

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
October 13th 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, Barbara Judkins, Thomas Richardson, Ann Brannon, and Elizabeth Bradshaw.

Visitor Present: Bonnie Strauss representing the Michelson Museum of Art.

Call to Order

Tom Speir, chair, called the meeting to order on October 13th 2016 at 1:35 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 September 8th 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	13,422.01
Friends of the HCHC Fund	4,466.17

Tom Speir reported that \$3,000.00 is now available from the county budget for the new fiscal year running from October of this year to September of 2017.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

A. Archaeology

Tom Speir reported two new recorded archeological sites: Amie-Haggerty Cemetery 41HS1-13 and Haley Cemetery 41HS1012. This is Texas Archeology Month. For cemetery tour information *see IV. C. below*.

B. Archives

Tom Speir reported that he still struggles with work in the archives and continues to work on the box that he and Rose Mary Magrill started.

C. Cemeteries

Thomas Richardson reported that he had again spent his time in research related to the historical marker applications for the Old Hallsville Bank and the Young's Mill Pond. He is now working on the old Hallsville Barber Shop.

Tom Speir noted that clean-up was done at the Haley Cemetery and the coverage in the *Marshall News Messenger* for this effort was very good. The first dates for the clean-ups for the New Canaan Baptist Church Cemetery and for the Swancey Cemetery did not materialize but the second date for Swancey is this Saturday and it is hoped that it will be productive.

Barbara Judkins gave out copies of the posters for the "Capturing the Spirit of Marshall Cemetery Tours" to be held on Saturday, October 29th 2016. This event forms a part of the celebration of Texas Archeology Month and is sponsored by the Commission, Michelson Museum of Art, the History Museum, and the Starr Family Home. The cemeteries to be toured are: Wiley Cemetery, 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.; Old Powder Mill Cemetery, 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.; and Marshall City Cemetery 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. (Note: Bonnie Strauss will try to get KMHT to promote the work being done to clean-up the Wiley Cemetery on the "Talk of East Texas.")

D. Education

Becky Palmer is working on the luncheons being hosted by the History Museum but sent an email regarding education activities. She reported that Marshall ISD Sam Houston Middle School has made it mandatory for all students in the 5th and 6th grades to participate in the History Fair. Marty took a box of the informational bags provided by the Convention and Visitors Bureau to the "night out" held in Waskom. This effort sparked the interest of the Evangelical

Presbyterian Church in securing a historical marker for the congregation. (Note: the History Fair Committee is composed of Sharon Dewes, Becky Palmer, Barbara Judkins, and Elizabeth Bradshaw.)

E. Historical Markers

Tom Speir reported that we are in the window for marker applications this year which opened September 1st and will close November 15th. Applications for the Old Hallsville Bank and for the Booker T. Washington School in Elysian Fields have been completed and filed. We are waiting on the property owner permission/signature for the Young's Mill Pond application. Once that is done it will be complete and ready to submit. A little work remains on the Bishop College application and it still needs to be signed. The Elks Building application is very close to submission but it too needs to be signed. The Ewing Chapel Cemetery application has been filed and the Temple Emmanu-El Cemetery one is essentially done but needs the signature. There are seven marker applications in total for submission this year. In addition, the James Farmer and Birthplace of Boogie Woogie have already been approved.

Tom noted that Ty Weekley has reported that his Boy Scout Troop will be doing a campout at Caddo Lake just after Halloween and he will refurbish the Caddo Lake marker at that time as a part of his Eagle Scout project. Tom shared the *Marshall News Messenger* article on the Old Stagecoach Road.

Tom also reported that we have started a list of possible marker applications for next year. Beginning the list is the First Presbyterian Church in Waskom. Rose Mary Magrill suggested that Dr. Jerry Thompkins, a historian who grew up in the church, be contacted. (He now lives in Austin.) In the hands of Wiley College is left the work on the two possible new markers in memory of Coach "Pop" Long and Dr. Lawrence Nixon.

F. History Museum

Becky Palmer continues to be busy with this year's "Journey Stories" luncheons hosted by the History Museum and held at the Marshall Visual Arts Center. Jerry Summers, author of the biography, *Sam B. Hall, Jr. Whatever Is Right*, spoke on October 4th. Fran Smith Hurley spoke on October 11th on "Smith Steel Casting: A family's journey in building an industry in Harrison County." The third luncheon slated for Tuesday October 18th will be on the history of the Marshall Fire Department and will be presented by Commission member and

Assistant Fire Chief Joe Hudson. The department has served for 140 years and began with 57 chartered volunteer members. By 1876, there were three more volunteer fire companies: the Red Star, the Stonewall, and the Texas and Pacific Fire Company. On June 1, 1876 all four volunteer departments signed a pact to join together to protect the residents of the city of Marshall. The final luncheon on October 25th will focus on the Jewish community of Marshall and will be presented by Commission member and former Marshall Mayor Audrey Kariel.

G. Information Technology

Elizabeth Bradshaw has received a set of historic postcards on loan from the Michelson Museum of Art.

H. Oral History

There is nothing to report.

I. Preservation

Tom Speir reported that Waskom is still trying to modify two of its downtown buildings to turn them into a community center. The city has had a public meeting regarding the new use for the two buildings and everyone there is happy about the proposal. The Commission has received (as a courtesy) a copy of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the City of Waskom and the THC. When the document has been finalized, we are invited to sign it as an interested party. Tom will not sign the document until the Commission says to do so. The Commission wishes to stay involved in order to encourage and support Waskom in its project for the new community center. If the document is not available at our November meeting, Tom will contact us by email in order to receive our counsel on whether or not to proceed with signing which will need to be done before the end of the year in order for Waskom to receive the proposed grant.

J. Publications

Tom Speir 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 at 6:30 p.m. for 75 people at \$25 per person. The book should be available from Amazon.com afterwards at a cost of \$30. It will be a paperback.

K. Tourism

Elizabeth Bradshaw reported that there was a recent meeting for the Wonderland of Sites being planned as a part of Marshall's Wonderland of Lights this year. The Starr Home, the History Museum, the Michelson Museum of Art, the T&P Depot Museum, and Trinity Episcopal Church will be involved.

L. Goals

Tom Speir asked if anyone had any new goals to discuss. He will begin to emphasize this concern as next year begins.

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 the gathering of family and friends of the Texas and Pacific Railroad and the Depot had gone very well. One of the special items was the recreation of the sound of the old steam whistle on Engine 400 which is on display at the Depot. An air compressor was brought in to supply sufficient power to operate the whistle. (There was discussion of ways to record the sound of the whistle digitally and possibly make the sound available as a downloadable file on the Commission's website.) Robert noted that Amtrak remains active and continues to push for good train service. (Depot Museum folks recently attended an Amtrak meeting in Hot Springs, Arkansas.)

C. Starr Home

Barbara Judkins mentioned the cemetery tour poster (*see above IV. C.*). She shared copies of a list she had compiled of all the free calendar listings in the area that can be used to publicize events. This list included Red River Radio, the

Marshall New Messenger, the GO Spot, KTBS tv, KLTV tv, *County Line Magazine*, *Longview News Journal*, KETK tv in Tyler, Texas Co-Op Power, the *Texas Highways* Travel Texas listing, *Texas Journey*, *Texas Farm & Home Magazine*, Texas Downtown Association, *In Magazine*, and the *Texas Eagle* (Amtrak). In particular she encouraged the posting of events on the local tv stations, noting that such postings often result in the stations coming out to do stories thus providing additional free coverage.

Tomorrow is the kids day of the Starr Home's annual Victorian Fair. There will be a Civil War camp and demonstrators of various 19th century arts such as tailoring. There will be Women's Suffrage memorabilia on display. A melodrama play will provide entertainment both from the normal audience position out front and a chance to view the performance from the back. All the sound effects will be made by hand. There will be a medicine man selling snake oil. Music will be provided by dulcimer players. It is a "come and go" event and should take about an hour. All the fair activities outside are free, but there is a charge for a tour of the house.

In connection with the neighborhood carol sing in December, there will be a short Dickens play, and of course, the normal hot chocolate and cookies. Beginning on December 1st the Home will have a new "elf in residence" on its Facebook page to help celebrate this Christmas season.

The kitchen has been torn back to the 1870s level and they are doing paint analysis to determine its color for that time period. The Starr family just added new materials on top of the old, so removal has made the original wood visible again. Barbara urged all to come by before its all "prettied up."

The gift shop has been expanded with new merchandise aimed at kids (excellent for stocking stuffers!).

"Come see us, we get lonely over there," she said and p.s. she is looking for a drone if anyone knows someone who has one.

D. Michelson Museum of Art

Bonnie Strauss, representing the Michelson, urged viewing of the current exhibit — Thoreau's Walden: a Journey in Photographs by Scott Miller. She noted that the Michelson will have a "shall we dance" event, costumes, and interactive opportunities in connection with a performance by the Longview Ballet on December 17th for the enjoyment of families and children. She congratulated the Commission on its good work.

E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)

Tony Crosby was not present and there was no report.

VI. Other

Nothing to report.

VII. Administrative

Mail. Tom Speir passed out newsletters and magazines and commented on pieces of mail. The Michelson Museum of Art has acknowledged our institutional membership. There were newsletters from the History Museum. East Texas Historical Association meeting starts today. The Texas Archeological Society's next meeting will be in our area in the city of Nacogdoches. Two issues of *Preservation Magazine* from the National Trust for Historical Preservation have arrived.

Friends. The 1023EZ streamlined form for the Friends 501 (c) (3) application for recognition by IRS as a tax exempt organization has also arrived. It must be corrected and signed by the Friends President, Joey Hudson, before it can be submitted for consideration as a tax exempt organization.

Commission Reappointments. Tom shared a letter to be sent to all commission members regarding their wishes as to continuing their memberships on the Commission. Bill T. Whitis has been asked and has agreed to join. Bill can work with cemeteries, although he will not be able to attend the meetings. He and Tom continue to work on the spreadsheet of cemeteries for THC which will help get all our cemeteries on the state list. (Note: All who are willing will need to be reappointed in January. Tom will supply a list to Judge Taylor. We will need to elect officers in January.)

Budget. We have been approved for \$3,000 for the County Fiscal Year which began on October 1st.

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 November 10th at the T&P Depot Museum at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill