

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

September 12th 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, Marty Vaughan, Barbara Judkins, Thomas Richardson, Clemmie Copeland, Gerald Gibson, and Tom Speir.

Visitor(s) Present: Steve Horton and Thomas Chevailler.

I. Call to Order

Bill T. Whitis, chair, called the meeting to order on September 12th 2019 at 1:31 p.m. in the conference room of the T&P Depot Museum.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of August 8th 2019 were approved as distributed (and corrected).

III. County Budget Report

Bill Whitis reported that we have spent \$1,951 from the \$3,000 included in the county budget for the fiscal year running from October 2018 through September 2019 leaving a balance of \$1,049 remaining. A purchase order has already been secured for the Lale Trail brochures. Ann Brannon and Bill are busy at work on it so that it can be reprinted before the end of September and the current fiscal year. (See IV. J. below)

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

A. Archaeology

No report.

B. Archives

Bill Whitis was asked to look into Saint Mary's Academy which was located adjacent to Saint Joseph's Catholic Church. Its second building, erected in 1910, was torn down in September 1961. Someone brought in a copy of the Woodley Cemetery booklet which has been added to our archives.

C. Cemeteries

Bill Whitis reported that Mimosa Hall Cemetery has been visited and that he has gotten into the Blocker Cemetery. He has been approach by Scott Westmoreland who manages the Scottsville Cemetery. Scott has a friend who has the Newton Cemetery on his property. It's in Elysian Fields and it will be a newly recorded cemetery. He is also trying to find the locations of all the graves of the former mayors of Marshall.

D. Education

Barbara Cox has gotten on the stick for our county-wide history fair this school year. It will be held on January 25th 2020 at the Marshall Junior High School. We will need judges!

E. Historical Markers

Bill Whitis offered photocopies of forms for use of any who wish to work on applications for historical markers while the Texas Historical Commission's (THC's) moratorium on applications is in effect. Currently, these forms have been removed from the THC website. It may take a year or possibly longer for THC to identify and make arrangements with another foundry to cast the markers.

F. Harrison County Historical Museum/ Inez Hatley Hughes Research Library

Ann Brannon worked yesterday unpacking the Inez Hatley Hughes Research Library. She reported that they still need legal size file folders. There is now a wall on which some things are hung.

G. Information Technology

Facebook Page. Bill Whitis reported that our Facebook page now has 1,330 likes (we started the year with 261). The Neely stories created a bump in new followers.

H. Oral History

Bill Whitis reported that he has talked with Bill Sullivan's daughter, Sherry, regarding the possibility of recording him. Bill has gotten the recording equipment back from Gail Beil.

I. Preservation/Rosenwald Schools

Bill Whitis reported that on September 24th at 1 p.m. There will be a Preservation Texas workshop at the Gregg County Historical Museum.

J. Publications

Bill Whitis, Ann Brannon, and Barbara Judkins have been working on the Lale Trail brochure. The big thing is that they have discovered a lot of made up facts. This edition of the brochure is going to be limited only to the facts as we are best able to determine them. We have a preliminary estimate of ordering 900 dollars of brochures. (Note: we will have to bear the total cost since the City of Marshall which had in the past split the cost with us does not have the funds to participate.)

K. Tourism

Marty Vaughan will take our portable display for Waskom's national night out. Bill Whitis reported that we are currently working with Gregg County's Historical Commission about our literature. We are exchanging brochures with the hope of promoting tourism in both counties.

L. Goals

We are still waiting for the Texas Department of Transportation to report when they have installed the signs on US80 celebrating its dedication to the veterans of World War II.

M. Annual Preservation Awards

Bill Whitis reported that we currently have three nominations: Robert Wood has nominated Nash Construction which is helping with depot repairs (Nash is going to prepare a gravel rail road crossing to facilitate bring the heavy new roof tiles across the existing tracks to the depot); Robert has also nominated Mike Martina for his work on the depot roof; and we have Sharon Dews from last year nominating the AVID students for their assistance with the history fairs.

V. Partners in Preservation Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

No report.

B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum

Bill Whitis reported that Robert Wood has indicated that construction on the Depot roof should start in about one week and last for a month.

C. Starr Family Home State Historic Site

Barbara Judkins reported that the Starr Family Home State Historic Site has workshop and the annual Victorian Fair coming up. The site is still working on the special restoration project and collaborating with the City of Marshall. She noted that they will be making soap weekend after next.

D. Michelson Museum of Art

Exhibits. The current exhibition at the Museum is “The Unbridled Paintings of Lawrence Lebduska” which will be on display from September 3rd to November 9th 2019. This exhibit is organized by the Mennello Museum of American Art and is curated by Katherine Navarro, Associate Curator of Education at the Mennello.

E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)

No report.

F. Others (Sabine Farms, T.C. Lindsey Store, Main Street, Pemberton Heritage Center, colleges/schools, etc.)

T.C. Lindsay Store. Marty Vaughan indicated there is still no report on when the Texas Country Reporter will air its update on the store. The Christmas party will be October 25th to 27th 2019 on the Saturday December 14th.

VI. Other

Marshall Visual Arts Center/ City Laundry Building.

No report.

VII. Administrative

Bill Whitis reported that inventory has been taken and all recorded equipment is present and accounted for. Tom Speir called attention to the Hallsville sesquicentennial to be celebrated October 25th to 27th.

VIII. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on October 10th 2019 at the T&P Depot Museum at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill