

HARRISON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
November 10th 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: Tom Speir, Richard Magrill, Rose Mary Magrill, Audrey Kariel, Robert Wood, Gerry Gibson, Steve Horton, and Marty Vaughan.

Visitor(s) Present: Randi Leffall.

Tom Speir informed us with great sadness of the passing of former Commission member and MISD employee, Jean Birmingham. After working at Marshall ISD for over 35 years, Mrs. Birmingham continued to dedicate herself to the Marshall community by serving as a city commissioner for many years. Her dedication to her community and the education of children will always be remembered.

I. Call to Order

Tom Speir, chair, called the Zoom meeting to order on November 10th 2022 at 1:45 p.m. due to the malfunction of the office computer. The meeting finally proceeded when Rose Mary Magrill called in on the office phone and acted as relay to Richard Magrill and Audrey Kariel.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Zoom meeting of September 8th 2022 were approved.

III. County Budget Report

Tom Speir reported that our new county fiscal year budget which began October 1st is \$5,000. None has been spent so far but he plans to pay some

organization memberships soon. The Friends budget for the regular account is \$6,613.63. The Greenwood account is \$8,020.74.

IV. The standing committee reports are as follows:

A. Archaeology

No report.

B. Archives and Historic Survey

No report.

C. Cemeteries

Tom Speir reported that Lilly Hill Cemetery wants to get a historical marker and that he has told them to get a Historic Texas Cemetery designation first. Center Cemetery is applying for a medallion and plaque.

D. Education

Barbara Cox reports that the 2023 History Fair is on track. It will be held at Warehouse 208 (the old Marshall Visual Arts Center Building) on January 21st. They need judges.

E. Historical Markers

Tom Speir reported applications for Undertold Stories have been submitted by Rose Mary Magrill for the Antioch School and the Leigh Community Center and Health Center. Also, Rose Mary has already written an essay for the Carver School in Karnack to be submitted in the spring. The Saint Paul's Episcopal Church marker inscription is in the queue in Austin to be drafted. The Cities Service Station marker got cancelled as they failed to submit payment before the deadline. They may try again in the Spring. The old Sam Houston School marker on East Houston Street got reset by the County Road & Bridge dept. (Our “thanks” to them!)

Tom went and checked on the Trammel's Trace cabin marker on Henley Perry Street and it is okay, but barely visible. We need to consider a sign of some sort to bring it to the attention of passers by. Finally, the “R.W. Loughery, Civil War Editor” marker is missing. It was on the Marshall *News Messenger* Building,

but when the building got repainted a few years ago, the marker disappeared, and no one can find it.

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

There was no report from Becky Palmer but there was a mailed notice of the upcoming addition to its Harrison County Journey Stories: “Potter Makes His Point.” This journey story will be presented by local attorney and historian Sam Moseley on November 17th at Warehouse 208 at 11:30 a.m.

G. Information Technology

Tom Speir reported that the files for a QR code sticker for the James Farmer, Jr. marker on Washington Street is almost finished and should be up soon. This QR code will be a test run before we do others.

H. Oral History

Randi Leffall reported that he has a list of those he has already interviewed if anyone wants to know. Also, if anyone knows of someone who needs to be interviewed, let him or Tom Speir know.

I. Preservation/Rosenwald Schools

Tom Speir reported that he is working with THC in Austin to find out how to get some Information Panels made for some property owners who want info presented in addition to the historical markers on their property. The Henry Ware House on Blocker Road sale fell through, so there is no progress there. Tom has spoken with the county Road and Bridge department, and they are going to work some more concrete into the Stagecoach Road roadbed to help stabilize it this year. There has been an inquiry about the old John Furrh house in Elysian Fields; that home never had any official marker.

Finally, the Elysian Fields Community Improvement Association asked Tom to come and discuss with them possible grants that they could use to repair the old stone school building so they could turn it into a community center. About the same time, the Carver Community Pathways to Revitalization in Karnack asked him to come help with the same task on the old stone G.W. Carver School

Building in Karnack. Tom has toured both sites and met with the folks interested.
Note: Veronique Ramirez and her daughter also toured the Carver school with us.

J. Publications

Tom Speir reported that he attended the Gregg County Historical Commission meeting on November 8th and distributed our Historical Marker booklets to them. The booklets are now being handed out in Longview, the Gladewater Museum, the Longview Library Genealogy Dept., and the East Texas Oil Museum in Kilgore. *Note:* Kilgore was particularly grateful to get them as they say the frequently have visitors coming through on their way to Jefferson via Marshall.

K. Tourism

Tom Speir reminded us of the Texas Geocaching Challenge in which participants use their phones to go around and find locations and collect small favors (kind of like a scavenger hunt). The Texas Geocaching Challenge meeting will be in Longview this spring on March 14th 2023. Marshall locations will be included.

Note: when Steve McFarland comes on the commission in January, Tom reported that he plans to put him in charge of tourism.

L. Goals

No Report.

M. Annual Preservation Awards

Tom Speir asked everyone to provide him with nominations by January so he could confirm them in March and get the awards manufactured.

V. Partners in Preservation Reports

A. 1901 Courthouse

Christiana Anderson announced that there will be a December 1st tour of the 1901 Courthouse for North East Texas Architects and Designers.

B. Texas & Pacific Depot Museum

Robert Wood reported that the Depot is working on a very comprehensive plan. This plan is a very positive development and promises a lot of good for the Depot's long term prospects. More details will be forthcoming.

C. Starr Family Home State Historic Site

No report. (Barbara Judkins has been sick.)

D. Michelson Museum of Art

Tom Speir reported that the Michelson will have their "Golden Legacy: 80 Years of Golden Books & Oh Christmas Tree!" from November 10th to January 18th and that their Valentine Day fundraiser will be on February 14th from 6:00-10:00 p.m. They are looking for sponsorships and auction items.

E. Historic Landmark Preservation Board (HLPB)

Jay Cariker sent in his report: "The Historic Landmark Preservation Board is moving forward with a fundraiser to replace and repair markers along the Buard Trail. We voted on a proposal to expand the design district and the city administration is currently seeking feedback from Austin on the proposal. HLPB recommended that Véronique Ramirez assume the seat of an outgoing member. Our recommendation will be presented to the Council in November; they will vote on Ms. Ramirez in December. HLPB will meet early on November 14th and adjourn until January to free up city resources for the Wonderland of Lights.

"We are currently working on updating the HLPB logo. In the first quarter of 2023, we hope to finish a review of the city landmark process, our bylaws, and city ordinances and send recommendations for updates to the city administration for revision and presentation to the city council."

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 Jonesville Country Store will be celebrating its 175th birthday on three Saturdays during the holiday season: November 26th, "Celebrate with History," December 3rd, "Celebrate with Santa," and December 10th, "Celebrate with Music."

VI. Other

No report.

VII. Administrative

Tom Speir reported that this is the year we renew Commission members for the next two-year term. We lost several members in the last two years, and we have had 8 people ask to join us. These changes will bring our membership to 23 for the next two years. Election of officers resulted Tom Speir being elected chair, Veronique Ramirez as Vice Chair; Richard Magrill as Secretary.

VIII. Adjournment

Tom Speir announced that the next meeting will be January 12th 2023 at 1:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Submitted by Richard Magrill