

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

April 12th 2018

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: Robert Wood, Richard Magrill, Rose Mary Magrill, Bill T. Whitis, Ann Brannon, Barbara Judkins, Jean Birmingham, Marty Vaughan, and Gail Beil.

Visitors Present: Richard Anderson and Rachel Skowronek.

Call to Order

Robert Wood, vice chair, called the meeting to order on April 12th 2018 at 1:29 p.m. in the conference room of the T&P Depot Museum and welcomed all to the meeting. He opened the meeting with prayer.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of March 8th 2018 were approved as sent out.

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 | 14,538.35 |
| Friends of the HCHC Fund | 1,842.61 |

Tom Speir was not present to provide an update on the financial records of the Commission; our expenses as of the last meeting showed \$556 spent 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 \$2,444.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

A. Archaeology

The subject of archeology was tabled but Marty Vaughan inquired about any progress toward locating Montvale Spring.

B. Archives

The subject of archives was tabled.

C. Cemeteries

Old Canaan Cemetery. Bill Whitis reported two additional cemeteries discovered this month: the Old Canaan Cemetery which contains thirty or forty burials and the McPhail Cemetery.

McPhail Cemetery. Robert Woods took Bill to Harleton after our last meeting to visit the McPhail Cemetery.

Hamm Cemetery. Robert also provided Bill with information on Richard Kyle as a contact for the Hamm Cemetery. Robert and his wife, Brenda, have previously visited the Hamm Cemetery with Kyle's assistance. He also noted that Kyle says good weather will be needed for such a visit.

Newly Located Site. Bill has identified the location of a cemetery at the corner of Sue Bell Lake and Henderson Schoolhouse Road. Ruth Sewell and Jo Bell Raines can be helpful in visiting this site.

Greenwood Cemetery. Ann Brannon gave Bill Whitis a \$350 check from the Woman's Club in Marshall for the Greenwood Cemetery.

Ewing Chapel Cemetery. The dedication of the Historic Texas Cemetery Marker for Ewing Chapel Cemetery took place last Saturday (April 7th) in spite of cold winds and threatening rains. There were forty-nine people present and one local dog who acted as greeter. Tom Speir represented the Commission and Ann Brannon read his formal remarks. Robert Wood, Rose Mary Magrill (who gave the dedicatory address), and Richard Magrill were also present for the occasion.

Spring Cemetery Tour. Barbara Judkins reported that everything is coming together for the Spring Cemetery Tour. Bill Whitis will be the docent at the Cave Springs Cemetery. Barbara will serve as docent for the Saint Mary's African-American Cemetery, and the Ewing Chapel Cemetery Committee will provide docents at that site for the tour. The tour date will be next Saturday, April 21st. The schedule will be as follows: Cave Springs Cemetery 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., 9814 South Highway 431; Saint Mary's Baptist Church Cemetery 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., 1512 Peach Orchard Road; and Ewing Chapel Cemetery 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.. CR 3017 (Rosborough Springs Road). Participants are encouraged to bring their own picnics for this final spot. The port-a-potty will be dropped off on Friday night and picked up on Monday. And, don't forget the free water, lemonade, and cookies! (All provided courtesy of the Starr Family Home State Historic Site.)

Tombstone Castings. Barbara Judkins shared the results of several putty castings of tombstone engravings. The putty consists of two parts that are mixed together just before applying the putty to the tombstone. The resulting cast does not damage the tombstone and can be used to make an impression in plaster which duplicates the design on the tombstone. Barbara showed the results of a couple of test runs with both the putty and the plaster. Rubbings can then be done using the plaster casts which will leave the tombstone itself undisturbed by the rubbing process. She plans to teach people this process.

D. Education

The subject of education was tabled.

E. Historical Markers

Marshall Birthplace of Boogie Woogie Marker. Gail Beil that the dedication of the Boogie Woogie marker will be held on Labor Day weekend at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday September 1st.

James Farmer, Jr. Statue. A communication from Tom Speir regarding the process to recommend a written policy to deal with the erection of any memorials, monuments, or markers on Harrison County property was considered. There were various concerns and some disagreement over exactly what was being proposed. After almost an hour the communication was tabled until our next meeting when Tom can be present to clarify. (This policy is being formulated in order to plan for

the erection on the western lawn of the 1901 Courthouse of a statue of James Farmer Jr., noted Civil Rights activist and Marshall native.)

F. History Museum

“Hometown Teams: How Sports Shape America.” Jean Birmingham urged attendance at the Smithsonian Museum Exhibit currently on display at the Marshall Public Library. The exhibit will continue through April 28th.

Permanent Home for Library. Ann Brannon reminded the Commission that the Museum is looking for a permanent home for its library and research collections. Gail Beil reported that the Museum may be able to receive the old Marshall National Bank/Chase National Bank building as a gift. Ann noted that the museum will need at least 10,000 square feet for the present collection and future needs.

G. Information Technology

Our minutes continue to be posted on the county website and are currently up to date. Bill Whitis continues his work on pre-programming our Facebook page to include new notices of activities and events.

H. Oral History

Oral History Workshop. There will be a workshop on oral history on Saturday, June 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The workshop will be led by Dr. Dan Utley, a professor at the University of Texas at San Marcos. Meetings will be held at the Marshall Visual Arts Center and participants will migrate to Central Perks for lunch. Barbara Judkins has created a flyer for the workshop. She indicated that Dr. Utley wants to limit the enrollment to 24-25 people so that he will be able to offer one-on-one instruction with each participant, and for that reason, he suggested that we ask participants to pre-register.

I. Preservation

Memorial City Hall. Gail Beil reported that the renovation work on Memorial City Hall is seeking to preserve as much of the building’s interior ornamentation as possible. She has been particularly impressed with the work to preserve every plaster ornament. The renovated building will be opened to the public on the 31st of August. There will be a Boogie Woogie concert that weekend compliments of SWEPCO.

J. Publications

The subject of publications was tabled.

K. Tourism

Rachel Skowronek indicated that she was present for our meeting to gather information on any upcoming events.

Monthly Community Calendar. All organizations are encouraged to share their activities with the community calendar of area events. The calendar is sponsored and mailed out by the Marshall Regional Arts Council and is prepared by Dr. Brenda Dearman, a retired music professor from East Texas Baptist University.

L. Goals

The subject of goals was tabled.

M. Annual Preservation Awards

Barbara Judkins presented the report of the committee on nominations for the various categories of our annual preservation awards. There were at least two nominees in each category.

Selected for the ***Award of Merit*** was the ***Marshall Independent School District its Superintendent, Board of Trustees, Teachers, and Students, past, present, and future.*** This award recognizes the efforts and/or contributions of an individual or organization involved in preserving Harrison County's cultural and historical resources. When the Marshall ISD dedicated its four new and one renovated school buildings in the fall of 2017, it made the decision to dedicate rooms and hallways in memory of former educators and schools in a way that pointed up the historic achievements of both people and places in educating the youth of Marshall and adjacent areas outside the city.

In particular, hallways at the three newly built elementary schools (four at each location) were named for previous schools which had provided educational opportunities for African-American, Hispanic, and Anglo students. In some cases, these hallways were named for the elementary schools — William H. Moore, Matthew W. Dogan, Robert E. Lee, and South Marshall — which were being closed. As pupils from these former schools were joining new classmates from the rebuilt schools — Price T. Young, David Crockett, and William B. Travis — all students together were experiencing the unfamiliar new buildings. But, the newly

named hallways, twelve in number, included more than representations of the four schools being closed and even in the case of the four schools which were being closed the hallway namings provided photographs and texts which often celebrated the work of buildings and names which predated those from which students had just come.

Each named hallway contained a museum quality display of a picture and narrative which not only gave a sense of continuity to those who came from the former locations which were closed in the consolidation, but introduced all students, teachers, parents, and interested citizens (who attended the various open-house celebrations at each new location) to the rich history of public education in the Marshall area. In addition, these markers should cause generations of future students to pause and consider their educational heritage and hopefully spark their interest in the history of the MISD and Harrison County.

In their sensitivity to heritage, to providing a sense of belonging, and to identifying the work of education with the community of present, past, and future students and teachers, the Marshall Independent School District has made a valuable and enduring contribution to the preservation of the history of Harrison County.

Selected for the *Marjorie Perkins Volunteer of the Year Award* was the **Mr. Gerald Gibson**. This award recognizes an individual for outstanding volunteer service to historic preservation, downtown revitalization, heritage tourism or community service. It will be presented to Mr. Gibson for his ongoing work to locate and report the sites of the Rosenwald Schools in Harrison County. These schools were an early effort to provide facilities for the use of African-American students and teachers.

Selected for the *Max Lale Award for Historic Preservation* was **Alan Loudermilk**. This award recognizes an individual, organization, or project that has significantly contributed to the understanding or preservation of Harrison County's cultural and historic resources. Categories include restoration, preservation or rehabilitation projects, non-construction projects such as books, a scholarly paper, presentation, educational or media achievement. Mr. Loudermilk has invested his time and means in the exemplary restoration of the Ginnochio Hotel adjacent to the Marshall Depot. This former hotel has been reopened as a restaurant and office building.

MAX LALE AWARD FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

- 2011 – Harrison County**
- 2012 – City of Marshall**
- 2013 – “A Town Full of Music”**
- 2014 – Harrison County Historical Museum**
- 2015 – Jennifer Larned**
- 2016 – Anthony Crosby**
- 2017 – Sabine Farms Educational Society, Inc.**
- 2018 – Alan Loudermilk**

MARJORIE PERKINS OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

- 2011 – Trustees and Volunteers
of the Michelson Museum of Art**
- 2012 – Taylor Fason**
- 2013 – Ann Yappen**
- 2014 – Ewing Chapel Cemetery Committee**
- 2015 – Ruth Briggs**
- 2016 – Bill T. Whitis**
- 2017 – The Reverend Glenda Clay**
- 2018 – Gerald Gibson**

AWARD OF MERIT

- 2011 – Judge Richard Anderson**
- 2012 – New Town Neighborhood Association**
- 2013 – First United Methodist Church**
- 2014 – Friends of the Starr Home**
- 2015 – Richard Magrill**
- 2016 – Janet Cook**
- 2017 – Harrison County Inmate Workforce**
- 2018 – Marshall Independent School District
its Superintendent, Board of Trustees,
and Students, Past, Present, and Future.**

V. Special Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

Robert Wood welcomed Richard Anderson to the meeting. He indicated that he was standing in for his wife, Christina. In December of last year work was begun on repainting the window frames in the 1901 Courthouse. This work has now been completed by the Harrison County Industrial Development Authority (HCIDA). (Christina Anderson is the President of its Board of Trustees.) The funds for this repair work came from the endowment set up by the HCIDA. This endowment was established to assist Harrison County with major repairs and permanent improvements to the restored 1901 Courthouse and so that the restored Courthouse and the investment in its restoration would be preserved in an ongoing way. It was funded by the sale of historic tax credits. Originally consisting of \$1.4M, the endowment, with wise investment, has grown to \$2.1M. The only windows not included in this current project are the curved ones under the dome. Still needed is repair work for past damage caused by those putting up the “Wonderland of Lights” decorations. Richard noted that the 1901 Courthouse is not a “Christmas Tree but a historical artifact.” No county funds were involved in this project.

B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum

Renovations. Robert Wood reported that the Depot renovations are really, really close to completion. In fact, he tried to get permission for the elevator to be available for use for today’s meeting. Signage calling attention to the historical marker is even now being prepared by Smart Advertising.

Disposal of Old Elevator. Robert asked if anyone knows of someone with a lake house or other private property that might need the elevator that is being replaced? He noted that it will need to be installed in a private structure since maintenance will only be available where it is in private use. It is basically free. It was built by Severity and is hydraulically operated.

Fundraiser. Robert also added that there are heating/air-conditioning problems which need to be solved. There was discussion of seeing if County staff could help with recommendations on this need. In connection with ongoing needs, Robert called attention to a Depot Museum Fundraiser set for the 29th of April. Alan Loudermilk has offered to support the Depot through the restaurant which he

has opened in the adjacent Ginnochio Hotel. The price of tickets is \$100 for the meal. There will be three one-hour sittings.

C. Starr Family Home State Historic Site

The subject of the Starr Home was tabled in the interest of saving time.

D. Michelson Museum of Art

Kentucky Derby Party. The Michelson Kentucky Derby Party will be held on Saturday, May 5th beginning at 4:30 p.m. This is an annual fundraiser and tickets may be purchased for \$75 per person at the museum or The Brass Trunk. Proceeds will support the museum in its commitment to offer art experiences free of charge.

E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)

No report.

VI. Other

No report.

VII. Administrative

The subject of administrative activities was tabled.

Facebook Page. As always, we need photos for our Facebook page. Attractive photos featuring spring blossoms would be especially nice for this time of year.

VIII. Adjournment

The next meeting will be May 10th 2018 at the T&P Depot Museum at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill