



JEFFERSON COUNTY

Theresa Goodness
Chair

Jen Trenbeath
Coordinator/Secretary

Historical Commission

Linda McMahan
Treasurer

Dr. Steven P. Lewis
1st Vice-Chair

Don Smart
2nd Vice-Chair

**Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Jefferson County Historical
Commission (JCHC)
Wednesday, July 19, 2023,
Jefferson County Historical Commission Library, 1149 Pearl Street, Third Floor,
Beaumont, TX 77701**

Order of Business:

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. In attendance were: Jay Camp, Theresa Goodness, Kate Hambricht, Bruce Hamilton, Candy Hollis, Brenda Jackson, Steven Lewis, Les McMahan, Linda McMahan, Paul Prosperie, Don Smart and Jennifer Trenbeath.
2. A quorum was determined.
3. Citizens' Communications
4. Call, Receive Information and Take Appropriate Action on:

Introduction of Guests

ACTION ITEMS:

Secretary's Report – Jen Trenbeath

5. Consider and possibly approve minutes of previous meeting. A motion to accept the meeting minutes as submitted was made by Don Smart and seconded by Kate Hambricht. The motion passed unanimously.

Coordinator's Report – Jen Trenbeath

- Staff report from Coordinator. Report submitted, see Attachment A.

Treasurer's Report – Linda McMahan

- Report of Expenditures and remaining Budget. Report submitted, see Attachment B.

Chair's Report – Chair Theresa Goodness

6. Discuss the status and implementation of JCHC 2024 calendar project.

*approved unanimously
9/20/2023
Jen Trenbeath
JCHC Coordinator*

7. Consider and possibly approve JCHC membership in the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) at a cost of \$150.00 annually. Motion to approve made by Bruce Hamilton and seconded by Kate Hambright. Motion passed unanimously.
8. Consider and possibly approve expenditure of \$50.00 for registration for the NAPC Virtual Summer Short Course, a two-day online training that covers a range of important topics geared toward those working and volunteering in local preservation programs. Motion to approve made by Kate Hambright and seconded by Bruce Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously. Coordinator will post a Notice of Workshop and send notices in compliance with Open Meetings Act.

Committee Reports

Historical Preservation:

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Theresa Goodness

- Report on Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness considered by Beaumont Landmark Commission. Report submitted, see Attachment C.

Tyrrell Historical Library – Steven P. Lewis

- Report on activities of the Tyrrell Historical Library Association. Report submitted. See Attachment D.

Photos of Historic Buildings - Steven P. Lewis

- Report on historic building photography project. Report submitted. See Attachment D.

Sam Houston State Library – Don Smart

- Report on research projects conducted at the state library. Don reports that the Sam Houston State Library is seeking a new receptionist and archival processor. Don has been spending time researching former Jefferson County Sheriff, Ras Landry and the Beaumont Negro League baseball team.

Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Restoration – Theresa Goodness

- Report on status of restoration of the historic home. Report submitted. See Attachment E.

World War I monument committee – Kate Hambright

- Report of progress of the WWI monument committee on the relocation project. Nothing to report. Awaiting a decision from Kelli Maness at the Magnolia Cemetery as to how they will proceed.

Historical Markers and Research – Kate Hambright

- Report on Status of Marker Applications/Dedications. Report submitted. See Attachment F.

- Report on Marker Survey/Maintenance. Report submitted. See Attachment F. Les McMahan gave an oral report in addition to Kate Hambright's report that the Port Arthur 125 marker app project grew from a desire to highlight specifically downtown area markers, and now, in its final form, includes all Historical Markers located in Port Arthur.

History Appreciation:

- Report on current Courthouse Mini-museum exhibits and discussion of proposed exhibits. – Linda McMahan- report submitted. See Attachment G.
- Report on updates to JCHC website and social media. – Jen Trenbeath. Report submitted. See Attachment H.
- Report on events at Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum. – Rayanna Hoeft. Report submitted. See Attachment I.
- Report on Coastal History. – Jay Camp- Jay shared information about Battery Kimble at Fort Travis, which was named after Major Edwin R. Kimble, a West Point graduate and instructor. Construction on Battery Kimble was started in 1917.

Archeology Committee – Brenda Jackson

- Report on activities that promote the preservation of archeological resources- Brenda reported that she had attended the Texas Archeological Field School which was held in Nacogdoches this year. The project aims to identify the 1700's location of Mission Concepcion. Brenda worked in the lab with the artifacts that were brought in. 2024 Field School will held in the same location. The annual meeting of the Texas Archeological Society will be held in San Marcos in October, 2023.

Cemetery Committee – Paul Prosperie

- Report on pending applications for Historic Texas Cemetery Designations, cemetery surveys, clean-up days or other similar activities. No report.
- Report on THC Cemetery Inventory Project. No report.
- Report on status of historic Magnolia Cemetery Tour plans for 2023. Cemetery tour dates will be October 19 and 21 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., respectively. Paul is in contact with most of the tour participants and will be in contact with the rest in the coming weeks. Plans are moving according to schedule and the board of the Magnolia Cemetery is in full support. The THC requested information to promote the Cemetery Tour in some of their publications, and Jen is working to ensure its inclusion on the Museum Madness weekend promotional posts.

Courthouse and Sub-Courthouse Oversight Committee – Jen Trenbeath

- Report on status of Jefferson County Courthouse or Sub-Courthouse buildings. No report

Certified Local Government (CLG) – Theresa Goodness

- Report on status of Historic Resources Survey and Preservation Plan project being conducted under the National Park Service Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund Grant. Report submitted. See Attachment J.
 - Coordinator will send Draft Preservation Plan to JCHC Appointees for review. A meeting date of August 16, 2023 was proposed to remain within the window for review. Coordinator will check to see if a quorum can be met and Notice of Special Meeting will be posted pending Appointee responses.
- Report on status of any reviews under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of the State of Texas. Report submitted. See Attachment J.

Other Business

9. Discussion on any other item not on agenda without taking action. Receive reports on matters of community interest from elected officials, staff, or members without taking action. Theresa and Kate will volunteer as board members for the Heritage Society.

Adjournment 11:40 a.m.

Attachment A

Coordinator's Report

July 19, 2023

Our budget requests for the 2023/2024 fiscal year were turned in on May 22, 2023 in advance of the June 1, 2023 deadline.

We sent a press release out to help promote both the Magnolia Cemetery and Evergreen Cemetery Memorial Day services. Reporters from the Beaumont Enterprise and KBTX12 reached out by email and phone respectively for additional information on the Evergreen event and the new markers that were installed for Private Jerry Lloyd and Sergeant George Shaw. We provided some information but encouraged that they speak to Sandra Wilturner about the event itself. We are pleased to report that there was a great turnout at Evergreen and a turnout at Magnolia that was comparable to last year's event.

On June 1, 2023, we were contacted by Mrs. Cathy Greenwood about the Greater Rising Sun Baptist Church located in Voth (North Beaumont). She is interested in applying for a subject marker for the church and I provided her information to Kate Hambright, who has made contact with Mrs. Greenwood.

On June 6, 2023 Judge Branick shared in Commissioner's Court that the JCHC is once again a recipient of the Texas Historical Commission's Distinguished Service Award. I was able to share with the court our approximate volunteer hours for the 2022 calendar year (over 4,500) and also shared that this is our 37th Consecutive DSA- thanks to the commitment of our volunteers through these past 37 years! Commissioner Sinegal echoed Judge Branick's thanks for our oversight of the Courthouse and Sub Courthouse.

On June 7, 2023 we were contacted by Sheryl Fuller, a retired woman who participated in the restoration of the City of Gruene. She saw the Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House on the list of Most Endangered Places and was reaching out to get connected to the Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Preservation Project so she could offer her volunteer help if indeed her skill set would align with their needs. I passed her contact information on to Theresa Goodness.

On June 22, 2023 our office was contacted by Pastor John McKinney of Jenkins Memorial Church of God in Christ located at 4545 South 4th Street in Beaumont. The church is celebrating its 80th anniversary and Pastor McKinney was interested in gathering information for the 2024 Historical Marker cycle. I gathered information and passed it along to Marker Chair, Kate Hambright.

On July 12, 2023 Theresa Goodness, Jerrilynn Miller and I participated in the S.O.C. "Know Your County Courthouse" tour. Theresa gave a presentation about the history of Jefferson County to the groups of older students. Jerrilynn was a group leader and I was posted at the Mini-Museum and shared County History as well as pointed out some specific aspects of the Courthouse to the groups of younger children that came by.

On July 17, two visitors came by the Courthouse as part of their quest to visit all 254 Courthouses in the state of Texas! They had already visited the second and fourth floors before Annette Reedy, Judge Branick's secretary, sent them to me. We talked a bit about the history of the county and about the cost of the courthouse in 1931 (and how the Great Depression actually benefitted the building of the courthouse). They asked about one of the old oak trees that is still on the grounds of the courthouse and I shared about the O'Brien Oak. We went to the first floor and I showed them the slice of the O'Brien Oak as well as Steven's "Floods of Beaumont" exhibit and the medallion in the floor. We looked at the other metal work on the first floor and discussed the symbolism in the exterior carvings and the bas reliefs by Herring Coe. I gave them a copy of our 2023 Jefferson County History Calendar and also provided them with the address of the sub-courthouse in Port Arthur, as Jefferson County is one of the only counties in Texas with a sub-courthouse, and I didn't want them to miss the opportunity to see it while they are in the area.

Attachment B

Treasurer's Report- Linda McMahan

July 19, 2023

2022-2023 Budget Report

The JCHC Budget Year runs from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. Since our last report on May 16, 2023, the Historical Commission has had only one expense of \$3.00 for postage leaving \$10,711.58 remaining in our budget.

Our September Budget Report will include a number of year-end expenses. Jen is waiting to hear word if our request for a new printer is approved during Budget hearing going on this week. If so, the large supply order for next year will include an order for new toner for the new printer.

Expenses will also include the printing and mailing of our 2024 Historical Commission calendar and hopefully for the George O'Brien Millard marker.

Attachment C

The Beaumont Landmark Commission has met once since my last report. On June 12, 2023, the Beaumont Landmark Commission (HLC) met to review Request(s) for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

- The July 10, 2023, meeting was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.
- The approved minutes for the May 8, 2023, meeting are attached.
- The agenda for the meeting of June 12, 2023, is also attached. The minutes for the June meeting will be submitted with my next report after approval by the HLC.

* M I N U T E S *

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION

May 8, 2023

Council Chambers, City Hall, 801 Main Street, Beaumont, Texas

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A Regular Meeting of the Historic Landmark Commission was held on May 8, 2023 and called to order at 3:47 p.m. with the following members present:

Acting Chairman Lynda Kay Makin
Commissioner Yolanda Nan Avery
Commissioner Hester Bell

Commissioner Theresa Goodness
Commissioner Hajrah Javed
Commissioner Marva Provo

Commissioner Janelle Templeton

Commission Members absent : Chairman Dohn LaBiche
Commissioner John Berube
Commissioner Christina Crawford
Commissioner Thomas Sigee

Also present: Demi Engman, Planning Manager
Elayna Luckey, Planner I
Pashae Randle, Oaks Historic Code Enforcement Officer
Susan Smith, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Goodness moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 10, 2023. Commissioner Avery seconded the motion. The motion to approve carried 7:0.

REGULAR MEETING

1)PZ2023-101

: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to keep a porch.

Applicant: Pat Jones

Location: 2286 Rusk Street

Mrs. Luckey presented the staff report. Property owner, Pat Jones, requests permission to keep a side entry porch to the structure located at 2286 Rusk Street. In November 2022 a Certificate of Appropriateness was issued for the leveling of the structure. Once the structure was leveled, the existing steps to the side entry were no longer usable as they did not reach the door for safe en

Attachment D

Tyrrell Historical Library: At the last regular meeting I reported that I had submitted corrections that need to be made on the Tyrrell Library online site of the 535 images from the Weber Collection at the Texas Energy Museum. The last time I checked, the corrections still have not been made. However, in reviewing the corrections, I noticed that I have notations of where the images are on my computer that need to be removed. I need to put some pressure on Bill Grace.

Historic Buildings Photography:

Concerning the Commercial District, I last reported that I was waiting on a reply from Leslie Wolfenden about finding images listed in a document on the district. I sent her another email and discovered that she had promptly replied to my request but her answer was sent to my spam folder. With that information, I finished the report on the Commercial District and gave it to Jennifer.

On April 1, I started the photography on the sites in SPARE 1990. On May 23, I finished photographing all of the 725 sites. On May 30, I started the photography on the 825 sites in 1991SPARE sites and finished June 21.

I have created a series of PowerPoint presentations using the photographs from the two SPARE documents and the just completed photography of the sites. On each slide of the PowerPoints are the historic photograph and the current view of the site. Using that information, I have compiled statistics on the number of houses extant, demolished, and if demolished if a new house was built on site.

Results of SPARE 1990:

Total sites: 725 (372 demolished/352 extant)
Percent demolished: 51.3
Percent extant: 48.7
Percent of sites rebuilt: (73 of 372) 19.6
Percent of vacant lots: 80.4

Results of SPARE 1991:

Total sites: 825 (195 demolished/630 extant)
Percent demolished: 23.6
Percent extant: 76.4
Percent of sites rebuilt: (43 of 195) 22.0
Percent of vacant lots: 78.0

Several of the streets that run from east to west have neighborhoods that range from lower socioeconomic (east) to higher socioeconomic (west): Gladys, Ashley, Evalon, North, Hazel, Harrison, and Long. I have not done an analysis but my feeling is that there are more demolitions on the east end of these streets and if a property is demolished, the eastern end will have a higher percentage of vacant lots.

On June 5, I gave my PowerPoint presentation on the Frank Weber Collection to the Beaumont Camera Club. In the talk, I included methods and materials of historical research (Sanborn maps and city directories.)

While I was not actively looking for FEMA houses, I did find some in the survey areas and a few others in other neighborhoods.

Attachment E

The Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Restoration Project has the immediate goal of removing the City of Beaumont's red tag from the structure. To that end the following work has been accomplished or is in the planning process:

- The project's professional engineer, Hani Tohme, has submitted structural, electrical, and plumbing plans to THC this month for approval.
- Foundation repairs, including replacement of rotten beams, have been completed.
- A contractor, Edwin Contreras, has been selected, and has been awarded a \$140K contract to complete plumbing, electrical, structural, cladding, and roofing repairs to the house, which will enable the City to remove the Red Tag.

The majority of the above listed restoration work is being funded by a grant from the National Park Service under the Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund, which is being administered by the Texas Historical Commission.

Additional fundraising plans are being discussed to coincide with the 120th anniversary of the home's completion, which will be in November of 2024.

Report on Status of Marker Applications/Dedications

On Thursday, May 11, 2023, our office filed two new marker application with the THC for George O'Brien Millard and the Temple to the Brave, which was a last minute submission. Following discussions with the THC, the Temple to the Brave application has been resubmitted as an RTHL application.

The inscription for the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers House has now been finalized. We are now awaiting its final approval at the next quarterly THC meeting and for it then to be sent out the foundry for casting.

The China Methodist Church still hopes to move forward with the dedication of its marker on October 15 or 22 of this year. They will let us know more as the fall approaches.

The HTC designation for Magnolia Cemetery is almost complete. As last steps in the process, the THC has send out a notification letter to adjacent property owners and they will have an opportunity to comment as desired. The THC will send us a signed and notarized Declaration of Dedication in approximately three weeks (from date of their June 28 email) to file with the County Clerk's office. We will send a file stamped copy back to the THC and then their office will send us a certificate of completion.

Potential New Marker Requests

We continue in a holding pattern on our HTC designation for the LeBlanc Family Cemetery, having not heard back from our last inquiry to the sponsor.

Jessie Davis is currently working on the narrative for the Pear Orchard Cemetery HTC designation.

We have been contacted by two new potential marker sponsors; the Greater Rising Sun Baptist Church located in the former Corbinville community of Voth, and the Jenkins Memorial Church of God in Christ on South 4th Street. Each of these sponsors has been sent a packet of helpful information and instructions.

NRHP Nomination

Work on the first drafts of the Temple to the Brave's nomination to the National Register of Historic Places is now complete and is in the process of undergoing revisions. We will hopefully soon digitize the Temple's blueprints. In connection with my research on this project, I noticed a deed reference to a 1913 "Official Map of Beaumont" by W.E. Sampson, Assistant City Engineer and traced by Oscar A. Seward, City Engineer. The Tyrrell Historical Library located a previously undocumented copy of this extremely large, rolled map in their collections and digitized same for me. I think the map will be useful on a number of future projects as it covers a much needed gap in our cartographical history.

Marker Relocation Updates

Spindle Top Hill Confederate Camp, Site of: This 2,000+ lb. marker was reinstalled at last on May 23! It is newly located in the Humane Society's pet cemetery. The Humane Society wanted to place the marker underneath a spreading tree with large, exposed roots that was closely surrounded by granite pet grave markers, which would have been disastrous for the potential safety of the existing markers with the heavy equipment needed on this job as well as the future stability of our own historical marker as the tree continued to age and expand. However, with gentle guidance, our marker is now placed in an open area of the cemetery grounds, alongside a walking path. We had prior permission from the THC to forego a marker relocation request with regard to this particular marker, which had been in storage on the facility's grounds for several years. N&T Construction built a base on site for the monument out of concrete and added rebar for support. The historical marker is aligned at my request with the existing grave markers in the cemetery (the contractor wanted to slightly angle the marker with the curve of the walking path, but with proper alignment it looks it has always "belonged" in that spot). New GPS coordinates and several photos taken from various distances were sent to and acknowledged by the THC that same day. The THC Atlas has not yet been updated, however. I have noticed that their office is a bit slow to update the info we send them.

The Colliers Ferry marker is still (as of Tuesday, July 18) in storage after many months due to construction at the park. As that construction has now slowed, we have sent the city several requests for its reinstallation but that has not yet occurred. I am closely monitoring the situation and drive by the park weekly.

As reported previously, we received a marker relocation request for the Site of Old Aurora marker in Port Arthur. As a legacy project in connection with Port Arthur's 125th Anniversary celebrations, the section of Woodworth Blvd. between Proctor St. and Lakeshore Dr. will be improved, and certain amenities added to it. A gazebo and bandstand will be built in the esplanade near the seawall end and a "Welcome to Port Arthur's Historic District" sign will be built on the Proctor St. end. This will necessitate the relocation of the Site of Old Aurora Texas State Historical Marker, and it will be placed near the planned gazebo/bandstand. We have reached out to Commissioner Sinegal about removing and storing the marker for its safety during the estimated six months-long construction project. The appropriate marker relocation request has been filed with the THC. It is anticipated that road construction will commence during late July to early August with bid to awarded three to four weeks after that.

Miscellaneous:

We received word through Les McMahan on June 5 that the marker for the First Christian Church in Port Arthur was missing. I called First Christian that same day and discovered that one of their grass mowers with a cage on it had clipped the marker and knocked it off its base about a month earlier (approximately late April/early May), obtained and reviewed photos of the marker and post, and referred the church to Ron Sanders with Triangle Metals for the necessary repairs. I also alerted the THC to the current status of the marker. Gussie Richardson, church representative, called me on June 28 to

let me know that they have received a bid from Triangle Metals and would meet on July 10 to discuss same. I have not yet heard back from her on whether or not the church is able to move forward with repairs at this time. She does understand that although the marker is the property of State of Texas, the church is responsible for the cost of repairs. They have of course also been reminded of the historical significance of their marker and its importance in sharing their story with the community.

I attended a meeting of the Historic Landmark Commission on June 12, at which time the Commission reviewed the City's requested approval of David Bradley's work on the Holmes Dukes House, one of our RTHL properties located at the corner of North and Forrest Streets. His project had been reviewed by Jonathan Moseley of the THC and approved by him on June 6. The commission was shown photos of some of Mr. Bradley's work on an overhead screen (those did not include new steps to front and back of home) and was also handed physical copies of his project. The JCHC was not included in the bulk of the City's/Mr. Bradley's correspondence with the THC and does not have a copy of his outlined project. The project was unanimously approved by the HLC with the conditions that Mr. Bradley pull all necessary permits through Building Codes and the THC and he was wished Godspeed. Mr. Bradley and his co-owner in the home, Dennis Swearingen, are turning the building into administrative office space for a hospice facility.

The most exciting news is Les McMahan's Port Arthur 125 interactive marker project. Hearty congratulations to Les, Jen (who sent Les photos of many of the markers) and all involved in this incredible new resource. As this was his special endeavor, Les should speak directly on the project, and I will now turn the floor over to him.

Attachment G

Courthouse Mini-Museum Exhibit

July 19, 2023

Linda McMahan

We are in desperate need of a new exhibit in the Mini-Museum on the first floor of the historical courthouse. If you, or a group or organization you know that may be interested in placing an exhibit, please have them contact Jen or me.

The mini-museum is an excellent opportunity to showcase the many groups, organizations, museums and individuals who are interested in preservation work going on in the County.

October is Texas Archeology Month. Brenda Jackson, Archeology Committee Chair, will be placing an exhibit on Texas Archeology and digs she has participated. The exhibit will go up mid-September and run through mid-November.

Attachment H

Website Committee Report

July 19, 2023

A New printer/scanner has been requested for the 2023/2024 budget year. This will significantly increase my ability to share resources on our website- currently the document feeder only takes one page at a time, which is too tedious for anything that isn't critical to the job.

Justin in the MIS department has added the scans that Les McMahan provided from the "Elected Officials 1945" scrapbook to our website. The original is in the JCHC Library.

Attachment I

What's happening at Spindletop!

- Inventory complete in two exhibit buildings, only 14 more to go!
- The website was redesigned, now we're editing content. Project completion goal of Sept 1
- Kicking off a volunteer mobilization campaign next week.
- Facility repairs always underway

Multiple community events planned for the fall semester:

Sept 9th - Hosting 500-700 women bikers "Ladies in Leather". We need volunteers to help with fun re-enactments, provide basic overview in the exhibit building, provide demonstrations

Sept 17th - Lamar University's 100 year anniversary party! We're hosting live entertainment, food trucks, fireworks, and family fun in the evening. Time to be announced soon.

Oct 20th - Spookfest as part of the city's Museum Madness collaboration - Trick or treating for kids, family entertainment

Nov 4th - Car show in support of Lamar's Homecoming

Holiday event - TBD

Volunteer Needs:

Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum is excited to mobilize the community to assist with our fun family events and youth programming!

This is a great opportunity for schools, youth groups, and corporations to support their community while also earning volunteer service hours. All ages are welcome. Adults age 18 and over must submit a criminal background check through Lamar University's Human Resources department made available through the museum's director.

Opportunities include:

- Victorian/Edwardian Cosplay for special events
- Tour guide for either adult or youth tours
- Assist with special events
- Newsletter creation
- Admin tasks – help with digitization projects
- Program creation
- Assist the curatorial team with collection management
- General cleaning around museum
- Craft or special skill demonstrations such as quilting, crochet/knitting, photography, printmaking, and blacksmithing
- Facility maintenance - light construction and restoration projects

Attachment J

Certified Local Government Committee Report

July 19, 2023

- Report on status of Historic Resources Survey and Preservation Plan project being conducted under the National Park Service Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund Grant.

Invoices received and approved through July 3, 2023, total \$204,801.48 with a remaining grant fund balance of \$45,111.52.

The current task due under our contract is Task 10, Draft Historic Preservation Plan, which has been received from the vendor on July 17, 2023. THC and JCHC have a 32-day window in which to comment on the Draft. JCHC will need to hold a special meeting in August to adopt any comments.

- Report on status of any reviews under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of the State of Texas.
 - There have been no requests for comment since our last meeting.