

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
September 8th 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, Robert Wood, Gail Beil, Thomas Richardson, Joey Hudson, and Elizabeth Bradshaw.

Visitors Present: Carolyn Howard Director for Main Street, Tourism, and Downtown Economic Development and Tony Crosby Chair of the Historic Landmarks Preservation Board were present.

Call to Order

Tom Speir, chair, called the meeting to order on September 8th 2016 at 1:33 p.m. in the conference room of the Marshall Depot Museum and welcomed all to the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of August 11th 2016 were approved as distributed.

III. Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth Bradshaw reported on the Friends of the Harrison County Historical Commission accounts. She reported 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	4,480.84

Tom Speir reported that \$448 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 he had recorded three archeological sites: Bethel Campground near Elysian Fields is 41PN298; Bethel Campground Spring is 41PN299 (both locations are in Panola County) and the Old Elysian Fields Colored School site is 41HS1011. With regard to recording the Bethel Campground Spring, Tom passed out two notices which he has devised to encourage landowners to have their springs recorded. The notices point out that pipeline projects must have prior approval from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and that such approval enables the THC to warn of recorded springs so that they might be avoided.

B. Archives

Tom Speir reported that he still struggles with work in the archives. Rose Mary Magrill worked on the filing on August 23rd and September 1st. Together, she and Tom worked through one of the boxes of unfiled materials in the office. Joey Hudson thinks that we may be able to get a couple of SIG Insurance filing cabinets from Doug Heard to help with the filing needs of the Commission.

C. Cemeteries

Rather than cemeteries, Thomas Richardson spent all his time this past month working on research for the historical markers for the Old Hallsville Bank building and the Young's Mill Pond. James Polk Young, George Young, and Galen Young are all associated with the mill pond, he noted and it is named for George. Any documentation others might have would be appreciated. Tom is working on the narrative for this marker.

The Ewing Chapel Cemetery marker application with its narrative has been sent to the THC in Austin.

The Temple Emanu-El Cemetery marker narrative is out for review by Doug Bradaway and by the legal department of the cemetery in which it is located.

Marshall City Cemetery will be the beneficiary of a work day on September 10th by the W.W. Heartsill Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

In regard to cemetery cleanups, Tom is trying to schedule some for this fall: Marshall City Cemetery, as mentioned above, is this Saturday from 8-12 a.m.; Love Cemetery is September 17th provided that the road there does not get washed out; New Canann Baptist Cemetery is September 24th; Swancey Cemetery is October 15th; on October 22nd it is back to New Canaan for further cleanup; and on October 29th it is back to Swancey. In this effort, Tom is putting together the volunteers with the needs of the various cemeteries. He passed around a set of guidelines which the members of the Commission reviewed and found helpful:

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP GUIDELINES

If you have offered to coordinate clean-up events at a Harrison County cemetery, the following guidelines are suggested to help make the occasion both safe and productive.

1. Make sure you have permission for the event from the current property owner of the cemetery!
2. Maintain a contact list of volunteers in case you need to contact them before or after the event. Make sure that they have *your* contact information.
3. Advise your volunteers when and where you want to meet if you cannot meet at the cemetery itself, and have a back-up plan in case some volunteers show up late.
4. Have a schedule. Let everyone know if you plan on quitting the day's work at lunch time. If you want volunteers to bring their own lunches, make sure that they know. *Advise everyone to bring plenty of water!* Consider having some spare water of your own on hand.
5. Take frequent breaks!
6. Plan on specific jobs and let volunteers know if they need to bring tools to complete those jobs. If you bring tools, make sure your name is on them.
7. Have a planned location for collection of trash and another spot planned to gather branches and leaves. *Plan on disposal of all trash!*
8. Keep an eye on the weather! If there is a threat of storms, do not risk exposing anyone to lightning! You can always reschedule if you need to.
9. *Stay safe! Encourage safety!* Remember, you are the one who invited everyone else.

Tom has been in contact with the THC and they are ready to add to the State's atlas the list of county cemeteries on which he and Bill Whitis are working. In all this work will add ninety cemeteries to their listing for the county.

Rose Mary Magrill alerted everyone that Rusty Brenner of Texas Cemetery Restoration LLP will be in town sponsored by the Starr Home as a speaker on October 1st. He will conduct a workshop in marker repair/clearing at the Greenwood Cemetery. He has indicated that he can look at specific markers in the area to evaluate their repair/restoration costs. His firm is willing to do a package deal involving several cemeteries. (Tom Speir indicated that Ann Brannon is particularly interested in working on such cleaning at Greenwood Cemetery.)

The History Museum is looking for a Governor Moore from another state who may be buried at Swanson's Landing. Marty Vaughan asked if they are looking for the grave at the landing or the Swanson family cemetery? Members are asked to call the History Museum if they know which place. Marty thinks that his body may have been moved back to his home state.

D. Education

Becky Palmer has arranged two assemblies at the Sam Houston Middle School of the Marshall ISD where the History Fair will be discussed. Other presentations she will have to do at other times and individually. She has put together a new Powerpoint. Gail Beil reported that the new Marshall ISD superintendent, Dr. Jerry Gibson, is very supportive of getting the History Fair reinstated. Tom Speir has spoken to the Elysian Fields ISD superintendent and he is looking forward to beginning the work in his district next year. Rose Mary Magrill noted that they had found two files in the Commission office with information on old History Fair projects. The existence of these files has been reported to Sharon Dews. Marty Vaughan sent out information about the Waskom VFD's upcoming "night out" on October 4th. The Commission had a table at this event last year. If anyone can staff such a table this year they should let Marty know. (Note: the History Fair Committee is composed of Sharon Dewes, Becky Palmer, Barbara Judkins, and Elizabeth Bradshaw.)

E. Historical Markers

Tom Speir reported that the period for marker applications this year opened September 1st and will close November 15th. Gail Beil reported that the James Farmer and the Birthplace of Boogie Woogie markers have been approved by the

THC. The final steps on them are in progress. The work on the Coach Pop Long marker and Dr. Lawrence Nixon marker are being left in the hands of Wiley College and we have heard nothing new concerning them. Robert Wood brought to our meeting the old damaged Marshall Depot marker which Mike Martinez had beautifully restored. The Depot Museum will install this where passengers boarding and deboarding AMTRAK trains will be able to see it. The Bethel United Methodist Church and Camp Meeting in Elysian Fields celebrated the dedication of its historical marker on August 21st at 2:30 p.m. Both Tom Speir brought greetings and Gail Beil spoke. The Commission was represented by them and Marty Vaughan, Rose Mary Magrill and Richard Magrill. Gail Beil is trying to get the application ready for the marker for the old Elks Club Building. She should have a rough draft of the application done this weekend. Tony Crosby will do the photos and architectural drawings to accompany the application. Last month Gail reported that work on the Elysian Fields Booker T. Washington School marker will have to be postponed until next year but Tom is working on getting the application in this year. He is also working on the application for Young's Mill Pond, in which effort he is being assisted by Thomas Richardson. The Ewing Chapel Cemetery marker application has been submitted and the Temple Emanuel Cemetery marker application is out for comment. Tom Speir and Thomas Richardson are working on the application for a marker for the Old Hallsville Bank. Gail Beil is looking for a location for the Bishop College marker. The Alumni, who are paying for the cost of the marker, will meet in December. The planning is for a u-shaped driveway on the site. The Alumni will do any improvements necessary for the site. The City of Marshall would then have to accept the site as a park. Ken Carlisle owns the land and will probably be willing to donate the site. Note: we have to have a proposed location with the application. Alumni did not want the location to be at Bethesda Baptist Church because it is *across* the street from the actual site of the college. There was no report on a marker application for the Old Cities Service Gas Station Building nor on 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 is tied up trying to answer phone calls for the luncheons for the four Tuesdays in October on Journey Stories. The luncheons will be from 11-12:30. This will be the third year for such luncheons and they will be held at

the Marshall Visual Arts Center. In the past there have been about 80-90 at each event. She urged all present to attend the luncheons. (Preparation for these luncheons prevented her attendance at this meeting.)

G. Information Technology

There is nothing to report other than that our minutes are on the website and up to date.

H. Oral History

On motion the Commission voted to have up to ten videotapes converted to digital format by Legacy Box. The cost would be \$125 for the ten. This would be a one-half off expenditure. However, we may have to receive bids so there may be a problem getting Legacy Box recognized by the County as an approved vendor.

Note: these are old interview video tapes (betamax and vhs) found in the Commission office.

I. Preservation

Tony Crosby mentioned the Fly-in at the Harrison County Airport over the Labor Day weekend. He was present for the event and gave the pilots a spiel on how important the building is as a representative of early airport architecture in Texas. He has had a man look at the building and its problem areas. He talked with County Judge Hugh Taylor about using some space at the terminal as a museum. He noted that contacts with the Commemorative Air Force have revealed that this organization cannot be financially involved in anything which they do not own. Preservation Texas has listed the airport as endangered. There will need to be a more formal designation and a group secured to back an effort to preserve the terminal. Hazmat is not a big issue according to Tony. Both the lead paint and the asbestos can be addressed. On the positive side, he noted that we have moved beyond discussion of demolishing and on to the idea of preservation. Tom Speir emphasized that the Commission has been relying on Tony in this effort. Tony said that a couple of people are needed to step forward. The roof and windows need to be checked. There is still water getting into the tower.

Tony noted that the Marshall City Commission will hear a report on Memorial City Hall at its upcoming meeting regarding delays, etc. The Memorial City Hall Development Advisory Committee plans to erect a sign so that people will know what the building is. Carolyn Howard emphasized that the

commissioners need to hear the idea that the building needs to be preserved and not just the proposals from the architect about its future use. Tony responded that the best way to preserve a building was to assure that it is used.

Tom Speir reminded the Commission that at 5:15 p.m. today at the Waskom Municipal Building there will be another hearing on the use of a couple of downtown buildings. He urged any Commission members who could attend to support repurposing the buildings but noted that the Commission officially discourages the demolition of historic structures.

J. Publications

Gail Beil reminded the Commission that Randolph Campbell's book, *A Southern Community in Crisis: Harrison County, Texas, 1850-1880*, is being reprinted and that on the 28th of October there will be a book signing at Central Perks.

K. Tourism

The commission benefited from the participation of Carolyn Howard as the new director for Main Street, Tourism, and Downtown Economic Development in this meeting. Tom reported on THC's German Mobile Heritage Tour and the fact that they want to include the Marshall Hebrew Cemetery, the Moses Montifiore Synagogue location, Weisman's, and the Weisman Home as venues on this tour. Audrey Kariel is coordinating.

L. Goals

Tom Speir asked if anyone had any new goals to discuss. He noted that our purpose includes cultural preservation and that we need a network in place to help promote events related to this purpose. There was discussion of the need for something we can put together on what we will and can do in this regard. Perhaps we could help with promotions and flyers and postings on the Internet. It was noted that the story of Nat Turner will premier here the 8th of October. Nat Parker has made the movie called "The Birth of a Nation" (a play on W.D. Griffith's infamously racist silent film, "Birth of a Nation" about the Ku Klux Klan). A means of uniformly promoting this and all other cultural preservation events is needed. Carolyn Howard noted that the Convention and Visitors Center will like to be the place where such promotion could be coordinated but it will need to know of the events. Joey Hudson said that he would be happy to add the Center to the

mailings he sends out for promotion of Masonic Lodge and Marshall Fire Department events. Tom Speir indicated that we need someone to maintain a central calendar to prevent doubling up on dates. Carolyn Howard noted that this effort will have to be choreographed. Note: there was nothing new on the project for signs designating US80 as a World War II Veterans Highway.

M. Annual Preservation Awards

Tom Speir reported that we should be thinking about next year's awards. He noted that the awards are a great means of interesting people in our work. Recipients of last years awards have become very active in several projects.

V. Special Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

No report.

B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum

Robert Wood noted that he had already called attention to the repaired historical marker and that Butler Construction plans to mount it. In the Depot Museum the model train exhibit is being completely rebuilt and will include a model of the old T&P Fire Station.

C. Starr Home

Barbara Judkins is not here because the Starr Home is working hard on its restoration projects. Joey Hudson called attention to the upcoming Victorian Day event at the Home.

D. Michelson Museum of Art

Tom Speir reported that Thoreau's Walden: a Journey in Photographs by Scott Miller will open on September 15th at the Michelson.

E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)

Tony Crosby noted that after a two-year delay the Buard Trail DVDs will be delivered this week to libraries and schools in the county. The Landmarks Preservation Board has not met this summer but will meet later this month. Plans are to identify the boundaries of a potential historic district for downtown

Marshall. About 60 properties have been identified which would help form a part of the district.

VI. Other

Nothing to report.

VII. Administrative

Mail. Tom Speir passed out pieces of mail. Gail Beil lamented that we used to attend the fall meeting of the East Texas Historical Association meeting. However, with budget cuts we can no longer do so. Tom Speir noted that all of our computer files have been backed up to the county server. Also our printer was replaced free of charge by the manufacturer because it had failed.

Commision Reappointments. Tom reviewed the THC schedule for the reappointment of County Historical Commission members. We will all need to be reappointed in January. Tom will need to supply a list to Judge Taylor. We will need to elect officers in January. Elizabeth Bradshaw is now listed as an administrator on our Facebook page.

Budget. Tom Speir submitted a budget request for \$4,200 for the new year. We have been approved for \$3,000 for the coming County Fiscal Year beginning October 1st.

Memberships. Tom Speir reviewed all the organizations that we have submitted memberships for and he indicated that letters had been written asking for a \$100 institutional membership category for those local museums which do not have such.

Pop-up Sign. The cost of the pop-up sign will have to come from the 2017-18 budget if it can be increased above the \$3,000.

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

VIII. Adjournment

The next meeting will be October 13th at the T&P Depot Museum at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill