

**HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 13<sup>th</sup> 2022**

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:** Thomas Speir, Earnol Brewster, Richard Magrill, Rose Mary Magrill, and Marty Vaughan.

**Visitor(s) Present:**

**I. Call to Order**

Tom Speir, chair, called the Zoom meeting to order on January 13<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 1:34 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the Zoom meeting of December 2, 2021 were approved as corrected.

**III. County Budget Report**

Tom Speir reported that the printing of the new Historical Marker brochure came out of this year's budget and that he has ordered additional supplies for the history fair which will be held later this month. He believes that will leave enough funds in the budget to renew our annual memberships.

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

**A. Archaeology**

Tom Speir will present a couple of projects next time. Earnol Brewster is planning to check with the Texas Tech University people about the told Old

Canaan Cemetery (on private property) about its status as an archeological site when they are next in town.

**B. Archives and Historic Survey**

No report.

**C. Cemeteries**

No report.

**D. Education**

This year's County History Fair is set for Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at the old Visual Arts Center building in Marshall. The search for people to judge the entries is on-going. As mentioned under budget, Tom has purchased some new supplies for this years event.

**E. Historical Markers**

Word has been received from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) about several markers. The E.G. Lancaster marker has been cast. It will go on the Marshall Memorial City Hall building. The Fred Lewis marker has also be cast. It will go up in front of the Starr Home State Historic Site.

Tom reviewed other markers. Tom will look into who was going to do an application for the old fire bell out in front of the Central Fire Station and the old Cities Service station sites. (Sam Moseley will work on the gas station.) Tom will send the material on the bell to Rose Mary Magrill for her to do the narrative. Rose Mary reported that the ball is in Golden Rule Presbyterian Church's court in so far as their proposed marker application is concerned. She has met with them and they know what is necessary. Tom reported that Darrell Ware is supposedly working on Pope City Cemetery marker application.

**F. Harrison County Historical Museum/**

**Inez Hatley Hughes Research Library**

Becky Palmer reported that there is a Journey Story display in the gift shop of the Harrison County History Museum gift shop on the Rev. Dr. Theophilus Caviness of Cleveland, Ohio.

**G. Information Technology**

Tom Speir reported that he has made some additional entries on our Facebook page. Send stuff to him.

### **H. Oral History**

Tom Speir reported that he will reach out to Randy Lefall and see if they can keep going on oral history interviews. Earnol Brewster noted that the Texas Tech University folks expect to do some oral history interviews when they get here.

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

Grant and Susan Wood, the new owners of the Turner House (408 S. Washington) are taking an interest in restoring it. Tom Speir, Tony Crosby and Jay Carriker have meet with them. Tom stressed preserving the outside.

### **J. Publications**

Tom Speir reported that everybody on the Commission got a copy of the marker booklet. In the process he tracked down Jean Birmingham's son-in-law and succeeded in making contact with them. They are very pleased with the brochure and have asked for two more copies. Tom is distributing copies to the Starr Home State Historic Site and other country venues. Marty Vaughan is taking some to Jonesville for the T.C. Lindsay General Store.

### **K. Tourism**

Tom reminded the commission about the the World War II Memorial Veterans Highway signs that we got erected on US80 at the county lines. Master Gardener Jerry Graves has planted wildflowers around the signs that should come up in spring. Tom is thinking of getting U.S. and Texas flags to attach. All efforts to highlight the new signs for passing motorists.

The Greater Marshall Chamber of Commerce will be honoring several businesses. Nominations should be submitted by January 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **L. Goals**

Tom Speir reported that we don't have anything active in the area of goals.

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

Tom Speir reported that we will need to decide on this year's nominees for our annual preservation awards at the next meeting. Barbara used to have a list of the awards but may have lost it in a computer crash. We could go with the Master Gardeners for one of the awards, especially if we ask to them to cleanup and spruce up the marker at the Powder Mill Cemetery. We could use Friends account to pay for any costs they might incur. It cost Tom \$115 to provide the funds for the wildflower plantings at the WWII US80 signs.

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

### **A. 1901 Courthouse**

No report.

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

Robert Wood is spending a lot of time being a substitute teacher mainly working at Marshall Junior High School and MISD elementary schools. He has given Tom the email address for current T&P Depot board chair.

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

No report.

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

No report.

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

*See IV. M. Annual Preservation Awards (above)*

Tony Crosby is trying to keep things going.

### **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 T.C. Lindsay General Store is open on the inside. As the store operates for its 175<sup>th</sup> year a new generation is working at the business. Raymond Gutierrez, married a little more than a year ago, has celebrated the birth of his first child, He is hoping that covid will subside a lot and business will pick up.

## **VI. Other**

## **VII. Administrative**

Tom Speir noted that he will start renewing memberships. He called attention to an email that reported that Suzanne Bardwell of the Gregg County Historical Commission was killed in a car wreck last week, a reminder to us all to be careful as we travel. Barbara Judkins has our portable sign and will reach out to other restaurants for its display.

Tom reminded us to get our events on the Chamber of Commerce's community calendar and to send him photos for our Facebook page.

Marty Vaughan expressed appreciation for Tom's excellent efforts at keeping us informed. Richard Magrill asked about Audrey Kariel. Tom reported that her vision problems mean that she needs some help getting to our Zoom meetings, but that she was absent today because of conflicting appointments.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

Tom Speir announced that the next meeting will be March 10<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

**Submitted by Richard Magrill**