absences/vacations, Ty has not got anyone from the Boy Scouts officially to sign off on the project. The plan is still to make the refurbishing of the markers on the 1901 Courthouse lawn a media event. We also want to involve the Sons of Confederate Veterans in the refurbishing of the Marshall CSA and Powder Mill Cemetery markers. The James Farmer marker is approved. The Boogie Woogie marker has been submitted. We will let Wiley College take the lead on the Pop Long marker and the Dr. Lawrence Nixon marker. Doc Halliday was taking care of work toward a marker for the Old Hallsville Bank. Thomas Richardson has agreed to supply materials from his files for this project. Gail Beil will try to take care of the work on the Bishop College marker. It is hoped that she will be able to take care of the Elysian Fields Booker T. Washington School marker as well. Carol Greer will try to take care of the Young's Mill Pond marker. Rose Mary Magrill is taking care of the work toward a marker for Ewing Chapel Cemetery. Doug Bradaway will be asked to work on the Temple Emanu-El Cemetery marker. Work on a marker for the Old Cities Service Gas Station Building will have to be postponed until next year. Tom will work on turning the Sam Houston School marker in the proper direction to be read by cars coming west on East Houston.

#### **F. History Museum**

Becky Palmer reported that the History Museum's day camp went well. The museum roundtable will be next week at the Blake House at the Starr Home. The Inez Hatley Hughes Research Library is now at the old police/fire station building. The building has mold. Janet Cook is actively looking for a better location for this collection. Putting a value on the collection is impossible; the documents are invaluable. The museum will try to make the collection available at the present location. Janet has been concentrating her work on the library and its location since the first of the year and is seeking both a suitable building and possible grants. The museum is again planning luncheons for the four Tuesdays in October on Journey Stories. This will be the third year for such luncheons and they will probably be held at the Marshall Visual Arts Center. In the past there have been about 80-90 at each event. Already there are two testing days in May of next year set up for kids

from area schools to visit all four of the local museums. The need to check with each museum regarding dates for such visits was emphasized. October is Texas Archeology Month. The plan this year is to repeat the cemetery tour but schedule it closer to Halloween. Tom Speir shared examples of two brochures from Austin which can be used during the month. There are also posters from last year that can be reused.

### **G. Information Technology**

Tom Speir reported that our minutes are on the website and up to date.

### **H. Oral History**

Tom Speir noted that he has the sound recorder back from Elizabeth Bradshaw but he is still working on learning its use. His wife is still willing to do interviewing for oral history.

### **I. Preservation**

Tom Speir noted that there is nothing to report in the area of preservation.

### **J. Publications**

No report.

### **K. Tourism**

The Commission again took note that Carolyn Howard had been hired as the new director for Main Street, Tourism, and Downtown Economic Development. She will start this Monday.

### **L. Goals**

Tom Speir asked if anyone had any new goals to discuss. The proposed I-69 corridor routes were passed out. Coming north the route will take off from US59 at slightly north of FM 2625 and pass to the east of Marshall. Tom is concerned that all historic sites which might be affected are duly noted and protected.

### **M. Annual Preservation Awards**

Tom Speir reported that we should be thinking about next year's awards.

## **V. Special Reports**

### **A. 1901 Courthouse**

Tom Speir reported that the table donated by Gail Beil in the 1901 Courthouse has been moved to the first floor across from the History Museum gift shop and looks good. It has several brochures on it now, and is performing well as a source of information for visitors.

### **B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum**

Tom Speir reminded us that our next meeting at the Depot Museum will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August and that Preservation Texas will be meeting there later on the same afternoon.

### **C. Starr Home**

Barbara Judkins reported that the Starr Home is fully staffed. As soon as possible, it will try to get the retail store going. (The store will sell things you can't get anywhere else.) Work is progressing on the Victorian Fair for this fall with several new demonstrations planned. One demonstration will be a soap maker who uses goats milk in the preparation of her soap. There will be a melodrama every hour on the hour. Attendees will be offered the opportunity to view the melodrama from the front as a performance and then observe it from the back where they can see the way in which the sound effects are made. The Home will do its community Christmas Caroling event again in December. A one-man show will precede the singing of the carols.

### **D. Michelson Museum of Art**

Tom Speir noted that the Hoover Watercolor Society Traveling Exhibit is open at the Michelson until Labor Day.

### **E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)**

No report.

## **VI. Other**

Nothing to report.

## **VII. Administrative**

**Mail.** Tom Speir reported that the Commission received a distinguished service award from the Texas Historical Commission for 2015. Various correspondence was reviewed. We have received an invitation to the Jefferson Civil War symposium to be held on August 13<sup>th</sup>. A thank you letter from Tony Crosby in appreciation for the Max Lale Award was read and some recent publications received by the Commission were passed around.

**Election of New Vice Chair.** The Commission elected Robert Wood as its new vice chair.

**Budget.** Tom Speir has submitted a budget request for \$4,200 for the new year. No word has been received on the budget. Tom was not able to be present for the meeting where the Harrison County Commissioners' Court gave its initial consideration of the requested budget.

**Pop-up Sign.** The mock-up of the pop-up sign was discussed. Tom requested that all the museums submit new modern photos to be used in the sign (both inside and outside views of the Starr Home, the History Museum, the Jonesville Store, the Michelson Art Museum, and the Depot Museum). New photos submitted in .jpeg format will not present problems of pixilation to Smart Advertising when they prepare the artwork for the sign.

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

**Friends.** There will be a meeting of the Friends of the Historical Commission immediately following this meeting today to replace Doc Halliday as its chair. (Joe Hudson was subsequently elected its new chair.)

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The next meeting will be August 11<sup>th</sup> at the T&P Depot Museum at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

**Submitted by Richard Magrill**

