



## JEFFERSON COUNTY

Historical Commission

Theresa Goodness  
Chair

Jen Trenbeath  
Coordinator/Secretary

Linda McMahan  
Treasurer

Bruce A. Hamilton  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair  
Don Smart  
2nd Vice-Chair

Minutes for JCHC Bi-Monthly Meeting  
3:00pm, Wednesday, March 16, 2022  
Jefferson County Courthouse - Third Floor JCHC Library  
1149 Pearl Street  
Beaumont, TX 77701

**Call to Order** – Chair Theresa Goodness at 3:00pm. In attendance were: Theresa Goodness, Don Smart, Bruce Hamilton, Les McMahan, Paul Prosperie, Linda McMahan, Lynn Simon, Jay Camp, Steven Lewis, Brenda Jackson and advisor Judy Linsley.

**Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meeting** – Secretary Jen Trenbeath  
Motion made by Les McMahan to accept the minutes as printed with no changes or additions and seconded by Don Smart. Vote was unanimous.

**Budget Report** – Treasurer Linda McMahan report submitted. 10,428.83 remaining through Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 2022. See attachment A.

**Chair's Report** – Chair Theresa Goodness report submitted. See attachment B.  
Agenda Item: Discuss and possibly approve JCHC Calendar for 2023. Motion was made by Jen Trenbeath and seconded by Paul Prosperie, the vote was unanimous. All dates will be due by September 21, 2022 meeting in order to submit by October 1, 2022. Each member's month will need to include details and new dates to add as well as a photo for the month.

*Jen Trenbeath*  
Accepted as submitted  
on 5/18/2022

## Committee Reports

About Town in Pictures – Steven Lewis- Report Submitted see Attachment C.

Steven shared photos of murals in Beaumont, both old and new from Mural Fest that was held on March 6, 2022

Archeology Committee – Brenda Jackson- John Jay French Museum will be holding the Camp Lookin Back this summer again and is it coming together with several of the previous instructors. More information will be shared as Brenda receives it.

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Theresa Goodness- report submitted. See attachment D.

Cemetery Committee – Paul Prosperie- Paul is working on Memorial Day event at Magnolia Cemetery with Bruce Hamilton, Kelli Maness and Jen Trenbeath. The regular cemetery tour will be held in October, all volunteers will be welcome! A visitor on the last tour has keys to a mausoleum and will be there to open it. A lecture on November 10<sup>th</sup> will be held at McFaddin Ward House on the history of Magnolia Cemetery and Martha Mack Cemetery. A Veterans Service on the Saturday after Veterans day is also being planned. The renovation of the 1909 building is nearly complete and will be open soon. The current office will be torn down eventually. Bruce is working with Jim Brocato on the Texas Historic Cemetery Designation.

Paul has passed by Greenlawn and all looks well.

Certified Local Government - report submitted. See attachment E.  
Meeting will be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 at Jerry Ware Terminal of Jack Brooks Airport.

Reviewed the comments on the historical resource survey thus far.

A motion to accept the comments with one change to Kate's comment about the name of Jefferson Central Appraisal District vs. Jefferson County Appraisal District was made by Les McMahan and seconded by Jen Trenbeath. Motion carried with one dissention. Theresa will email approved comments to Emily at HHM.

Courthouse Oversight Committee – Linda McMahan- Report Submitted see attachment F. Since the report was written, Theresa saw Dohn LaBiche at a meeting of the Beaumont Landmark Commission and asked for an update on the loading dock replacement. Dohn told Theresa that he had received approval. Jen will reach out to Commissioner Pierce to request that copies of the approved THC Antiquities Permit be provided for JCHC file and also be added to Commissioner's Court Agenda to receive and file it.

Mini-Museum- Linda McMahan Report Submitted see Attachment F

Marker Committee – Les McMahan for Kate Hambright who is recovering from surgery- reports submitted. A few updates since the time that Kate prepared her reports: Les has checked with Mrs. Frank on the progress of the application and she reported that they are still working on the history.

The Sponsor of the Bill Hall marker contacted JCHC to check the status of the marker and THC states that it was recently sent to the foundry and they expect it to be complete in approx. 3 months.

No Texas Treasure Business nominations to consider. See attachment G

Port Arthur Landmark Commission – Les McMahan- no meetings, nothing to report

Sam Houston State Library / Early Sports/Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum – Don Smart- Don has spent last 3 Saturdays at Sam Houston State Library and has, with the help of Kate Hambright located 28 WWI burial sites. He is working toward having the marker relocated to Magnolia Cemetery.

Spindletop Gladys City report submitted see attachment J

Tyrrell Historical Library Assoc- Steven Lewis- See attachment C.

THLA has purchased new scanner for books that allows you not to bend the spine of the books and documents can be put on flash drives. Some discussion was held on how useful resources like this are for the community.

Tyrrell Park Community Building/Hinchee House – Bruce Hamilton- See attachment C Steven reports no change (Bruce says that Steven keeps up with weekly and ) Steven is sending a weekly memo to several people about the Tyrrell CCC building. Bruce was contacted by Randy Feldschau who is now the council member over Tyrrell Park however, no conversation has happened to date.

Hinchee House- three new board members have been added to the executive board, including Theresa Goodness. The board is still trying to work out the details of the handling of the grant. Dohn LaBiche has given a bid to stabilize the structure and roof it with a temporary composition roof with the hope to go back with the original tile roof later. The next step will be to work on several portions of the house one at a time of the house in order to get each in good order.

Web Site / Facebook Friends of the JCHC – Jen Trenbeath- Report submitted. See attachment H

Historic Preservation- Lynn Simon- Evergreen Cemetery has been cleaned up well. Some markers have eroded or broken and many are not readable. Mr. Simon hopes to share the details of the degradation with community members and hopes to encourage people to spend some money on preservation and repairs. He also hopes to work with Paul on cemetery tours in the future. Mr. Simon has been receiving phone calls and communication from members of the community in response to the Charlton Pollard film and is seeing a renewal in interest of community members toward historic preservation.

Gulf Coast report- Jay Camp visited Fort Travis recently and was given a tour. Battery Campbell was the largest Battery at Fort Travis. All munitions were kept underground in a giant hill that allowed for storage and a conveyor belt to raise cannon shells to the cannon above ground.

Battery Campbell was named after Major Edwin Richardson Campbell. Edwin Campbell moved to Galveston as a child and graduated from Ball High School. He went on to attend University of Texas and West Point. In May 1917 he was a captain and was sent to France as a Major in August of that year. Battery Campbell was finished in 1922. 4,500 men were at Fort Travis at one time.

Unfinished / New Business

Coordinator's Report/New Business – Jennifer Trenbeath report submitted see attachment I

Adjourned at 4:48pm

Adjournment - Next meeting will be a special meeting held at the Jerry Ware Terminal of the Jack Brooks Regional Airport on April 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 3:00pm

Next regular meeting will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Attachment A

**Jefferson County Historical Commission  
2021 – 2022 Budget Report  
March 16, 2022**

<b>Line Item</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Remaining</b>
30-10 Books	\$250	\$0	\$250.00
30-78 Supplies	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000.00
30-90 Education	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000.00
50-05 Mileage	\$500	\$287.99	\$212.01
50-12 Markers	\$3,300	\$0	\$3,300.00
50-21 Dues	\$850	\$130.00	\$720.00
50-62 Travel	\$1,500	\$739.18	\$760.82
40-52 Postage	\$300	\$114.00	\$186.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$11,700</b>	<b>\$1271.17</b>	<b>\$10428.83</b>

Attachment B

Chair's Report 3/16/22

Jefferson County Historical Commission

Discussion of 2023 JCHC Calendar

- Discuss, consider and possibly approve a JCHC calendar for 2023, highlighting photographs and important historical events from Jefferson County's history. If approved, the project should be ready to send to the printer by October 1<sup>st</sup> to allow time for proofing and printing. Each member will be tasked with selecting a month from the calendar, finding an historic photograph to illustrate an event from the selected month, and locating any additional historic dates to be added to the calendar for that month.

Attachment C

## Meeting Notes 16 March 2022

Tyrrell Historical Library: Nothing to report about the library. To those who have not used the new copy device that allows you to copy books without bending the binding. You place the book face up on the machine and the pages are scanned. You can attach a flash drive to the machine and have the pages saved to it.

Historic Buildings Photography: I have continued my weekly visits to Tyrrell Park to check on the progress on the CCC building. About the only change has been the paving and striping of the parking lot and the addition of a second handicap parking sign.

The bridge over Hillebrandt Bayou on Hwy 124 is being replaced and I have been photographing it. The Works Projects Administration plaque has been removed. However, it is still attached to the concrete column where it was mounted. Bryce Broussard at TxDot will contact me when it has been removed from the concrete matrix.

I have been photographing murals in Beaumont for a few years. I found out that a wall of murals was to be painted over in the alleyway behind the Nathan Building. I was able to photograph the wall the day before the images were obliterated. On March 6, the city of Beaumont had a Mural Festival in the downtown area, and new murals were painted on the blank wall. I saw a published list of new murals and have photographed them.

Yesterday, I was a doing a then-and-now comparison of a 1923 flood photograph on Liberty, between Pearl and Orleans streets, next to the Kyle Building. Two women saw me taking pictures and asked why I was photographing the building. We talked for about a half an hour about the Kyle Opera House and the Kyle building. It seems that the owner, Brent Coons, has photographs of the renovation of the Kyle Building. Hopefully, he will contact me and provide me with those photographs.

The photography of the FEMA houses is still on hold. The FEMA house on my street has been finished but a new house is started one street over. I will resume photographing the rest soon.

Attachment D

Report of Theresa Goodness, JCHC Designee for Beaumont Landmark Commission  
March 16, 2022

The Beaumont Landmark Commission has met twice since my last report. On February 14, 2022, the Beaumont Landmark Commission met to review the following Request(s) for a Certificate of Appropriateness:

1) PZ2021-457: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to paint brick.  
Applicant: Rodney Cooley  
Location: 2475 Liberty Street

**Action: Approved**

2) PZ2022-1: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to add siding to a structure.  
Applicant: Theresa Sabeha  
Location: 2570 Pecos Street

**Action: Approved**

3) PZ2022-30: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to consider new porch posts.  
Applicant: Joyce Moore Newell  
Location: 2445 Louisiana Street

**Action: Approved**

On March 14, 2022, the Beaumont Landmark Commission met to review the following Request(s) for a Certificate of Appropriateness:

1) PZ2021-431: A request for a Certificate of Demolition to demolish a house.  
Applicant: City of Beaumont  
Location: 2019 Pecos Street

**Action: Approved**

2) PZ2021-448: A request for a Certificate of Demolition to demolish a house.  
Applicant: City of Beaumont  
Location: 2169 South Street

**Action: Approved**

3) PZ202.2-70: A request for a Certificate of Demolition to demolish a house and a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new construction

Applicant: JW Turner Construction, Ltd. for Barbara Banks

Location: 2210 Laurel Street

**Action: Approved**

4) PZ2022-71: A request for a Certificate of Demolition to demolish a house and a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new construction.

Applicant: RM Quality Construction LLC for Thomas Vivrett

Location: 2653 Liberty Ave

**Action: Approved**

5) PZ2022-75: A request for a Certificate of Demolition to demolish a house.

Applicant: City of Beaumont

Location: 2254 Liberty Ave

**Action: Denied. Owner was present and asked for more time to bring house up to code. City was not opposed.**

Attachment E

Certified Local Government Committee Report

March 16, 2022

1. 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.

A Preservation Plan Community input meeting has been scheduled for April 12, 2022, from 3:00 p.m. – 5 p.m. at the Jerry Ware Airport Terminal Training Room. HHM, Inc. staff members will be onsite to conduct the informational meeting and to help gather any pertinent information about potential historic properties from the public.

2. Consider and possibly approve comments on the draft Historic Resources Survey Plan developed under the Historic Resources Survey and Preservation Plan project.

Comments for consideration have been received from following JCHC members:

- Theresa Goodness
- Les McMahan
- Kate Hambright

Comments have also been received from THC reviewer, Leslie Wolfenden.

Attachment F

Committee Reports

Linda McMahan

March 16, 2022 Meeting

**Report on Courthouse Mini-Museum-** Linda thanked Bruce A. Hamilton and Steven P. Lewis for their exhibit on the CCC Community Building at Tyrrell Park and the Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Project presently in the JCHC Mini-Museum located on the first floor of the historic Courthouse. The exhibit will remain until April 1, 2022. The exhibit has received good feedback from the public and also County employees.

In the January 19, 2022 meeting, several possible new exhibits were mentioned including information on Magnolia Cemetery and upcoming cemetery tours and also work with our veterans. Linda passed around a sign-up sheet for exhibits to be placed in the Mini-Museum the remaining of the year. If you, or you know of an organization/group that would like to place an exhibit, please include that information on the sheet.

Linda expressed her appreciation for members help in placing interesting and information exhibits in our Mini-Museum.

**Report on Courthouse and Sub-Courthouse Oversight Committee-** Linda McMahan reported that Coordinator Jen Trenbeath was informed by Commissioner Sinegal before the March 8 2022 Commissioner's Court that a citizen had fallen at the Sub-Courthouse in Port Arthur. The citizen was not going to sue the County but requested that the County install a second handrail as a safety measure.

Jen shared this with Linda McMahan (former Coordinator\_ and JCHC Chair/HPO Theresa Goodness and was guided to the THC website to find out who was the Courthouse Reviewer. Jen called and spoke to Donye Evans-Reese who gave an email address for Betsy Frederick-Rothwell. Jen contacted Ms. Rothwell and was informed she would check to see how previous modifications were handled and get back with Jen. Jen kept Commissioner Sinegal informed as to her progress and will keep him up to date when she hears back from THC.

Commissioner Pierce, who is over the Courthouse is very interested in any changes needed or work presently in progress at the Courthouse. Several months ago, Maintenance made a request concerning adjustments / improvements in the loading dock located from the first floor to the basement of the historic courthouse. Maintenance and Commissioner Pierce were

working together to see about the change and what THC would request. No report on that at this time.

Attachment G

**Kate Hambright**

**JCHC Marker Chair**

**February 28, 2022 Report**

Report on Status of Marker Applications/Dedications

There are no current updates to the status of our four markers currently in the THC "pipeline."

A new marker request has been received for Floyd Frank, a well-known and beloved rancher and farmer in the Cheek area and owner of Black Stallion Ranch. This centenarian was 102 at the time of his death in April 2021 and among his many other accomplishments he was inducted in the Multicultural Western Hall of Fame. Typically, a request is not approved for an individual to be marked or mentioned in marker text who has been deceased for less than ten years unless the subject of the marker bears overwhelming state or national importance. It is up to the discretion of the THC to grant a waiver for the age requirement for any marker, but the odds of that happening are rare. However, it is just conceivable that such a waiver could be granted in Mr. Frank's case. The marker sponsor (Mr. Frank's son, Preston Frank), has already reached out to Sarah McCleskey, Historian of the THC's Historical Markers Program, directly and discussed the merits of his father's case with her. She has suggested the elements upon which Mr. Frank should focus in his marker application. Sarah also stated she would discuss the matter with Bob Brinkman, the THC's Historical Markers Program Coordinator. Preston Frank has been advised that there is no guarantee that such an early waiver will indeed be approved, though, and that he may have to file an application again after his father has been deceased ten years. In spite of these cautionary words, Mr. Frank is determined to see this marker application approved in this marker cycle if he can. If there are any questions about this marker request, Les McMahan has further details. He will also be handling this application until I return in April.

Marker Relocation updates:

Trinity Lutheran Church – This marker will be relocated to Groves in connection with the church's merger with another Lutheran congregation. The marker sponsor is currently obtaining pricing for the supplemental marker which will need to be affixed to the marker once it is moved as well as an estimate for lengthening the marker pole back to regulation length (the marker and pole had been cut off at grade level by church volunteers in order to move it from its original location).

Spindle Top Hill Confederate Camp, Site of:

Background: This large 1936 Centennial marker, located at 2050 Spindletop Road in Beaumont, Jefferson County, was temporarily removed by The Humane Society of Southeast Texas) when their facility suffered a major fire a couple of years or so ago.

Why stone needed to be moved: The marker was located in the middle of the facility's demolition/construction area and needed to be removed to avoid damaging it while heavy equipment was working in the area.

Where was it placed: The Humane Society detached (jackhammered) the marker from its base, placed it face down on a wooden pallet and moved it out of the way near the back of the facility's property, near the KCS railroad tracks.

Current status: Completion of the Humane Society's new facility has been hampered first by the pandemic and now by global supply chain issues, but they at last anticipate being able to reinstall the marker at a new location within their grounds in about six months' time. I have personally spoken with Taylor Westpuhl, the new manager of the facility, and will be following up with him in the next few months. Les McMahan has taken current photos of the marker and obtained its present temporary coordinates, which we have passed along to the THC along with an update for their files. The new coordinates have now been uploaded to the THC Atlas. Les has offered to periodically check up on the status of the marker in its present location. After further discussions with Theresa Goodness, it was determined that it would be safer to leave the stone where it is for the present, out of the way, rather than potentially run of the risk of damaging it by trying move it offsite and across town for storage in the precinct warehouse. Cost of removal was another issue; Theresa noted that Commissioner Alfred's office had previously indicated that he would not pay for the cost of the stone's removal. In talking with Mr. Westpuhl of the Humane Society, I got the impression that they do plan to reinstall the marker themselves (at their own cost). We will readdress this subject in a few months, however. If necessary and if asked, the JCHC may be able to assist with the cost of the reinstallation. In the meantime, Mr. Westpuhl, Les and I will be monitoring the marker. Another update will be provided on this situation at our regular JCHC July meeting.

Report on Marker Survey/Maintenance:

Thanks again to everyone who worked on the 2021 marker survey project. There were 12 markers, RTHL and/or NHRP site surveys, however, that accidentally slipped through the cracks. Les McMahan and I have been working our way through these remaining markers.

All markers/sites have now been surveyed except for three.

1. **Dugat-Hamshire House:** I made two unsuccessful trips to this RTHL property, located per our files at 11916 Dugat Road, Hamshire, Texas. According to the map on our website, the RTHL marker should be located just off the property. I have looked everywhere for the marker, to no avail. I also drove up the long driveway of the private property associated with that particular address, with magnetic JCHC "volunteer" signs on my car doors and wearing my JCHC badge on my jacket, and knocked on the property owner's door and rang his/her doorbell. An empty garbage can belonging to the property was at the curb and a pickup truck was parked in the driveway, but no one answered the door. The house at that address appeared rather too modern for a RTHL home but matched the aerial view of the property on our webpage, but not the photos of the home in the marker application itself, also on our webpage. More research is needed on this marker, the home, and the address in our files in order to confirm its location.

The last two remaining surveys to be completed are both downtown Beaumont NHRP sites:

2. **Beaumont Historical Commercial District:** roughly bounded by Orleans, Bowie, Neches, Crockett, Laurel, Willow, Broadway, Pearl, Main, and Gilbert Streets; and

3. **Beaumont Historic Commercial District Extension:** roughly bounded by Willow, Neches, Gilbert and Main Streets.

There are no markers for either of these locations, but a few updated photos of some of the historic buildings in these areas would be helpful for our files. Unfortunately, due to a broken foot, I was unable to address this task. A volunteer is needed to snap some photos of any particularly historic buildings in these two districts.

Once these three surveys are completed, the 2021 marker survey project can officially be closed.

Finally, some of our historical markers/sites either do not appear on the THC Atlas at all or the Atlas contains incomplete information. Where I have found issues to date, I have started emailing Bob Brinkman, Coordinator of THC's Historical Marker Program, with updated coordinates/addresses as applicable. He was pleased to obtain this information and asked us to "keep it coming." I will continue with this process upon my return to duties in April.

Attachment H

Website/Friends of the JCHC Page- Jennifer Trenbeath

One of the benefits of working as the Coordinator is that I now have access to the MIS portal and can get updates to the website created more easily. I have a contact sheet for everyone to verify today so we can get our Member's Page up to date and I will send that info to MIS soon after the meeting. The correct meeting times and dates have been updated as well as the current meeting agenda and minutes. The facebook page has been having positive response to our "on this day" posts from our calendar and I was able to create the newsletter in a .jpg as well as a .pdf to allow for citizens to view it from facebook. I did have two people send me their email addresses in order to receive a .pdf format copy and I will send them future copies as well. I will share the information about the public meeting regarding the Historic Resource Survey soon as well.

Attachment I

Coordinator's Report- Jen Trenbeath

March 16, 2022

On March 10, 2022 I attended a Digital Townhall meeting put on by the Texas Historical Commission. They are offering a series of digital meetings on a variety of topics as they work toward a state-wide preservation plan. The Townhall on the 10<sup>th</sup> focused on Hurricane Harvey and Disaster Related Threats. I was very pleased to be able to attend since our area was disproportionately impacted by Harvey. I have plans to virtually attend the rest of the Townhalls and I'll be happy to pass the information along to anyone else who may wish to attend.

On March 8, 2022 in Commissioner's Court, Commissioner Sinegal spoke to me about a citizen who had a slip-and-fall accident at the Sub-Courthouse. The citizen is asking that the County install a second handrail at the walkway. I have gotten in contact with our Project Reviewer at THC and am awaiting her guidance.

On March 14, 2022 I received a call from Brad Davis, a retired county employee who has a large collection of various papers, letters and magazines. Brad is trying to get his items to the places and organizations that will be best suited to preserve each item. He told me about a magazine that was put out for employees of Gulf States Utilities and that he had discovered a website that has decades of them archived. The website is not run by Entergy and he was hoping to find contact information for the person running it so he could bring his 1930s issues of the magazine, called "Plain Talks" to them to be scanned and uploaded to the website. I posted about it in a Beaumont Texas facebook group and am excited to report that as of this morning, March 16, I have a contact name and email for one of the men who runs this site! I've emailed the man and am awaiting his instructions for Brad on how best to deliver the magazines.

One of my goals is to have the JCHC Journal published at the beginning of each month and distributed to as many people as possible. If you know people who would like to receive .pdf copies, please have them send me their email. Also- I would love to feature articles by our members, so if you are working on a particular project, please write a short piece about it to include.

Attachment J

Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum is going through many needed updates. If you come by, you will see new sidings on the Saloon, the Post Office and the Dry Goods store (though only replacement of bad boards on the dry goods store, not completely like the post office and Saloon). You will also see that the new Cawley Stream Engine Innovation Building is going up quickly . We are shooting for a June 11 opening for that building. There is more to come: more buildings need new siding, new HVAC systems in each of the buildings, the ceiling repaired in the oil exchange building, and a cover for the gusher pump area. We will also be doing landscaping out front and by the monument this sprint. Two Boy Scout projects are also being planned: the porch for the drug store and the stairway for the middle derrick.

April will prove to be a busy month. We will be opening late (12:00pm) on April 2<sup>nd</sup> due to Earl Keith's memorial in the morning and also April 23 (3pm) due to the rental of the museum by the Jack and Jill organization. April 9 will be the Country Life Festival, April 23 at 3pm will be a flag retirement ceremony, and April 30 is a Volunteer Recruitment Day. April 4 is a regularly scheduled wood carving meeting where they will carve a pelican. June 11 is the Black Gold Bash. Lastly, our field trip schedule is also getting full. We have many schools that are trying to book a field trip. We had one last week of 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders that coming to the museum was the students' first school field trip ever since Covid cancelled field trips in the Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade years.

We still have many things to accomplish such as new fencing, new drapes in the buildings, fixing the derricks, more security cameras in the building and more. If you haven't thought about a museum membership, this is a great time to do so. All the money helps in making the museum a secure and great place to visit in Southeast Texas.