

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

March 12th 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, Betsy Cadenhead, and Barbara Judkins.

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

I. Call to Order

Bill T. Whitis, chair, called the meeting to order on March 12th 2020 at 1:36 p.m. in the conference room of the T&P Depot Museum.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of January 9th 2020 were approved as distributed (and corrected).

III. County Budget Report

Bill Whitis reported that we have spent \$168 from the \$3,000 included in the county budget for the fiscal year running from October 2019 through September 2020. Our remaining budget is \$2,832.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

A. Archaeology

No report.

B. Archives

No report.

C. Cemeteries

Ewing Chapel Cemetery Day. Rose Mary Magrill reported that the annual Ewing Chapel Cemetery Day will be April 18th at 10 a.m. at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Marshall. All are welcome and the lunch is free but reservations are needed. The program this year will feature the Hugh Young Hall family and will be presented by two of his great-great-grandchildren, Andy Parker and Susan Anderson Taylor. H.Y. Hall moved his family, including his mother, Nancy J. Cohen, from Alabama to Harrison County in 1849, settling in the area that was to become the Ewing Chapel neighborhood. While Ewing Chapel and the cemetery date to 1855 with land donated for both by others, H.Y. Hall deeded an additional 1.86 acres for expansion of the cemetery in 1868. His close identification with the church and cemetery is evident in the years after the Ewing Chapel congregation moved to Gill, when the original church and cemetery were often referred to as the “Hall’s Church” and the “Hall Cemetery.” Andy and Susan will share more about H.Y. Hall and his remarkable family.

D. Education

History Fair. Bill Whitis and Barbara Cox did the judging for this year’s History Fair held in January at the Marshall Junior High School.

E. Historical Markers

Resumption of Marker Program. Bill Whitis reported that submission of marker applications can be made this year from April 1st through June 16th. He passed on to Rose Mary Magrill the application from Pope City Cemetery for her to get with the folks there concerning any updating that may be necessary before it is submitted. He has received notice that the Young’s Mill Pond marker has been sent to the foundry. It may take up to two months. Woodlawn Cemetery is still pursuing their marker. New Hope Baptist Church thought that Gail Beil was working on the application for a marker for their church but Bill Whitis says that, if it existed, it cannot now be found. Marty Vaughan took application materials to share with New Hope Baptist in Scottsville.

F. Harrison County Historical Museum/

Inez Hatley Hughes Research Library

Smithsonian Exhibit Opens Today. This afternoon the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit on Japanese Americans during World War II will open at Marshall Memorial City Hall.

Research Library Acquires Adjoining Property. Becky Palmer was quoted as saying the Research Library “is beginning to look like something.” It has acquired adjoining property that used to belong to the Eads family’s blueprinting business. It is currently designated for staff parking but will eventually be used for expansion.

G. Information Technology

Facebook Page. In March, Bill Whitis reported that our Facebook page had 1,479 likes and 1,512 followers.

H. Oral History

Bill Whitis hopes to tape a relative and also Bill Sullivan 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

Bill Whitis reported that Ralph Newell of the Marshall Landmarks Preservation Board (MLPB) wants to have our joint awards ceremony on Sunday, May 17th in Marshall’s Memorial City Hall. (*Note:* that date will be three days after our next meeting.) We agreed to that suggestion provided that there is no charge for the space. If we cannot agree to a time and place with the MLPB then we will

schedule a different time and place to present our own awards. Nominees for 2020 were elected in October 2019: 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

Spring Break Activities. Barbara Judkins reported that it is spring break and that the Starr Site is doing fairy gardens and wood stove cooking demos (cookies, biscuits and breads).

Landscaping. Its almost azalea time, she noted, and they will doing replanting on the south lot (across Travis Street). The slope will be planted with Japanese jasmine.

Possible Outdoor Garden and Weather Station. She reported that Sam Houston Elementary School (Marshall ISD's STEM Academy) has been approached about establishing at the Site an outdoor butterfly garden and weather station. This added attraction is still in the exploratory stage.

D. Michelson Museum of Art

Exhibits. Barbara Judkins reported that the Michelson has a new exhibit, "Bending toward the Light," featuring the works of Gail Norfleet beginning March 12th and continuing through May 23rd.

E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)

See IV. M. Annual Preservation Awards (above)

- + **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 is looking at the installation of an outside entrance ramp for the handicapped and installation of air-conditioning in the historic store building. She shared a recent copy of the *East Texan Magazine* for winter 2020 in which there is an article on the Store.

VI. Other

Gail Beil Estate Sale. Bill Whitis announced that there will be an estate sale on the 17th and 18th of April for remaining items in the estate of Gail Beil.

VII. Administrative

Computer Access Problems. Bill Whitis expressed concern that Commission files are stored on the county server but not accessible on the office computer (which prevented him from sending out the notice of this meeting and the minutes of the January meeting). Barbara Judkins volunteered to talk to the County Judge about this issue.

VIII. Adjournment

Bill Whitis announced that the next meeting will be on May 14th 2020 at the T&P Depot Museum at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill