

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

November 11th 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, Becky Palmer, Joe Hudson, Gail K. Beal, Robert Wood, Barbara Judkins, and Thomas Richardson.

Visitors Present: Linda A. Adler and Bill T. Whitis.

Call to Order

Tom Speir, chair, called the meeting to order on November 11th 2016 at 1:31 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 October 13th 2016 were approved as distributed.

III. Treasurer's Report

Tom Speir provided the bank statements on the Friends of the Harrison County Historical Commission accounts. The statements showed the following:

Brokerage account	\$ 5,520.28
Certificate of deposit	3,300.00
Certificate of deposit	7,075.12
Greenwood Cemetery Fund	13,422.35
Friends of the HCHC Fund	4,466.28

Tom Speir reported that \$3,000.00 is still 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

With regard to the Cemetery Tour of the Wiley, Powdermill, and Marshall City cemeteries in celebration of Texas Archeology Month, Barbara Judkins reported one complaint: that we needed longer presentations. It was noted that there were probably 100-150 overall in attendance. There was appreciation for the variety of presentations. Each one at the several cemeteries was different and very informative. The hope is to build interest in the tour as an annual event. Rose Mary Magrill noted that two of the people attending at the Marshall City Cemetery were there because of publicity in the *Marshall News Messenger* which piqued their interest in Kitty Johnson Craig. There was discussion of topics that might be mentioned in the future about persons buried in Greenwood Cemetery. Joe Hudson noted that Marshall Faries, who became a firemen in Dallas and died there, is buried in Greenwood. Robert Wood remembered an unnamed law enforcement officer who died in service who is buried at Greenwood.

Tom Speir passed around the 2016 archeology report from the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT). The report notes that

Through the cultural resource management process, TXDOT consults with the Texas Historical Commission (THC), communities, and tribes to determine how to manage any sites that could be impacted by projects.

The field reports from the various 2016 digging sites from around the state are summarized, pictured, and documented with photographs of prehistoric, Native American, and more recent artifacts.

Tom is working on locating all springs in the county, especially those at Rosborough Springs. He shared two attractive letter-sized posters/fliers he has developed to alert property owners to understand the benefits of having springs on their property recorded as archeological sites and emphasizing that the service is provided to them at no cost.

The Commission noted with congratulations that the C.K. Chandler Award had recently been presented to Tom by the Texas Archeology Society (TAS).

B. Archives

Tom Speir reported that while he still struggles with the work in the archives, he was happy to report that he has finished filing the materials in the box that he and Rose Mary Magrill started some time ago. He also noted that the

Commission will need more filing cabinets in order to complete the job and alerted members to be on the lookout for any that might be donated to the cause.

C. Cemeteries

Thomas Richardson reported that he had again spent his time in research related to a possible historical marker application for the old Hallsville Barber Shop. Robert Wood wondered about making application for a marker for the old Rosenwald School in the Woodlawn area about a mile west of the railroad tracks on FM1997. The marker could be for the church, cemetery, and store as well as for the school.

The cemetery cleanup went really well at the Marshall City Cemetery and was good at the New Canaan Baptist Cemetery and also at the Hebrew Cemetery. Nothing has yet been accomplished at Swansey Cemetery or at Greenwood. With regard to the historical marker application for the Temple Immanuel Cemetery, the property owner signature was finally received this morning. Bill Whitis updated the Commission on the work that he and Tom are doing on providing a spreadsheet on county cemeteries and getting the added information on the listing maintained by the THC. The listing formerly showed 40-50 and we now have located around 200. Bill would like to get in to visit the Kimberley Cemetery on Appaloosa Lane in Hallsville. We are pleased that the THC is considering the use of our spreadsheet as a template for similar efforts in other counties. Our listing is near completion but we still need to add location coordinates to the map of Harrison County cemeteries. The THC has yet to update the ATLAS map.

D. Education

Tom Speir reported that for the revival of the History Fair in the Marshall ISD (MISD) there will be some 400 participants at Sam Houston Middle School and 60-70 at Price T. Young. The Commission will need to provide medallions and certificates to all the winners in the three categories as well as a certificate for each participant. In all we will need 24 medallions. These will feature the county seal and the 1901 Courthouse, and will come with neck ribbons. Examples were shared from Smart Advertising and from Maverick Trophies. It was decided to purchase a case of the medallions from Smart Advertising. We will need to come up with judges for the fair and must hammer out the judging criteria. Shirley Fletcher has reserved the commons area at the Marshall High School on Saturday January 21st 2017 for the fair and the judging. (It was noted that we will actually need to

reserve the commons for the Friday evening before to allow for setup and judging.) There will be campus judges at Sam Houston and Price T. Young and that evaluation will determine the projects that are entered in the judging at the commons. (In other words, we don't anticipate 500 entries for our judges to review!) We will need to work on the details of the evaluation process/criteria which will take place at the schools. Those getting the best evaluations would move on the commons exhibition. While 450-500 are being required to participate at Sam Houston, only about 70 gifted and talented students at Price T. Young are participating. In considering the evaluation criteria at the schools we will want to assure that they result in the same quality of submissions from each. The students at Sam Houston have been working on their projects for two months. The Price T. Young students are just beginning. (Note: we need to have a special meeting of the History Fair Committee to hammer out the judging criteria. Also, it was suggested that the judges not be from the schools, i.e. that the judging be by people who do not know the students. The History Fair Committee is composed of Sharon Dewes, Becky Palmer, Barbara Judkins, Elizabeth Bradshaw, and Gail Beil.)

E. Historical Markers

Tom Speir reported that the land on which the Sam Houston Elementary School historical marker is located is now privately owned and he will try to get permission from the owner to adjust its orientation to East Houston Street.

Ty Weekley has finished with his Eagle Scout project of restoring ten historical markers throughout the county and he has returned the remaining materials to the commission. As a commission we want to thank Ty, for he has done an excellent job! (Tom indicated that there is more work to be done in restoring our markers. We need help locating them and checking their condition. He asked Commission members to go check on markers in their area and also to note down and report their state marker numbers.)

All marker applications have been submitted to THC. Tom called our attention to the stack of essays that were prepared as a part of the applications.

He indicated that he is already at work on a list of possible marker applications for 2017 including the old Cities Service Gas station in Marshall. (Gail Beil is sponsoring this location.) Tom is interested in getting a marker for the Nadaco Caddo Homeland. This marker would be applied for in the "undertold story" category (which means that THC would fund the cost). Also in this category Tom plans to apply for a marker commemorating the journey of the Hernando

Desoto Expedition through the county after Desoto's death as its trek continued under the second in command. Thurman and Diane Johnson are planning to sponsor a marker for the Oakhill Baptist Church. Marty Vaughan suggested that a marker application be submitted for the Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church and Cemetery in Waskom (it is located near the state line with Louisiana).

Another marker application on next year's list will be for First Presbyterian Church in Waskom. 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 reported that the Museum's "Journey Stories" luncheon events were very successful and well-attended and that planning is well underway for the Wonderland of Sites event to be held during Marshall's 2015 Wonderland of Lights. In addition to the History Museum, this event will involve the Starr Home, the Michelson Art Museum, and Trinity Episcopal Church. (Robert Wood noted that the Depot Museum simply does not have the volunteers needed to be able to participate in this event.) The plans for the event will involve volunteers portraying famous Harrison County people at the various locations. The Museum is also working on its next adult day camp. This event will be a genealogy workshop in April with four lectures on the first day and hands on research the second day. Gail Beil asked about progress on the exhibit that will highlight the Jewish presence in Harrison County. Becky reported that "it is in and the unveiling will be around the first part of April next year. It looks beautiful and there is a map showing the places from which Jewish people immigrated to Harrison County." She also reported that the military exhibits are in and are being fine-tuned.

G. Information Technology

Elizabeth Bradshaw indicated that there is nothing new to report on information technology. Tom Speir noted that all our minutes continue to be provided on-line on the county website.

H. Oral History

Tom Speir indicated that there is no activity to report in this area but we have been asked to re-join the Texas Oral History Association. This association has conferences, workshops, and experts available. It brings together scholars, students, history enthusiasts, folklorists, family historians, and others to promote,

preserve and provide resources to those who practice and are interested in the field of oral history. The Commission will pay the \$30 fee to re-join this association and evaluate the relationship for its benefit.

I. Preservation

Linda Adler addressed her concerns about the Greek Revival columns available from a house on North Grove Street in Marshall. They are 17 feet tall and are from a structure that East Texas Baptist University (ETBU) was removing. They are square wood-frame Doric columns and are currently stored at Linda's house. She would like to find a home for them. She also expressed concern for the work on the Negro "Tenement House" on Alamo Street. Work on its restoration has been stymied. (She realizes that it is the Landmark Preservation Board's area of responsibility and not the Commission's.) She expressed her appreciation for the work of the Commission, noting that she felt "privileged to attend this one time."

Tom Speir reported on the Waskom Community Center project. The proposed memorandum of agreement between the City of Waskom and the THC is circulating and also he is making progress on his historic survey of the city (finished copies of this 30-page report were later shared with the Commission by email.) He noted that there was a letter from THC indicating that the coal mining operations are applying to the THC for a permit to work closer to the Sabine Farms location which has a historical marker. They are requesting a permit to last ten years. The THC is questioning the need for a ten-year approval. Gail Beil and Tony Crosby are working on the preservation of the Turner House at 410 South Washington.

Joe Hudson expressed concern about the Masonic Cornerstone that was recently entered at ETBU and its contents removed as a part of the university's centennial celebrations. He wishes that the Masons had been contacted and allowed to participate in the opening. (The cornerstone was accessed from inside Marshall Hall.) He indicated that we need to be vigilant because there is also a Masonic Cornerstone at Memorial City Hall and at the current Marshall City Hall. In addition, there are Masonic Cornerstones at the old Marshall High School building (currently occupied by the Junior High and slated to be vacated once the new Junior High building on Elysian Fields Road is completed) and at the new High School. Masonic Cornerstones (of the "slab" type) are also in process for the four new MISD school buildings under construction and approval for the cornerstones has already been given. The Marshall Lodge is itself planning a new

building on the Elysian Fields Road and will take its cornerstone from the old downtown building to the new location.

J. Publications

Thanks to Marty Vaughan we have gotten two local history books scanned and available (they are the *Heritage Book* and *Cameo Profiles*). Gail Beil reminded us that *Cultural Crossroads* needs to be re-written. (She will plan to do this revision.) A 1932 Marshall phone book has been found according to Bill Whitis. Also located are two volumes of the *Harrison County Cemetery Index*, the *Harrison County Genealogy Newsletter* for September 1994-September 1999, *Early Marriage Records 1869-1877*, an April 1961 thesis presented to the faculty of the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking by William Reed Allison on the *Organization of the First State Bank in Waskom, Texas*, and a 2000 thesis by Edna C. Sorber and Joseph Velo on *Planters: Landowners of Harrison County*. Carolyn Howard has big stack of Stagecoach Trace brochures. Gail Beil reported that there was a full house on the 28th of October at Central Perks for the signing event by Randolph Campbell of his reprinted book, *A Southern Community in Crisis: Harrison County, Texas, 1850-1880*, .

K. Tourism

Tom Speir noted that Carolyn Howard is busy working on Marshall's 2015 Wonderland of Lights. He also reported that she needs any and all volunteers who might be willing to help in this civic celebration.

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 provide a fruitful means of getting people interested in the work of the Commission. Several recipients of last years awards have become very active in historical projects.

V. Special Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

No report.

B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum

Robert Wood reported that Santa is scheduled to arrive at the Depot on December 3rd. The Museum will be decorating this weekend. There has been no interest expressed in decorating the steam engine. Instead they will concentrate on decorating the building.

C. Starr Home

Barbara Judkins reported that in connection with the Starr Home's neighborhood carol sing on December 17th there will be a short Dickens play, and of course, the normal hot chocolate and cookies. Carols will be led by Emilia Blake Garner. There are some rentals of the Blake House scheduled and visitation always picks up during December. Restoration work continues. Paint layers indicate that at one time the Starr Home was painted blue (also pink and a purple gray). The Home plans to display boards showing all the different paint colors. The Home's new educator did a great job for four months and then she quit. (This person runs the educational programs. It is a part-time position.)

D. Michelson Museum of Art

The Michelson Museum sent word that their November 15th thru December 30th exhibition called, "Shall We Dance," will feature ballet costumes and images from The Nutcracker and Peter Pan as well as ten other ballets from the collection of Pat George Mitchell.

E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)

Tom Speir noted that Tony Crosby had sent word to report that he and Ralph Nolan are working on getting downtown Marshall designated as an historic district.

VI. Other

Nothing to report.

VII. Administrative

Mail. Tom Speir passed around the bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society. Jean Birmingham and Bea White have indicated that they want to stay on the Commission. We have received our membership renewal from the American Association of State and Local History. Tom also passed around various newsletters and magazines and commented on pieces of mail. The Michelson Museum of Art has acknowledged our institutional membership. There was also a newsletter from the History Museum. The 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.

Next Year. Tom spoke about the busy schedule for next year and reviewed the calendar on which he is working.

Commission Appointments/Reappointments. Bill Whitis and Sharon Dewes have agreed to become members of the Commission. We will continue to reduce the number of our members by attrition. (Note: Tom is supplying a list to Judge Taylor of those willing to serve. 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 of the marker restoration work by Ty Weakley.

VIII. Adjournment

The next meeting will be January 12th of 2017 at the T&P Depot Museum at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill