

**HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 11<sup>th</sup> 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:** Tom Speir, Richard Magrill, Rose Mary Magrill, Bill T. Whitis, Jean Birmingham, Ann Brannon, Barbara Judkins, Marty Vaughan, and Robert Wood.

**Visitor(s) Present:** Gerald Gibson.

**I. Call to Order**

Tom Speir, chair, called the meeting to order on October 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 at 1:28 p.m. in the conference room of the T&P Depot Museum.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting of September 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 were approved as distributed.

**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	\$ 5,552.97
Certificate of deposit	3,300.00
Certificate of deposit	7,075.12
Greenwood Cemetery Fund	7,535.62
Friends of the HCHC Fund	3,293.10

Tom Speir reported on the financial records of the Commission. Our expenses showed zero of the new \$3,000 included in the county budget for the fiscal year running from October 2018 through October 2019.

**IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:**

**A. Archaeology**

***Moderator/Regulator Conflict.*** Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup> Bill O'Neal will speak on the Moderator/Regulator Conflict in the courtroom of the 1901 Courthouse.

***Rosenwald Schools.*** Gerald Gibson continues to have success working on the locations of the Rosenwald

***Caddo Indians.*** There is a new video — Disinherited: Caddo Indians — by Phil Cross which costs \$25 per copy. Marty Vaughan will help to coordinate purchases of this item.

***Texas Archeological Society.*** The 89<sup>th</sup> Texas Archeological Society meeting is scheduled for October 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>. Tom has the form for registration.

**B. Archives**

Tom Speir expressed thanks to Bill Whitis who has been in to help with the filing.

**C. Cemeteries**

***Saint Joseph's Catholic Cemetery.*** Bill Whitis reported that he has cleaned a few stones at Saint Joseph's and the results have been viewed. The church may hire Rusty Brennan of Texas Cemetery Restorations or may see if they can get the Knights of Columbus to do the cleaning. The plan is to fence and clean the newly expanded cemetery.

***Ham Cemetery.*** Bill Whitis and Robert Wood will visit the Ham Cemetery this afternoon. As late as the 1970's there were still about six headstones showing there.

***Antioch Cemetery.*** Marty Vaughan got a call about a cemetery in the Jonesville area that had a lot of slaves buried there. This is the Antioch Cemetery. The person calling was actually interested in locating any old slave quarters. Bill Whitis indicated that there are no slave quarters left anywhere in the county.

**Greenwood Cemetery.** Ann Brannon indicated that she will send the bone (which is still in her pantry) to an anthropologist. She also reported that she and Ned Calvert have communicated about the possibility of East Texas Baptist University students performing community service at Greenwood. One hope is that they might help with the removal of small trees growing near any stones.

**Cemetery Signs.** Tom Speir confessed that he missed the 2017-2018 budget window for purchasing signs for county cemeteries that would provide a generic message saying that county funeral homes should be contacted regarding burials. He has already ordered them in the new budget year.

**Fall Cemetery Tour.** Barbara Judkins passed out handbill- and poster-sized announcements of the “Capturing the Spirits” tour of the Ewing Chapel Cemetery to be held on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 1-2:30 p.m. Various plans for chairs, tables, and refreshments were shared. The Ewing Chapel Cemetery Committee will arrange for persons to share information about the cemetery itself. Barbara Judkins will share information about gravestone symbolism and gravestone cleaning. Members of the committee and the Historical Commission will be present to answer questions.

#### **D. Education**

**History Fair.** January 19<sup>th</sup> will be the next county-wide History Fair. We will be looking for judges. It will probably be at Marshall Junior High School again since we do not know which school districts will participate. National History Day theme for 2019 is “Triumph and Tragedy in History.”

#### **E. Historical Markers**

**Bishop College.** Tom Speir reported that the text of the Bishop College marker has been approved.

**Port Caddo.** Tom also reported that the Port Caddo marker is to be left in its position inside the Caddo Lake State Park at this time. The thinking now is for a new marker to be put somewhere outside the park in order to bring in visitors to the county, but without revealing the actual location of Port Caddo since we do not want to promote digging for artifacts.

**Trammel’s Trace.** We will need a sponsor for a Trammel’s Trace marker in our county since the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has indicated that there are already six “undertold story” markers which have been erected elsewhere for the Trace. Tom has asked Gary Pinkerton to do the essay. He noted that he and

Gary went to Nacogdoches for the dedication of a Daughters of the Republic of Texas Trammel's Trace Marker. Gary has indicated that he may want to try for that kind of medallion instead of an official THC marker.

***William "Billy" Anderson Home.*** The condition of the "Billy" Anderson Home was discussed. Bill Whitis indicated that it was currently occupied and therefore, presumably, in good shape.

***C.G. Lancaster.*** Tom reported that we will be submitting one application this fall for a new marker: C.G. Lancaster. Gail Beil has prepared the application and indicated that the City of Marshall will cover the costs. It will be placed at or near Marshall City Hall. (C.G. Lancaster was a prominent early architect in Marshall.)

***Elks Club/Hallsville Bank.*** Tom Speir noted that the Elks Club Marker has shipped and we are waiting for text on the Hallsville Bank marker.

***James Farmer, Jr. Statue.*** Work toward erecting a statue of James Farmer, Jr. on the western portion of the lawn of the 1901 Courthouse continues. (*Note:* James Farmer, Jr. was a noted Civil Rights activist and Marshall native.)

## **F. Historical Museum**

***Inez Hatley Hughes Research Library.*** The search continues for a building to house the Inez Hatley Hughes Research Library.

***Fall Lunch Topics.*** Jean Birmingham thanked Rose Mary Magrill for her presentation along with Fran Hurley on Rosborough Springs at today's luncheon. The next luncheon will be on October 25<sup>th</sup> and Daryl Ware will be the speaker, sharing his research on Harrison County's many railroads. The \$15 donation for each lunch benefits the Museum's Children's Education Program.

***Lewis Gun Search.*** A recent inquiry to see if the Historical Museum had in its collection a Lewis gun (an early prototype of a belt-fed machine gun) revealed that it has a water-color painting and not the gun itself.

## **G. Information Technology**

Bill Whitis reported our minutes are being posted to the county website on a regular basis and that another fourteen followers/new friends have liked our Facebook page. That makes a total of 1,469 people currently listed on our Facebook account.

## **H. Oral History**

Bill Whitis will see if Carl Sperier can be interviewed about his life here in Marshall.

## **I. Preservation**

***Stagecoach Road.*** Tom Speir reported that he had sent an email to John Paul Jones, County Road and Bridge Supervisor, and County Commissioner William Hatfield about one dump truck load of dirt and gravel being added to Stagecoach Road as an improvement and for its preservation.

***1003 James Farmer Road.*** Tom noted that we had received an inquiry from Richard Anderson, who serves on the Wiley College board of trustees, regarding the status of the dwelling at 1003 James Farmer Road. Wiley College owns the building and is under the mistaken impression that our commission has refused to allow it to be bulldozed. Tony Crosby went out to check it and reported nothing salvageable. THC also said there was no reason not to proceed. Tom has sent a copy of the THC letter to Anderson.

***Communications Tower in Woodlawn.*** Tom reported that Tri-Leaf Engineering has made an inquiry regarding the erection of a communications tower in Woodlawn. Bill Whitis verified that no cemeteries would be affected. Tom indicated that there are no known archeological sites but that there might be Caddo Indian burials. In any case, an archeological study has been done and our commission and the THC concur that Tri-Leaf can proceed.

***National Preservation Institute (NPI) Seminars.*** Tom Speir reminded all of the upcoming NPI seminars to be held in Austin during October. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> there is a seminar on “Conservation Strategies for Archeologists” and on the 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a seminar on “Archeological Curation and Collections Management.”

## **J. Publications**

No report.

## **K. Tourism**

***Pop-Up Sign.*** Marty Vaughan borrowed our “Pop-Up” sign for Waskom’s night out. About 450 came out for the night. Marty will put our sign up in the Jonesville General Store for the time being. It was suggested that a good use of our

sign (rather than simply being stored in the office) might be to move it periodically around the county to different locations.

***Depository for Brochures.*** Tom Speir noted that we had previously used the Marshall Convention and Visitors Bureau as a depository for brochures from the various museums, historic sites, and historic attractions in the county. We need to find where the brochures formerly stored there now are. Ideally we would like to find a new central location and somebody who be responsible for looking after the inventory of brochures. It was pointed out that we need a list of the brochures and some idea of the space that will be needed to store them. Marty Vaughan noted that she would be glad to pick up in Marshall and get supplies to the Texas Travel and Information Center on I-20 whenever they are needed there.

***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 (bdearman8@gmail.com), a retired music professor from East Texas Baptist University. Marty Vaughan noted that she had sent a list of upcoming events planned for Waskom. (It was reported that the calendar already lists events up to next May.)

***Brochures and Fans.*** Tom Speir passed out samples of the Trammel's Trace brochures and fans from the marker dedication that he and Gary Pinkerton attended in Nacogdoches. He hopes that these pieces may be an inspiration to us concerning tourism promotion in Harrison County.

## **L. Goals**

***Genealogy Workshop.*** Barbara Judkins has suggested that she might do a genealogy workshop next year. It could be viewed as one component of a two-parter emphasis by tagging onto the Historical Museum's genealogical workshop.

***National Register Workshop.*** Tom Speir reported that he has contacted Greg Smith who is with THC. Greg is coming to Marshall to discuss the possibility of a Historic District in downtown Marshall. While he is here he will do a workshop on National Register submissions.

## **M. Annual Preservation Awards**

Tom Speir reported that 2019 Honor Awards of Preservation Texas are open for submissions and offered the official form for use by any who might wish to make nominations. Robert Wood accepted the form. Tom reminded us that we

needed to be thinking about possible recipients for our own awards to be given next spring.

## **V. Special Reports**

### **A. 1901 Courthouse**

No report.

### **B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum**

***Texas Eagle Organization.*** Robert Wood reported that there is a meeting in Marshall this weekend at Trinity Episcopal Church of the Texas Eagle marketing and performance organization. The organization originally began in Marshall but now convenes in many different localities. It is a quasi lobbying team to promote AMTRAK and around 100 people are expected to attend.

***Santa Arrives December 8<sup>th</sup>.*** Robert also reported that Santa will make his appearance at the Depot on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be cookies for the children (and others) in attendance.

### **C. Starr Family Home State Historic Site**

Barbara Judkins reported that everything is going well and that the previously received wood stove (which was returned) is being shipped from Rhode Island today. It has been modified so it can burn wood.

### **D. Michelson Museum of Art**

On Tuesday October 20<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. there will be an event at the Michelson for children to learn about the traditional Mexican altar and other customs surrounding the “Day of the Dead” celebration. A video called “Coco” will be shown.

### **E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)**

Tom Speir reported that Tony Crosby is in Colorado and he has not heard from Ralph Newlan. They are working on a Historic District designation for a portion of downtown Marshall.

## **VI. Other**

Nothing was reported under this category.

## **VII. Administrative**

***Incoming Mail.*** Tom Speir reported items received from the National Trust, the Harrison County Historical Museum and the Texas Archeological Society. The most recent issue of the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* has also been received.

***Commission Membership.*** Tom noted that in January we have to renew membership nominations to the Harrison County Commissioners Court. Tom has tried to contact various people. He has talked to Betsy Cadenhead about becoming a member. Betsy is familiar with Texas archeological techniques. Tom envisions Bill Whitis becoming chair with Tom as vice-chair. This arrangement will rotate the leadership in a way that THC is stressing and it will relieve pressure on Tom at a time when his mother's death is expected in the near future.

***Facebook Page.*** As always, we need photos for our Facebook page. Bill Whitis is doing an excellent job on keeping it updated.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

The next meeting will be November 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 at the T&P Depot Museum at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

**Submitted by Richard Magrill**