

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
April 11th 2019

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: Bill T. Whitis, Richard Magrill, Rose Mary Magrill, Ann Brannon, Clemmie Copeland, Gerald Gibson, Barbara Judkins, Betsy Cadenhead, Marty Vaughan, and Tom Speir.

Visitor(s) Present: Roy Jack McCarroll and Steve Horton.

Medical Report: It was reported that member, Carol Greer, continues in rehabilitation and is improving after her recent stroke.

I. Call to Order

Bill T. Whitis, chair, called the meeting to order on April 11th 2019 at 1:30 p.m. in the conference room of the T&P Depot Museum.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of March 14th 2019 were approved as distributed and corrected.

III. County Budget Report

Bill Whitis reported that we have spent \$1,014 from the \$3,000 included in the county budget for the fiscal year running from October 2018 through September 2019 leaving a balance of \$1,986 remaining.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

A. Archaeology

Granger Hall Rosenwald School. Tom Speir has recorded the Granger Hall Rosenwald School as an archeological site (41HS1022). He is hoping to find more Rosenwald school sites but with spring rains and emerging snakes he does not know when he will be able to do so.

Truss Bridge on Old US80. Tom suggested that we might try to get the truss bridge on Old US80 near Hallsville registered as a national landmark although past attempts to do so have been rejected. This bridge was a part of the Dixie Overland Highway (original US80) which was one of the first all-weather highways. Tom will try again for national designation.

B. Archives

Bill Whitis reported that he has received a stack of materials from Tom Speir to add to our archives.

C. Cemeteries

Friendship Colored Cemetery. Bill Whitis and Barbara Judkins have checked out the Friendship Colored Cemetery behind the Pope Cemetery and have begun the application for its designation as a Texas Historic Cemetery. (It is assumed that because the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has accepted the typescript documenting the separation between Pope Cemetery and the Friendship Colored Cemetery that THC will also accept the same document for the latter's application.)

D. Education

No report.

E. Historical Markers

Barrymore "Undertold Story." Bill Whitis reported that the application is being submitted this afternoon for an "undertold story" marker regarding the Barrymore Incident (the March 19th 1879 shooting of Maurice Barrymore and murder of fellow actor Ben Porter by a notorious fighter and bully named Jim Currie at the White House Saloon in Marshall).

Old Elks Club Building Marker. Bill also reported that the marker for the Old Elks Club Building is still missing. The building has been sold and Jerry Cargill no longer owns it.

Fred Lewis Marker. Barbara Judkins reported that the Fred Lewis Marker for the Starr Family Home State Historic Site is still in process. It will be one of the smaller size markers in order to be placed alongside a previously existing marker installed at the site.

First State Bank of Hallsville Marker. The old Hallsville Bank Marker is moving along. The weekend after Western Days will be the time for celebration of Hallsville's sesquicentennial and that may make October 24th - 27th a good time for its dedication. Tom Speir recommended that the man who paid for the marker have the deciding vote on its dedication date.

Waskom "Gateway to Texas" Marker. The "undertold story" marker for Waskom as the "Gateway to Texas" is being worked on by Tom Speir.

World War II Veterans Memorial Highway Marker. Bill will be going out to the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) tomorrow to discuss the placement of the new World War II Veterans Memorial Highway marker. We envision it being placed near the State of Texas marker in Waskom. It will be the first marker erected showing that US80 is officially so designated. A matching marker will be placed in Longview on the western edge of Harrison County as soon as it arrives. (*Note: Waskom paid the cost of the eastern marker and the Friends of the Harrison County Historical Commission will pay for the cost of the western marker.*)

Booker T. Washington School Marker. The Booker T. Washington School marker will be installed at the Elementary School in Elysian Fields and dedicated on Saturday, April 27th at 2 p.m. Bill Whitis passed out brochures last weekend to spread the word about the dedication. The Booker T. Washington School reunion group has done some press releases. Gerry pointed out the Elysian Fields ISD website has an informative section on black schools in that area of the county.

Stagecoach Road Marker. Gerry Gibson reported on his research regarding security for the Stagecoach Road marker. He has looked into cameras and is expecting a proposal from ADT. He has also become aware that there was some difficulty in communication dating from when the proposal was made to locate the marker on the grounds of Pine Bluff Baptist Church. The church thought it was being asked to provide a place for a marker about the church and was disappointed to find out that it was a marker for the nearby road. (Tom Speir offered to secure information that will facilitate the church's application for a marker.) There was discussion concerning where a security camera might be placed. Gerry thinks it should be on the church. ADT has been asked for a quote on a battery-operated

remote camera. (Bill Whitis noted that such a camera would require access to a wi-fi network in order to operate.) Barbara Judkins stated that she would oppose mounting the camera on the church building and pointed toward the marker in front of it because such a placement would show more concern for the marker than the church. She believes other options should be considered. Gerry asked if he should even pursue the idea of placing a security camera? He will bring the report from ADT to our next meeting.

James Farmer, Jr. Statue. In reference to the work toward erecting a statue of James Farmer, Jr. on the western portion of the lawn of the 1901 Courthouse, Bill Whitis reported at our last meeting that Tom Speir had provided him a copy of proposed guidelines for the erection of statues on county property. The draft is based on Van Zandt County's policy. There was no report at this meeting on the status of the proposed policy. (James Farmer, Jr. was a noted Civil Rights activist and Marshall native.)

F. Historical Museum

Spring Symposium: Women of East Texas History. Ann Brannon reported that the first of a new annual event called the "Women of East Texas History" has been successfully begun. This first event included an overview of the Rosenwald Schools in Harrison County by Gerald Gibson, a presentation by Angela Fitzpatrick and Clemmie Copeland on stories of former teachers in the Rosenwald Schools, and a program by the Pleasant Hill Quilting Group presenting "Secret codes and quilt patterns of the Underground Railroad." The subject for next year will be "Women of East Texas History: Harriett Potter Ames and Other Pioneer Women of Caddo Lake."

School Tours. Ann announced that there are two school tours scheduled for May: Sam Houston STEM Academy Second Grade (Marshall ISD) for the 14th and Arp ISD for the 16th.

Military Exhibit in Marshall's Memorial City Hall. Ann noted that the exhibit installer for the military displays in Memorial City Hall is working on lighting issues from the Museum's punch list. She will inspect their work tomorrow morning and report to the exhibit firm, Muse Work, on their progress.

Inez Hatley Hughes Research Library. The Museum continues to explore locations for the materials of the Historical Museum's Inez Hatley Hughes Research Library.

G. Information Technology

Facebook Page. Bill also noted that on our Facebook page, we started the year with 261 who liked it and now have 1,068. To keep this interest growing, he is writing one to three stories a week and Barbara Cox is also preparing some stories. Bill spent last night at the William Bates Anderson home and will be doing articles on that subject. He is working on an on-line presence policy to guide the future of the Commission in this area. Bill asked, “Does anyone have anything they would like to have researched or talked about on our Facebook page?” He noted that Barbara would like to interview persons and possibly make two submissions a month.

H. Oral History

No report.

I. Preservation

No report.

J. Publications

We are still waiting to find out when we can redo the Lale Trail and Stagecoach Trace publications. (We need to secure the new Stagecoach Trace signs and have them mounted before work can begin on that brochure; and that means we will need to have the County Commissioners’ Court include the necessary funds in our next budget.) Bill Whitis indicated that he will work on the Lale Trail brochure. Gerry Gibson reported that the Buard Trail signs and buildings are weathered and falling down. Tom Speir noted that the City of Marshall put up those signs and that our Commission is not involved with the Buard Trail. It was noted that the new Fred Lewis marker at the Starr Family Home will have a QR code. Barbara Judkins suggested that we could just do QR codes and/or GPS listings for these tours, but that this would involve a larger discussion for which there is not time today.

K. Tourism

No report.

L. Goals

Young's Mill Pond. There was discussion regarding the possible donation of the land containing Young's Mill Pond. Tom Speir suggested getting it designated as an historical site. That is time-consuming but it would be the highest level of protection. Tom will contact Janet Cook to see if the Harrison County History Museum has any interest.

M. Annual Preservation Awards

The Commission proceeded to select the recipients of the 2019 preservation awards.

Selected for the ***Award of Merit*** was ***Jean Birmingham*** for her many years of service to Harrison County on it's Historical Commission, as well as her service on the board of the Harrison County History Museum, and in other ways too numerous to mention, This award recognizes the effort and/or contributions of an individual or organization involved in preserving Harrison County's cultural and historical resources.

Selected for the ***Marjorie Perkins Volunteer of the Year Award*** were ***Logan Jameson-Hatch*** and ***Sagan Jameson-Hatch*** (a brother/sister team) who are refurbishing historical markers in Harrison County. This award recognizes outstanding volunteer service to historic preservation, downtown revitalization, heritage tourism or community service.

Selected for the ***Max Lale Award for Historic Preservation*** was Sam Moseley for all the research that he has done on the sites on which he has worked. 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.

The awards will be given out in May in conjunction with the Historical Landmarks Preservation Board awards.

Note: Bill asked that we keep the name of Dr. Brenda Dearman in mind for an award next year. She is the retired music professor from East Texas Baptist University who prepares the calendar is sponsored and mailed out each month by the Marshall Regional Arts Council.

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**
- 2019 – Jean Birmingham**

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**
- 2019 – Logan and Sagan Jameson-Hatch**

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.**
- 2019 – Sam Moseley**

V. Special Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

No report.

B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum

No report.

C. Starr Family Home State Historic Site

Barbara Judkins reported that the Starr Family Home State Historic Site had one hundred first graders visit yesterday. She spoke to them about bees and they got into an argument with her about the life cycle of bees. “They were smart kids,” she noted.

D. Michelson Museum of Art

Exhibits. Susan Spears provided a report on a new exhibit at the Michelson Museum of Art which will run from April 30th through July 3rd on the subject of “Birds in Art.” “Birds enthrall us,” she noted, “with their stunning plumage, amusing antics, and lilting song. Artists from throughout the world pushed themselves to new heights, striving to be selected for this internationally renowned Birds in Art exhibition.” The opening reception will be Thursday, May 2nd, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. This exhibition was organized by the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau, Wisconsin and it was funded in part by the City of Marshall, the Texas Commission on the arts and the Michelson Museum’s generous supporters.

E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)

No report.

F. Others (Sabine Farms, T.C. Lindsey Store, Main Street, colleges, etc.)

T.C. Lindsay Store. Marty Vaughan reported that the T.C. Lindsay Store is having Bob Phillips back for a follow-up to their report of 20 years ago.

Central Marshall Historic District. We will make an effort to invite to our next meeting, the new Marshall City Manager Mark Rohr, to talk about the efforts toward creating a historic district in the downtown area.

VI. Other

No report.

VII. Administrative

Mail. Bill Whitis reported that our Texas Archeological Society membership has been renewed and that we have received the current issue of the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*.

Committees. Bill has also found a list of all the Commission's committees and the folks who were at one time on them. Does anyone want to have their name added to the list of a particular committee?

East Texas Historical Association. The East Texas Historical Association has announced its fall meeting for October 10th - 12th 2019 at the Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches.

Facebook Page. Bill Whitis emphasized that, as always, we need photos and also ideas of subjects for our Facebook page.

VIII. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on May 9th 2019 at the T&P Depot Museum at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill