

**HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 14<sup>th</sup> 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, Marty Vaughan, Ann Brannon, Thomas Richardson, and Robert Wood.

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

**I. Call to Order**

Bill T. Whitis, chair, called the meeting to order on November 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 at 1:35 p.m. in the conference room of the T&P Depot Museum.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting of October 10<sup>th</sup> 2019 were approved as distributed (and corrected).

**III. County Budget Report**

Bill Whitis reported that we have spent \$125 from the \$3,000 included in the county budget for the fiscal year running from October 2019 through September 2020. Our remaining budget is \$2,875.

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

**A. Archaeology**

Bill Whitis asked if Tom Speir had ever gotten with Thomas Richardson to locate the Hallsville Texas and Pacific train depot which was moved to a ranch on

Galilee Road in the mid-1960s? Thomas reported that “no they had not and that the building had been burned to the ground; it’s gone!”

### **B. Archives**

Bill Whitis reported that a digital copy of a biography of Carey M. Abney written by Winn Palmer has been added to the archives.

### **C. Cemeteries**

***Old Canaan Cemetery.*** On Saturday, Bill Whitis will be going out to Old Canaan Cemetery. He will be meeting with the landowners and current church members from Canaan Missionary Baptist Church and he hopes to get an agreement so that they can have easier regularized access (instead of crawling over trees and crossing streams).

***Pope City Colored Cemetery Association.*** Bill reported that a group is forming a cemetery association for the Pope City Colored Cemetery. Robert reported that he had seen the cemetery day before yesterday. It is in sad shape. Brush, trees, and cactus need to be cleared. Bill reminded us of the headstone of the 105-year-old Confederate Soldier who was the patriarch of a large family and is buried there. The Veterans’ Administration used his slave name when issuing his marker (because that was the name under which he enlisted in the Confederate Army) which means that his marker name does not correspond with the marker names of his descendants..

***Other Cemetery Visits.*** Marty Vaughan reminded us that when weather is appropriate there are two cemeteries that need to be visited: Winston Cemetery and another whose name escaped her at the moment.

### **D. Education**

Bill Whitis reported that he has heard nothing from Barbara Cox who is heading up arrangements for the History Fair in January. He assumed it’s still happening. It will be held on January 25<sup>th</sup> 2020 at the Marshall Junior High School. We will need judges!

### **E. Historical Markers**

Bill Whitis noted that historical marker work is all still up in the air because the Texas Historical Commission (THC) has not selected a new foundry to cast markers. At this time THC is not accepting applications for new markers.

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

Ann Brannon reported that the Historical Museum is working on arrangements at the new home of the Inez Hatley Hughes Research Library (located in the old Palace Cleaners building in Marshall). 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 have been opened to the public as of Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **G. Information Technology**

**Facebook Page.** Bill Whitis reported that our Facebook page now has 1,367 likes (we started the year with 261). On Veterans Day he posted photos of the new sign on US80 entering Harrison County from the west which honors World War II with its designation in their honor. Bill has a story coming out on Isaac Van Zandt tomorrow (the anniversary of his death).

## **H. Oral History**

Thomas Richardson reported that he had done radio reports on the history of Hallsville for its local station. He ended with a time line. "We don't have the historians in Hallsville that we used to," he observed.

## **I. Preservation/Rosenwald Schools**

No report.

## **J. Publications**

No report.

## **K. Tourism**

**Union Pacific's "Big Boy" Locomotive.** Robert Wood commented on the success of the recent visit to Marshall of the Union Pacific's "Big Boy" steam-powered train. It brought in an unexpected crowd of people over the three days it was in Marshall.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Texas and Pacific Depot Celebration.** Robert also noted that the Depot Board is in the process of acquiring speakers for this weekend in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of the depot.

**L. Goals**

No report.

**M. Annual Preservation Awards**

No report.

**V. Partners in Preservation Reports**

**A. 1901 Courthouse**

Bill Whitis relayed a report from Christine Anderson that they had just finished re-upholstering all the jury chairs and are working on tung-oiling the floors and getting the lighting on the roof which illuminates Justica and the eagles fixed.

**B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum**

Robert Wood reported on the Depot under **Section IV.K. Tourism** above page 4.

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

No report.

**D. Michelson Museum of Art**

*Exhibits.* The current exhibition at the Michelson is of James Sanders' Pottery, It will open this evening and be on display until December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**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 handed out cards of invitation to the Jonesville General Store's Christmas Open House which will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. There will be a bluegrass band from 11 to 12 noon and several school groups are coming including one from Trinity Episcopal School.

## **VI. Other**

### ***Marshall Visual Arts Center/ City Laundry Building.***

No report.

## **VII. Administrative**

***Masonic Lodge.*** Bill Whitis reported that the Marshall Masonic Lodge had pulled the time capsule from its cornerstone. Inside the small copper box there was supposed to be a whole bunch of stuff. However, the contents were in awful shape because it had corroded and developed leaks (its contents were still wet!). There was nothing much worth saving since all the paper items were destroyed.

***Time Capsules.*** Bill also reported that on the subject of time capsules, Audrey Kariel thinks there is one buried on the east grounds of the 1901 Courthouse.

***Youngest Member of the Commission.*** Audrey Kariel and some school kids from William B. Travis Elementary School in Marshall have inquired as to the identity of the youngest member of the Commission.

***Ingleside Neighborhood Historic District.*** Bill Whitis reported that Gail Beil had been working on making her neighborhood — “Ingleside” — a historic district. Janet Cook found a map that would establish its claim to the designation. Ann Brannon is looking up documentation on individual homes and she thinks its designation will be successful. “Most home owners,” Bill Whitis reported, “are in favor but they are interested in seeing others do the work.” He has folders for each street as the research progresses.

***Gregg County Historical Commission.*** Bill reported that Tom Speir has visited the Gregg County Historical Commission and he reported that they “are going to take a lot of our ideas and implement them over there.” Gregg is putting brochures in its RV parks and we will try to do same in Harrison. Gregg meets only four times a year and allows for members that do not live inside the county.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Bill Whitis reminded the Commission that there is no meeting in December and that the next will be on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2020 at the T&P Depot Museum at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

**Submitted by Richard Magrill**