

**HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

This meeting was held online using ZOOM.

**Members Present:** Thomas Speir, Marty Vaughan, Audrey Kariel, and Susan Spears.

**Visitor(s) Present:** None.

**I. Call to Order**

Thomas Speir, Chairman, called the meeting to order on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 1:31p.m. from the Harrison County Historical Commission office.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The Activity Report of July, 2020 were approved as distributed.

**III. County Budget Report**

Tom Speir reported that we are facing the end of the county's 2020 Fiscal Year (FY) at the end of September, and a new FY begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>. He reported that the County has raised the Harrison CHC's budget back to \$4000 for the FY of 2021. Thank-you cards have been mailed to Judge Sims and the Commissioners for this increase which we have sought for the past few years.

As of September 4<sup>th</sup>, we had \$791.17 left in our budget for the 2020 FY. From that we subtract \$585 for 15 Stagecoach Trace signs we have ordered. At this meeting it was also approved to submit a payment of \$100 for a non-profit membership with the Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce. This is based on our support of their Community Calendar which we are promoting with events at historical venues. This should leave a little over \$100, from which I have order a few office supplies. This

should exhaust our 2020 FY budget.

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

##### **A. Archaeology**

October is “Texas Archeological Awareness Month”, or TAM. Tom Speir reached out to a few of our members to see if they wanted to engage in some sort of project for TAM, but no one was prepared to do so. Therefore, there are no events scheduled in Harrison County for TAM that we are aware of.

The project to transfer ownership of the old Young’s Mill Pond (YMP) property north of Hallsville to a local entity for preservation purposes is ongoing. Project leader Ron McGregor confirms that he has recommended to the current property owners that they create a Conservation Easement for the property. He received the following reply from the property owners on September 8<sup>th</sup>:

*“Thank you so much for your efforts to find the proper fit. We will definitely look into this since we already have a “nature Conservancy” on our 15 acres here in Georgia. Hope you have a wonderful Labor Day weekend and please stay in touch. Hope to see you this fall.”*

##### **B. Archives/Historic Survey**

In compliance with the Texas Historical Commission (THC) wish that we maintain a survey of historic sites and structures in Harrison County, I spoke with Natalie Bach-Prather, a coach at ETBU, who had done a preliminary survey for her thesis in 2013 (that survey can be found on the SFA website at <http://www.sfasu.edu/heritagecenter/4042.asp> ) She has agreed to resume that survey when she has the opportunity (some weekends) and determine how these structures have changed since 2013. I have added Historic Survey to our Archives Committee Report, and will update her progress.

Back in May Gerry Gibson reported that County Commissioner Timmins had reached out to discover if we could help with digitizing the records of the local NAACP. We have heard no further updates on this project.

### **C. Cemeteries**

About August 28<sup>th</sup> Ann Brannon and Bill Elliot reported damage to various headstones and markers in both the Greenwood Cemetery and in the Marshall Memorial Cemetery. Some of the damage might be storm related, but much of it seems to be deliberate vandalism.

Ann also reports that the City of Marshall has allowed ETBU to block all of the entrances to the Greenwood Cemetery except two.

**(UPDATE:** After the meeting Mr. Bill Elliot sent me a couple of emails. In one he said *“Back in March we were invited to attend the dedication of this plaque [honoring Veterans of the War Between the States] at the Hallsville Cemetery. It was cancelled by Covid-19... Our next meeting (the Marshall Camp) will be Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at Greenwood Cemetery... We need to check and replace the flags we placed in Greenwood 3 months ago.”*

### **D. Education**

Barbara Cox has reported that Sharon Dews has decided to return and help with this year’s History Fair. Additionally, the Karnack ISD has informed Barbara that they will also participate this year, making this possibly the largest History Fair we have held thus far.

On another note, Barbara announced that *“MISD isn’t allowing any public events on campus due to COVID-19, so we need another place to hold the history fair this year.”* **(UPDATE:** After the meeting, Stacia Runnels, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce informed me that *“owner Brad Howlett was happy to offer the Carriage Place event venue at no charge for the annual history fair.”* We are working out details with them for hosting the Fair in January. We want to thank Stacia for helping us find this outstanding venue!)

## **E. Historical Markers**

I received the following report from Rose Mary Magrill: *“I am actively involved with the Woodlawn Cemetery Association, writing the research portion of their marker application while they supply me with the information I request. We should be able to make the next deadline for ordinary applications (which appears to be in the spring, according to the THC website).*

*I am continuing to work with the Karnack history committee. The draft of the text is almost completed. and we are concentrating on looking for pictures to illustrate it.*

*I have also been reading and copyediting Richard's history of the Marshall Optimist Club (which is also almost finished).”*

**(UPDATE:** After the meeting, Audrey Kariel provided us with the contact information for Patsy Gaines. Audrey felt that Mrs. Gaines could provide additional information about the Woodlawn Cemetery as *“Patsy worked for years for the telephone company, so she really knew just about everyone in Marshall. She and her husband were really interested in Marshall and Harrison County”*. That contact information was passed on to Rose Mary.)

Tom Speir reported that he has been asked to work on a historical marker for the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Scottsville. As the THC will not be accepting any new marker applications until next spring, these projects are ongoing.

The THC will open applications for Undertold Stories markers from November 1<sup>st</sup> to December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Harrison CHC hopes to apply for two such markers: *“The Porter-Barrymore Shooting”* for the Depot parking lot, and *“Waskom: Gateway to Texas”*. We will be working with the cities of Marshall and Waskom on these projects.

Finally, the materials to make a new historical marker cover for dedication ceremonies have been passed on to Juli Jameson who has offered to sew them into a new dedication “reveal” cover. Our thanks go out to Juli!

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

From Becky Palmer we have this information:

*“The Historical Museum has a Humanities Texas Traveling Exhibit opening Sept. 18th entitled The Way Things Were: Texas Settlers and Their Buildings, 1860-1960. There is also a lecture by Former State Historian Bill ONeal associated with this Exhibit. If Covid allows we will be in Memorial City Hall Performance Center, if not we will do a virtual lecture. All City Building remain closed, but our Museum spaces at MCHPC are open for touring with 10 or less in a group. The Inez Hughes Research Center and Library is open for Researchers on Wednesday and Friday from 10-4pm. On Tuesday and Thursday please call the Museum at 903-935-8417 x 1 and set up an appointment.”*

## **G. Information Technology**

Bill Whitis is still doing a great job maintaining our Facebook page. The posting of our meeting minutes is up to date on the County’s webpage.

## **H. Oral History**

Our membership with the Texas Oral History Association is paid up through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

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

No report.

## **J. Publications**

Back in January Bill Whitis brought to our attention that the Lale Trail brochure needed updating. Now that we have a new FY budget starting in October, we need to move forward with this.

## **K. Tourism**

We are working with the Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce with their

online Community Calendar. We encourage everyone who has an upcoming event to contact the Chamber so that it can be placed on that calendar. You can email that information to Stacia Runnels, the Executive Director, at [srunnels@marshalltexas.com](mailto:srunnels@marshalltexas.com)

#### **L. Goals/Projects**

Besides our moving forward with ordering some new Stagecoach Trace signs, which was mentioned in our Budget Report, we also have area resident Earnol Brewster who has offered to help record old Harrison County African-American communities on the Texas Freeman Colonies Atlas. This is an online project, and is ongoing.

#### **M. Annual Preservation Awards**

On July 21st, Janet Cook informed us that she had submitted to the THC a nomination for the John L. Nau III Award of Excellence in Museums for the Harrison County Historical Museum. She also planned to submit Martha Robb for the Governor's Award for her leadership on this project.

### **V. Partners in Preservation Reports**

#### **A. 1901 Courthouse**

No report.

#### **B. Texas and Pacific Depot Museum**

No report.

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

No report.

**(UPDATE:** Barbara Judkins had sent a report that did not make it in time:)

1. We have started presenting a historic foodways video most Saturdays. Two have already been posted. That's just one of several new programming offerings we will be introducing to adjust to the COVID pandemic and to ensure that we produce quality programming while keeping staff and guest safe.
2. We are currently hiring for a Museum Educator for the site. We have several qualified candidates, but it will be a few months before we get the person hired and working.
3. We are planning a slate of Christmas activities. Many will be virtual.

#### **D. Michelson Museum of Art**

Susan Spears reported that the Michelson had planned on reopening on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, but that date is now on hold due to quarantine concerns.

#### **E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)**

Our office had received a request for information on the old T&P Hospital. I checked in our files, and asked the Inez Hatley Hughes Research Center for information, but both locations had no records. I then asked Wes Morrison with the City of Marshall and he confirmed that the City had no files or records either.

#### **F. Others Sites and Organizations (Sabine Farms, T.C. Lindsey Store, Main Street, Pemberton Heritage Center, colleges/schools, etc.):**

##### **Pemberton Heritage Center**

No report.

##### **Sabine Farms:**

No report.

##### **T.C. Lindsey Store:**

Marty Vaughn informed us that the T. C. Lindsey & Company in Jonesville remains closed due to COVID - 19, however customers can place online orders by Wednesday of each week on the T. C. Lindsey & Company General Store Facebook page. Orders can be picked up on Saturdays between 10:00 a.m. and noon at the loading dock (the side of the store where the flagpole is located). There are daily Facebook posts which not only highlight some of the popular items for sale but also share some of the history of the business that was founded in 1847 and show pictures of some of the antiques on exhibit.

#### **VI. Other Businesses and Sites**

All members are encouraged to submit information on any other ongoing project.

## **VII. Administrative**

### **Incoming mail:**

We have received five new construction advisories recently. We are waiting for updates on those construction projects. We must be informed of these projects so we can determine if any historic or pre-historic sites might be impacted by the new work.

We also received requests from Mr. Lenny Moon in Houston whose family owned the old Moon Cleaners near Wiley. He is please with the work of the Harrison CHC, particularly the James Farmer Jr. Historical Marker. We were also contacted by Mr. Jerry Hudson in Oregon whose family owns the old Turner House on South Washington. They would still like to see this house donated to an individual or entity that would see to its preservation.

### **Other Harrison CHC Business**

Our big HCHC sign is still on display at Central Perks at the Weisman Center, and is receiving lots of attention. We have provided brochures to local historical venues that are on display near the sign.

If you have anything that needs to go on our Facebook page, please remember to send it to Bill Whitis!

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Tom Speir announced that the next meeting will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The venue for that meeting has yet to be determined. That meeting will deal, in part, with the renewal of memberships to the Harrison CHC for another 2-year term. The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.