

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

October 12th 2017

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, Robert Wood, Marty Vaughan, Bill T. Whitis, Jean Birmingham, and Barbara Judkins.

Visitors Present: Julia Foley Bey, Gerald Gibson, "Doc" Halliday, Christina Anderson, and Richard Anderson.

Call to Order

Tom Speir, chair, called the meeting to order on October 12th 2017 at 1:32 p.m. in the conference room of the T&P Depot Museum and all to the meeting.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of September 14th 2017 were approved as sent out except "Approval of Minutes" was changed to August 10th rather than July 13th.

III. Treasurer's Report

Bill Whitis shared information regarding the Friends of the Harrison County Historical Commission accounts. The statements showed the following:

Brokerage account	\$ 5,520.75
Certificate of deposit	3,300.00
Certificate of deposit	7,075.12
Greenwood Cemetery Fund	14,536.18
Friends of the HCHC Fund	1,842.19

Tom Speir provided an update on the records of the commission which showed that through today we had spent \$38 of the \$3,000 included in the county budget for the fiscal year running from October 2017 through September of 2018, leaving a balance of \$2,962.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

A. Archaeology

Texas Archeology Month. Tom Speir did a presentation to the Marshall Metro Rotary Club in honor of Texas Archeology Month. Barbara Judkins got us on the calendar in celebration of the month for the Starr Family Home State Historic Site's Victorian Fair, the Texas Historical Commission's (THC's) Texas Historic Cemetery Designation Workshop, and the Harrison County "Capture the Spirits" Cemetery Tour. The Victorian Fair is on October 21st, the workshop on the 24th, and the cemetery tour on the 28th. The Texas Archeology Conference will be on October 24th. Tom reminded all that the state provides free educational materials for celebrating the month and passed out the form for orders. He has ordered 15 copies of the brochure packets for the commission office and Barbara Judkins also has some at the Starr Home.

B. Archives

Tom Speir noted that Richard Magrill and Marty Vaughan had been in to the office to sort minutes and agendas in the archives and expressed the commission's thanks. The next major project will be going through the actual folders in the file drawers and sorting them into a readily usable order.

C. Cemeteries

Current Research. Bill Whitis reported that he had been contacted by a group of ladies looking for Tucker's Chapel Cemetery; nobody seems to know where it is located. (It's not LaGrone's Chapel Cemetery.) Thomas Richardson had sent them to Bill. If anyone knows where the cemetery might be located, please let Bill know. He is working on the Powdermill and McJohnsons cemeteries. McJohnsons is a blank on the County Assessment Map (*i.e.* no owner is shown/known), The map notes that a cemetery is located on the land. Somebody is keeping it mowed.

Newspaper Articles. Richard Anderson praised Bill's work on recording information about the county cemeteries and the publicity he is giving the cause in the *Marshall News Messenger (MNM)*.

Highway Signs. Tom Speir reported that the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) had sent word that the new cemetery highway signs have been delivered here but that the man who will install them has been sent to Houston following the hurricane. The signs will have to await his return before they can be put in place.

Cemetery Clean-Up Days. Canaan Cemetery will have two clean-up days on October 14th and 28th. Tom emphasized that he hoped to get more clean-ups scheduled so he can promote them and seek to enlist volunteers to help.

Historic Texas Cemetery Designation Workshop. Regarding the Historic Texas Cemetery Designation Workshop on October 24th at the Marshall Visual Arts Center from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Tom reported that we already have folks from other counties pre-registered. The workshop is being advertised on our Facebook page, and it is being talked about. This workshop will be the only one of its kind in East Texas this year. He noted that Barbara Judkins did a good job on preparing the publicity piece. Barbara has put notices of the workshop on various forums. She will also mention it on "The Talk of East Texas" on KMHT radio on the 19th, as well as provide a press release to the *MNM*. Barbara will also print up more posters about the cemetery tour if there is a demand for them. The tour will be on the 28th of October and the schedule will be as follows: Barbara Judkins will host the Hebrew Cemetery at 11:00 a.m., Ann Brannon will host the Greenwood Cemetery at 1:00 p.m., and Gail Beil will host the McJohnsons Cemetery at 3:00 p.m. (Bonnie Strauss regrets that she will not be able to help on the cemetery tour because of a conflict with events at the Michelson Art Museum.)

D. Education

History Fair. Tom Speir reported that we are slowly moving forward with work toward this year's History Fair and we hope for all ISDs in the county to be involved. The theme is "Conflict and Compromise in History." We hope that ten winners will be selected from each ISD and that their submissions will be brought to a county-wide fair to be held in the new gymnasium at the recently completed Marshall Junior High School.

(The History Fair Committee is composed of Sharon Dews, Becky Palmer, Barbara Judkins, and Gail Beil.)

E. Historical Markers

Marker Applications. Tom Speir has sent in the Old First National Bank of Hallsville and the Young's Mill Pond applications. Gail Beil is at work on an application for Registered Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation for the old Cities Service Center in Marshall. She is also at work on an application for a marker for C.G. Lancaster who was a well-known architect here. (The City of Marshall will cover the cost of this marker if it is approved.) It was noted that the reason the Bishop College marker, approved this year, was not paid for was because its sponsor had a heart attack; he still wants to pay; he will have to pay up front because, if he cannot or will not, the Bishop Blue organization has offered to pay for it. If the original sponsor pays, the marker will be located just off a parking lot on US80 on what was the western edge of the former campus. If Bishop Blue pays, the marker will and be erected in a neighborhood where Bishop faculty lived. Richard Anderson noted that there is now a Wiley-Bishop Club that also might be a sponsor. (Gail Beil, committee chair, is in Berkeley, California at this time.)

Marker Relocation. Bill Whitis reported that the Kahn Memorial Hospital marker has been removed from its location in the round traffic island in front of Christus-Good Shepherd Hospital. The new hospital owners plan to put a statue of Christ in its place next to the flag poles. Tom has talked with the hospital about the fact that they need THC's permission to relocate the marker. Hospital administrators have suggested placing it near the entrance and putting a spotlight on it. Another suggestion is to place it north of the hospital entrance where the temporary kitchen is currently located and where they plan to put in a garden area and a walking trail. The commission believes that the location by the door will be best. A lot more people will see it there. (Tom suggested that we try to get Logan Jamison-Hatch to refinish the marker as a part of his Eagle Scout Project.) Tom will let the hospital CEO know of our desires regarding the marker re-installation.

Other. If the Marshall Birthplace of Boogie Woogie marker is placed near the Ginnocchio Hotel there may not be a need for a mural. The marker is in storage here until AMTRAK finishes with the handicapped access construction projects at the depot. Ann Brannon had expected to be here but has been delayed as a result of her husband's surgery this morning.

F. History Museum

Annual Luncheon Lecture Series. The second and final luncheon for this year will be on Thursday October 26th in the Marshall Visual Arts Center from

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The lecture will be on “Wyalucing Plantation and Lucy Holcomb Pickens.” The food will come from Sweet Sabines.

Military Exhibit. Jean Birmingham reported that there is no date for when Marshall’s renovation of Memorial City Hall will be completed and the space, finally, be made available for the Museum’s exhibit on Harrison County Veterans. She solicited additional submissions. It was noted that neither our commission nor the THC have ever been asked to help with the repurposing of Marshall’s Memorial City Hall and that the resources of the commission and the THC are available. “Doc” Halliday said that the most recent date for completion of the renovation is by Memorial Day of next year.

G. Information Technology

Our minutes on the county website are up to date. Bill Whitis reported that there is a German heritage website that has a link to our county website. This raised the question of our adding a link from our website to the German heritage one. There was concern that initiating such linkages might open us up to problems; we would need to be careful about adding such links. (Tom noted that the font size for the reference to our minutes on the county webpage has been increased.)

H. Oral History

General. Tom Speir reminded us that oral history equipment is available at the office for anyone desiring to make use of it. We have a growing list but no one to do the interviews. Bill Whitis reported that he will be getting with Bill Sullivan and talking with him about Algoma Cemetery’s history.

Proposed Workshop. Barbara Judkins again mentioned the idea of our sponsoring a workshop on oral history with the idea that Dan Utley be the leader. The workshop would need to be in the summer. Dan has indicated to Barbara that he would do a workshop. Barbara will contact him and ask when he might come.

I. Preservation

Starr Ranch. Tom Speir reported that the Starr Ranch building on the grounds of the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, which a delegation from the commission had visited in May, has now been torn down and cleared for a pavilion. He passed around a photo of the proposed location of a pavilion to replace the dangerous and deteriorated structures of the ranch house.

Stagecoach Road. Tom Speir reported that the county will place another load of cement on Stagecoach Road. The cement, which provides a more durable foundation, is then covered with traditional rock in order to preserve the historic appearance of the road. Tom has asked the county to do one load of concrete each year so that, slowly, the road will be improved.

Wall of Distinction Plaques. There was discussion of the plaques which adorned the former Wall of Distinction at the 1901 Courthouse before its renovation. Richard Anderson indicated that he would like to see them set back up, either at the 1901 Courthouse or in Telegraph Park. Gerald Gibson says that he has been told that they are stored. (Someone needs to check for whether they are all still there.)

James Farmer, Jr. Statue. The possibility of erecting a statue of James Farmer, Jr., noted Civil Rights campaigner and Marshall native, on the west side of the 1901 Courthouse lawn has been discussed with the Harrison County Commissioners Court. At this point, the statue is just a consideration; nothing has been decided. (Gail Beil is checking on the cost of a bronze statue while she is in California.) The Commissioners Court has asked that a county level committee make recommendations about the erection of statues and submit a report. The report and its recommendations should offer guidance regarding the installation of statues, *e.g.* persons would have to be dead for a certain number of years in order to qualify for being honored with a statue. Note: according to the THC no other county currently has such policies in place.

J. Publications

Historical Marker Booklet. Richard Magrill reported on his work on the new county historical marker booklet. He passed out copies of three items: a digest of markers (inquired about, proposed, and/or completed) as recorded in the minutes of the commission from 2001 to date; a chronological index to all known and/or approved state markers; and the texts of all markers since the last booklet was published in 1995. (Richard asked for any corrections to be sent to him.)

Stagecoach Trace . There was discussion of the county markers for the Stagecoach Trace. Tom Speir reiterated that any new markers should be of such material and workmanship that they will last for at least two decades. He also called attention to the fact that Gerald Gibson has volunteered to help Gail Beil in her work with the updating of the Stagecoach Trace brochure.

K. Tourism

Waskom. Tom Speir introduced Julia Foley Bey and noted she was invited to attend this meeting by Marty Vaughan. Julia does the marketing for Gators and Friends across the state line in Louisiana. This attraction brings visitors to our area. It is located on US80 and she is working with both Greenwood, Louisiana, and Waskom, Texas on generating tourism. Specifically, today, she is looking for ways to leverage what is going on in Harrison County to benefit Waskom.

T.C. Lindsay & Co. On November 4th the “Jonesville General Store” will be celebrating its anniversary; T.C. Lindsay & Co. has been serving the Jonesville community since 1847. On the second Saturday in December (the 8th), all are invited to the store’s annual open house. Marty Vaughan said that the store staff would love for all to come. Bill Whitis said that we should add graphics to the notice on our Facebook page about these events. (The Marshall Chamber of Commerce will do the ribbon-cutting at the 170th anniversary on November 4th.)

Voices from Small Places. Tom Speir reported that we have received a card from “Voices from Small Places” regarding upcoming workshops. The first is November 4th in West, Texas and the second is January 27th 2018 in Marshall at the Visual Arts Center from 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. He noted that the workshop is free of charge.

L. Goals

Fire Inspections. Tom Speir has contacted the County Fire Marshall regarding our jointly offering free fire inspections this fall for old/historic homes in the county. He has not yet heard back from him.

M. Annual Preservation Awards

Tom Speir reminded everyone to be thinking about nominations for next year’s annual preservation awards.

V. Special Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

Christina Anderson made a presentation on the Harrison County Industrial Development Authority and its work on securing an endowment fund for and on providing planning, recommendations, and resources for the upkeep and preservation of the 1901 Courthouse:



**PRESENTATION TO THE
HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**
by
***Christina Anderson President,
Harrison County Industrial Development Authority (HCIDA)
Board of Directors
October 12, 2017***

Thank you for the opportunity to share information about the Courthouse endowment and the work of the HCIDA Board of Directors and volunteer Courthouse Manager. Also, thank each of you as members of the



Harrison County Historical Commission for the excellent work you do for our community, for history, and for historic preservation.



Brief information about the restoration
of the 1901 Harrison County Courthouse.

Efforts to restore the 1901 Harrison County Courthouse were initiated in the 1990s, with the construction on the restoration project beginning in 1998. The restoration spanned the administrations of three county judges— Judge Rodney Gilstrap, Judge Wayne McWhorter, and Judge Richard Anderson. The restoration was a true collaborative effort between the Texas Historical Commission, Harrison County, City of Marshall, the non-profit Courthouse Preservation Council of Harrison County, and many volunteers and contributors.



Thursday, June
20, 2009 at the
dedication of
the restored
1901
Courthouse.





Following the completion of the restoration, the establishment and structure of the Courthouse endowment through the sale of historic income tax credits was proposed to the Harrison County Commissioners Court by then Harrison County Judge Richard Anderson and approved by the Commissioners Court in 2009. (These beautiful pictures of the restored 1901 Courthouse were taken by Ron Munden.)





The restoration of the 1901 Harrison County Courthouse was a very time-, labor-, and resource-intensive undertaking, as seen in some of these photos before and during the restoration.



Following the completion of the restoration, the establishment and structure of the Courthouse endowment through the sale of historic income tax credits was proposed to the Harrison County Commissioners Court by then Harrison County Judge Richard Anderson and approved by the Commissioners Court in 2009.

Harrison County would continue to be responsible for the day-to-day routine maintenance of the Courthouse as it has been doing since 1901 when the Courthouse was built.



The Courthouse endowment was established to assist Harrison County with major repairs and permanent improvements to the restored Courthouse and so that



the restored Courthouse and the investment in it's restoration would be preserved in an ongoing way. The contract also states that permanent improvements and repairs to the Property should be "consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, 1995."

The Grant of Easement contract describes the above-stated "Property" as the Harrison County Courthouse and Grounds.

On December 13, 2010, the Harrison County Commissioners Court appointed the initial members of the nine-member HCIDA Board of Directors. Members serve 6-year terms.

The sale of historic tax credits usually takes place at the front end of a restoration project to assist with the funding of the restoration or renovation. But, the sale of historic tax credits to establish this endowment was structured after the completion of the restoration in 2009 with the provision that the restored Harrison County Courthouse would not be primarily occupied by the County during a designated time period.

The Courthouse endowment was also designed to provide the funding and methodology by which Harrison County, going forward after the completion of the restoration, would be able to fulfill the contractual obligation the County made with the Texas Historical Commission in connection with grant funding received, as set forth in the Grant of Easement, dated May 1, 2001. The contract sets forth Harrison County's obligation to "maintain and repair the Property as required to ensure that the historic architectural integrity of the Property is not permitted to deteriorate in any meaningful way."

The current officers and members of the Harrison County Industrial Development Authority (HCIDA) Board of Directors are: Christina Anderson, President; Chief Reggie Cooper, Vice President; Eric Neal, Treasurer; Jack Redman, Secretary; Commissioner Jay Ebarb; Veronica King; Barron Neal; Commissioner Zephaniah Timmins; and Amanda Wynn.



The HCIDA board (known as the "Courthouse Endowment" Board) has, since its initial meeting in 2011, gone about the work of addressing the first charge of its twofold mission by wisely investing the \$1.4 million endowment funds.

An Investment Committee was formed to do in-depth research as to the wisest and most effective way for the endowment funds to be invested, so as to

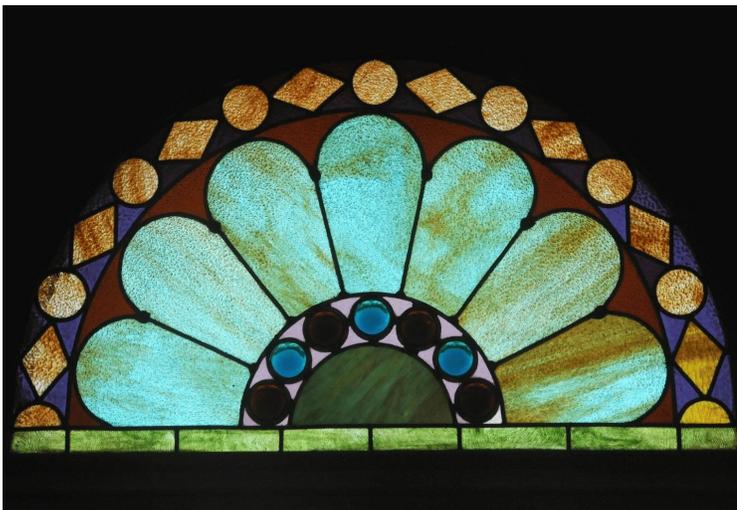
assist the Board in preserving, protecting, and growing the endowment.

In order to address the second charge of its twofold mission, the HCIDA Board has gone about the work of taking well-informed and well-researched steps to put in place the structures and protocols needed to insure that the Board's assistance to Harrison County is as helpful, effective, and prevention-minded as possible.

This means that, had the monies been deposited with the County, the earnings, thus far since March 2012, would have been only \$21,000, as opposed to \$800,000 in unrealized gains that have been earned for the endowment since March 2012.

Under the HCIDA Board's stewardship, the endowment has increased from \$1.4 million in March, 2012 to \$2.2 million as of October 4, 2017. This not only shows wise stewardship by the HCIDA Board but it underscores the wisdom of the structure of the endowment. That is, by comparison, had the structure of the limited liability corporations not been developed and had the endowment funds been on deposit with the County's depository, the earnings would have been less than 16 basis points or 16/100ths of one percent.

This means that, had the monies been deposited with the County, the earnings, thus far since March 2012, would have been only \$21,000, as opposed to \$800,000 in unrealized gains that have been earned for the endowment since March 2012 as a result of the investment made by the HCIDA Board.



In summer 2014, the HCIDA sent out a request for proposals for the proposed Condition Assessment. The board received three proposals from historic preservation firms. In the fall of 2014, after

reviewing the proposal submissions, HCIDA Board voted to engage Leeds Clark Historic Preservation & Consulting as the historic preservationist to carry out the Condition Assessment.

The goal of the Condition Assessment is to formulate a short-range and long-range plan, or a “roadmap” as it were, from the synthesized data gleaned from an onsite 2-day inspection of the restored Courthouse and to use the information as a baseline comparative tool to build on through the years with regard to the ongoing preservation of the Courthouse. The vision anticipates that follow-up Condition Assessments will be helpful at regularly-timed intervals in the future so as to continually allow for informed and preventative measures to be taken.



The vision anticipates that follow-up Condition Assessments will be helpful at regularly-timed intervals in the future so as to continually allow for informed and preventative measures to be taken. One of the reasons the Board selected the historic preservation consultant it did to carry out the initial Condition Assessment was because of their expertise with historic windows and exterior envelope. They also have thermal imaging capacities that assisted with locating any infiltration issues in the Courthouse.



The plan and vision of collaborating to develop a schedule of prioritized permanent improvements and major repairs, as well as a recommended management plan, is designed to complement and work with Harrison

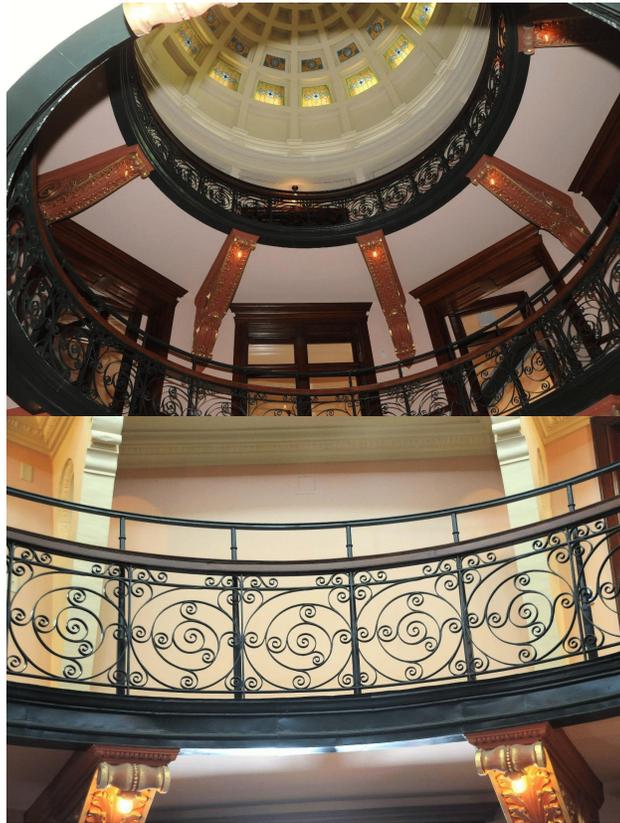
County’s day-to-day routine maintenance plan regarding all aspects of the restored Courthouse.

We believe the structure of the endowment for the restored 1901 Harrison County Courthouse and the related structure and work of the HCIDA Board

can potentially be a helpful and instructive model for other infrastructure-related projects and boards in our County, our City, and other communities in our State and region as well.

The HCIDA Permanent Improvements Committee and the volunteer Harrison Courthouse Manager Richard Anderson just completed the RFP and bid process to find a general contractor to carry out the project to repaint and repair the windows and exterior doors on the restored Courthouse.

We thank Jim Malanaphy of the Texas Historical Commission for his kind assistance throughout the bid process. A general contractor for this project was approved by the HCIDA Board on October 4, 2017 and the work is scheduled to begin on October 16, 2017. This is an exciting step in the Courthouse endowment process since this is the first permanent improvements project carried forward by the HCIDA Board of Directors to accomplish its twofold mission of a) preserving and protecting the endowment and b) assisting the County with the ongoing preservation of the restored 1901 Harrison County Courthouse in perpetuity.



Thank you again to Tom Speir and the Harrison County Historical Commission for the opportunity to share this information. We hope the presentation has been helpful. — PowerPoint presentation was written by Christina Anderson. Courthouse photos were taken by Christina Anderson and Ron Munden.

The commission gave Christina Anderson a round of applause for her presentation. Tom Speir asked her to keep the commission informed of the work of HCIDA and if possible to send a report of any item(s) of interest to each of our meetings.

B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum

Robert Wood indicated that the activity that we currently observe is what is going on as far as construction; he does not expect the new handicapped elevator and walkways to be ready until January or later. When the workers are through with that work, they will begin to work on the restrooms. Presently there is a road block with the elevator company. The elevator works fine, except the doors will not open. AMTRAK has promised new elevator doors. Tom Speir asked about the old, repaired (now duplicate) historical marker. Robert indicated that the plan is to install it somewhere on the grounds whenever construction is complete.

C. Starr Family Home State Historic Site

Barbara Judkins reported that the crew is working very hard on the breeze way, cook's quarters, and kitchen. The plan is for a dedication of its newly restored working kitchen (with wood-burning stove) on December 16th. That evening will also be the third annual carol-singing, which will be held on the main lot so the event can move inside if a big wind comes (as it did last year!).

D. Michelson Museum of Art

Tom Speir called attention to the new exhibit which opened at the Michelson on Tuesday of this week, "Drawing Stories: The Picture Book Art of Maria Frazee." The artist is an author and illustrator of children's literature and has won two Caldecott Honors for picture book illustration. The exhibit will continue through December 23rd 2017.

E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)

No report.

VI. Other

None.

VII. Administrative

Incoming Mail. Tom Speir shared the T.C. Lindsey & Co. invitation to its festivities. Preservation Texas has sent a decal. A thank you was received from the Michelson Art Museum for the renewal of our membership. The East Texas Historical Association is having its meeting today in Galveston. The quarterly Texas Archeological Society Newsletter has been received as well as that from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Tom continues to add events regularly to the community calendar.

Public Address System. Barbara Judkins borrowed our new portable public address system; she pronounced it “easy to use.” The battery lasts 8-10 hours. (In fact, Barbara liked it so much that the Starr Home has bought one for its own use.)

Pop-Up Sign. Marty Vaughan borrowed our new pop-up sign for use at Waskom’s “Night Out.” She received a number of compliments on it.

Texas State Library and Archives. We have received a poster from the Texas State Library and Archives commemorating World War I.

Texas Historical Commission. Tom has asked the THC to replace our lost copy of the 2015 distinguished service award. Also an email has been received from the THC filled with links that are useful for commission members.

Facebook Page. Photos for our Facebook page are still needed. (Bill Whitis indicated that he will take photos of the upcoming cemetery tour.)

VIII. Adjournment

The next meeting will be November 9th 2017 at the T&P Depot Museum at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill