

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
January 9th 2020

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, Marty Vaughan, Ann Brannon, Thomas Richardson, Becky Palmer, Betsy Cadenhead, and Barbara Judkins.

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

Bill Whitis announced the death of Louis Kariel on January 5th and Gail Beil last night, January 8th. Her memorial service will be on February 15th.

I. Call to Order

Bill T. Whitis, chair, called the meeting to order on January 9th 2020 at 1:32 p.m. in the conference room of the T&P Depot Museum.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of November 14th 2019 were approved as distributed (and corrected).

III. County Budget Report

Bill Whitis reported that we have spent \$154 from the \$3,000 included in the county budget for the fiscal year running from October 2019 through September 2020. Our remaining budget is \$2,846.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

A. Archaeology

No report.

B. Archives

Bill Whitis reported that he had found a couple of maps of Harleton and its neighboring community of Grady.

C. Cemeteries

Bill Whitis had recently been asked what happened to the bodies of Lucy Holcombe Pickens' parents when their mausoleum was demolished? Their graves are in the Marshall Cemetery. Online there is a burial listed for James Floyd but his body is also in Marshall Cemetery. Bodies have been dug up and re-buried in a new cemetery begun in Harleton.

D. Education

Bill Whitis reported that the History Fair will be held on January 25th 2020 at the Marshall Junior High School. We will need judges! Be there at nine. There will be forms. Only MJHS students will be participating. He will be sending out emails.

E. Historical Markers

Bill Whitis reported that Pope City has submitted material for a marker application. Barbara Judkins reported that the new one for Starr Family Home State Historic Site is still on order.

Eagle Sign & Design Is New Foundry for Marker Production. Subsequent to our meeting, we received a January 31st email from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) Executive Director Mark Wolfe regarding the new foundry which will produce historical markers. Note that this letter also mentions the new dates for our upcoming 2020 marker application period. If you have a previously approved marker, these application dates do not apply to your marker. All previously approved markers are still in the production process and should be completed within the next eight months. If you have not received a draft inscription yet from us, we are working to proofread the inscription before we can send it out to you for review and will send it as soon as we can. Excerpts from the letter are given below:

January 31, 2020

Dear CHC Members,

Thank you for your patience as we worked through the process of finding a vendor to replace Southwell Company, which sold their firm in May. In August, an RFP was posted to find a new foundry. Two vendors, both proposing production outside of Texas, submitted proposals. After carefully and thoroughly evaluating the submissions and sample markers, staff determined that Eagle Sign and Design was the best value to the State of Texas. (There were two vendors both proposing production outside of Texas that applied.)

THC announces its excitement to begin work with Eagle Sign & Design, who have demonstrated a commitment to producing and shipping high-quality historical markers. To resume the marker process, THC Commissioners voted on a work plan for this year's markers at its quarterly meeting on January 29th. They approved production of no more than 185 historical markers this cycle (including up to 15 undertolds), which is equivalent to the number authorized in previous work plans.

Commissioners also approved a marker application cycle of April 1st through June 15th, 2020, and undertold marker application cycle from November 1st to December 15th of this year. These application cycle dates will likely remain similar for future years, coinciding with one-year contract increments with the new foundry. Costs to sponsors will not increase during this marker cycle, though prices may change when and if the THC agrees to renew the contact each year. Marker applications for 2020 will be available on the marker webpage beginning on February 3rd. Also at the January Quarterly Meeting, Commissioners approved 2019 CHC-authorized marker inscriptions. Those markers, in addition to 2019 markers which already received Commission approval before Southwell Company went out of business, will be sent to the foundry for casting beginning next week. Based on responses from Eagle Sign & Design during the evaluation process, we estimate that all of these markers will be cast and shipped within the next eight months.

While the cost of production has increased modestly, the agency will cover the difference in price. Thank you once again for your patience and understanding. We are excited about our venture

with Eagle Sign & Design, and look forward to again partnering with CHCs and marker sponsors in continuing work on the nation's leading historical marker program. If you have any questions, please direct them toward Charles Sadnick, Director of History Programs Division (charles.sadnick@thc.texas.gov).

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

Becky Palmer reported that the research center still needs a few more weeks for regular access. The Museum hopes to have up by our next meeting a Smithsonian exhibit on posters of Japanese interned during WWII. The next Women of East Texas event is March 24th. It will focus on Harriet James Potter stories.

G. Information Technology

Facebook Page. Bill Whitis reported that our Facebook page now has 1,385 likes and 1,414 followers.

H. Oral History

Bill Whitis hopes to tape a relative in the near future.

I. Preservation/Rosenwald Schools

No report.

J. Publications

No report.

K. Tourism

No report.

L. Goals

No report.

M. Annual Preservation Awards

Nominees for 2020 were elected in October 2020: Mike Martina is to receive the 2020 Marjorie Perkins Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award, John Boyd of Crest Exterior Mfg. Co. is to receive the 2020 Max Lale Award for

Historic Preservation and Pat Furrh of Brownrigg Insurance is to receive the 2020 Harrison County Commission Award of Merit. The nominated accomplishments all relate to the work of replacing the roof at the Marshall Depot. (Minutes, October 10, 2019, page 6.)

V. Partners in Preservation Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

No report.

B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum

No report.

C. Starr Family Home State Historic Site

Barbara Judkins reported that Shreveport's Channel 3 news staff has done some live coverage.

D. Michelson Museum of Art

Exhibits. The Art of Africa will open at the Michelson beginning January 14th and will conclude on February 29th. The exhibit will include masks, musical instruments, and ceremonial items from the museum's permanent collection.

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 reported that the Store had a big Christmas open house. "In fact it was so big," she said, "that we are going to have to do something different next year. Trinity School brought some of their classes and we combined a little bit of history with scavenger hunting and making ornaments." The segment on Texas Country Reporter has aired again. Recent visitors stopped by while trying to retrace the route of the Jefferson Highway. They came through Shreveport, Greenwood, Waskom, and Marshall. (A part of the route is now US80.)

VI. Other

The Commission voted to meet only in odd-numbered months.

VII. Administrative

No report.

VIII. Adjournment

Bill Whitis announced that the next meeting will be on March 12th 2020 at the T&P Depot Museum at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill