

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

October 10th 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, Barbara Judkins, Betsy Cadenhead, Clemmie Copeland, and Robert Wood.

Visitor(s) Present: John Fortune, Steve Horton and Roy McCarroll.

I. Call to Order

Bill T. Whitis, chair, called the meeting to order on October 10th 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 September 12th 2019 were approved as distributed (and corrected).

III. County Budget Report

Bill Whitis reported that we spent \$2,875 from the \$3,000 included in the county budget for the fiscal year running from October 2018 through September 2019. We are now in the new fiscal year running from October 2019 through September 2020. Our budget is \$3,000.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

A. Archaeology

There was discussion of the Hallsville Texas and Pacific train depot which was moved to a ranch on Galilee Road in the mid-1960s.

B. Archives

No report.

C. Cemeteries

It has been discovered that the Marshall Cemetery has an association with funds for its care.

D. Education

Barbara Cox is working on 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 reported that the Robert W. Loughry marker cannot be found. It was on the *Marshall News Messenger (MNM)* building and was removed for the building's re-painting. The Magnolia Hall marker was also removed when it was re-painted. Both markers are now missing. It was suggested if further searching proves unsuccessful an article appealing to public for information leading to the locations of these two markers be placed in the *MNM*.

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

Ann Brannon reported that the Historical Museum is working on the new home for the Inez Hatley Hughes Research Library which is in the old Palace Cleaners buildings. Computers are now in and the Internet connection is set up. Steve Horton said only one computer is still boxed. Ann also happily reported that the Historical Museum's Military exhibits at the renovated Marshall Memorial City Hall will be opened to the public on Saturday, November 9th.

G. Information Technology

Facebook Page. Bill Whitis reported that our Facebook page now has 1,330 likes (we started the year with 261). There is a story coming out tomorrow on Isaac Van Zandt. That day is the anniversary of his death.

H. Oral History

Barbara Judkins has located a person to transcribe oral history who charges \$1 per minute. The lively article in the *MNM* on Nadine Jackson who was the 1938 Miss Hallsville and is turning 100 led to the suggestion that she be interviewed.

I. Preservation/Rosenwald Schools

Waskom First Baptist Church Old Sanctuary. Bill Whitis reported that Waskom First Baptist Church sanctuary is probably going to be torn down. It will be bulldozed. It is about 100 years old. The church has no intention of preserving it.

Texas & Pacific Depot New Roof. Robert Wood reported that the \$125,000 new depot roof is all done. Mike Martina worked extremely hard to find a company with the expertise to replace the original roof on the Marshall Depot. With assistance of Pat Furrh of Brownrigg Insurance, it was ascertained that there was replacement insurance on the roof. With that discovery the search was on to find a contractor. Mike located Crest Exteriors, a roofing construction company that primarily focuses on historical project. Mike with John Boyd of Crest Exteriors initiated the project. John worked tirelessly to coordinate the roof replacement. The original “red roof” tile was made by the Ludowici Tile Company of Chicago, Illinois in 1912 and lasted 108 years. Ludowici’s original plant was destroyed by fire a number of years ago and subsequently moved to Kansas and then to Ohio. The pattern for the original is still manufactured by Ludowici and was ordered and used for the replacement. (Getting the heavy tile across the T&P tracks to the Depot was a logistical problem that was solved by installing temporary gravel ramps.) John “pushed, pulled, etc. to make sure that the original tile was used as a replacement, even though there were replacements that look similar and were half the cost.” Members commented on how good the new roof looks. It is exactly the same as the original 1912 roof but it is new! Robert noted that Crest Exteriors and Ludowici Tile Company plan to make a video about their work with restoration so that it can receive national recognition.

J. Publications

Bill Whitis, Ann Brannon, and Barbara Judkins completed their work on the Lale Trail brochure. Bill passed out copies of the new printing of the revised brochure. He pointed out that it has been extensively corrected and the map has been revised so that it goes in a complete circle. Wherever anyone starts on the circle they can follow it to the point of their starting. Barbara Judkins commented that the new printing looks quite nice. “Good work!” she told Bill. At this point with the brochure all printed, Bill said, “if you find an error keep it to yourself!”

K. Tourism

Bill Whitis reminded us that Marshall’s Fire Ant Festival is this weekend. Barbara Judkins announced that the Starr Family Home will have an advice booth including gardening, astronomy, architecture, early childhood, etc. Bill reported that our Pop-up display was at the Jonesville store, then Waskom’s Night Out, and is now back in the office..

L. Goals

Bill Whitis announced that the Texas Department of Transportation has finally installed the Harrison County signs on US80 celebrating its dedication to the veterans of World War II. He noted ruefully that this effort “only took three years.”

M. Annual Preservation Awards

Robert Wood nominated Mike Martina to receive the 2020 Marjorie Perkins Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award, John Boyd of Crest Exterior Mfg. Co. to receive the 2020 Max Lale Award for Historic Preservation and Pat Furrh of Brownrigg Insurance to receive the 2020 Harrison County Commission Award of Merit. All the nominees were elected. The nominated accomplishments all related to the work of replacing the roof at the Marshall Depot (see **section IV.I. Preservation** above page 3).

V. Partners in Preservation Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

No report.

B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum

Robert Wood reported on the Depot under **Section IV.I Preservation** above page 3.

C. Starr Family Home State Historic Site

Barbara Judkins reported that the big upcoming event for the Starr Family Home State Historic Site will be its Victorian Fair on November 2nd. There will be a play, a magician, and a face-painter among others. The local shelter will bring dogs that are up for adoption. The Site is asking for entries in its aspic contest. There will be a penny farthing bicycle on display for use in pictures. The site is still working on specially cut wood to complete the current restoration work. Securing such wood involves having to buy the kind of log needed and have it cut into the specified lumber. Three proper support beams are needed for the back porch.

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. They will also have their annual Dia de Los Muertos on the 29th of this month.

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. Bill Whitis noted that Marty Vaughan had asked him to report that she could not be present this month but that the Texas Country Reporter aired its update on the store this past month. It will be uploaded to YouTube. The Christmas party will be on the Saturday December 14th.

VI. Other

Marshall Visual Arts Center/ City Laundry Building.

No report.

VII. Administrative

Bill Whitis assumes we will have the same \$3,000 budget for the new fiscal year as reported under **III. County Budget Report** above page 1.

VIII. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on November 14th 2019 at the T&P Depot Museum at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill