

Minutes for JCHC Bi-Monthly Meeting
Noon, Wednesday, September 16, 2020
Jefferson County Courthouse – Agriculture Auditorium
1225 Pearl Street
Beaumont, TX 77701

Call to Order – Chair Theresa Goodness called the meeting to order at 12:01 pm. In attendance were: Don Smart, Les McMahan, Theresa Goodness, Linda McMahan, Brenda Jackson, Doug Porter, Lynn Simon, Steven Lewis, Kate Hambright, Jen Trenbeath, Jay Camp, Bruce Hamilton and guest Dr. Robert Krause.

Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meeting – Chair Theresa Goodness asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes. A motion to accept the Minutes as printed was made by Don Smart, and seconded by Les McMahan. The vote was unanimous.

Budget Report – Coordinator Linda McMahan reports that \$6,735.60 remain in the 2019 – 2020 JCHC Budget. The 2021 JCHC Historical Calendars will be ordered after the meeting today to allow the cost to come from the 2020 Budget. (Please see attachment #1.)

Chair's Report – Chair Goodness introduced Dr. Robert Krause, an architectural historian, who was in attendance after being in our area to take photos to document damage to several National Register properties within the County that were taken immediately following Hurricane Laura. The Woodworth House (aka Rose Hill) appeared to be the most severely impacted. The Vuylsteke House appeared to also have damage. The South County Sub-Courthouse had minor damage as well. Chair Goodness reported that the JCHC has received copies of the photographs taken by Dr. Robert Krause and copies will also be sent to the Texas Historical Commission.

Chair Theresa Goodness reported Triangle Blueprint reports the calendar work is almost complete. The proof of the JCHC 2021 Calendar should be received by the end of the week (September 18, 2020) and Theresa requested that all members approve their section by Monday, September 21, 2020. The Calendars should be ready for pickup by the end of next week.

Coordinator's Report – Linda McMahan thanked Brenda Jackson for allowing the Forest Park High School Exhibit to remain in the Mini-Museum for six months due to the Courthouse being closed or open with limited access due to COVID. A new exhibit will go into the Museum on Friday. Linda extended an invitation to Bruce Hamilton to place an exhibit containing information and artifacts from the Hinchee House in the Museum during December or early 2021.

Committee Reports

About Town in Pictures – Steven Lewis reported he took photos of the Tyrrell Park CCC building in Beaumont. He evacuated to College Station for Hurricane Laura and photographed the historic downtown area of Bryan, especially the Carnegie Library. He continues to document new FEMA home construction. So far, he has found 33 new homes on pilings.

Texas Energy Museum Project - Steven finished scanning the 103-page photo album of 403 photographs. Ryan Smith provided a box of 49 cabinet cards. He scanned them and received the rest of the collection of cabinet cards, a total of 176 photos which he is currently scanning. Some of the photos are dated, the earliest 1900. Examples: 1900 The Alamo, San Antonio, Texas; 1900 Monterey, Mexico; 1901 Pan American Exposition, Buffalo, N.Y.; 1901 Niagara Falls, N.Y.; 1902 Manitou, Colorado. Unfortunately, most are not dated. Cabinet cards are about 4 inches by 6 inches with a photograph of about 3 inches by 4 inches. In trying to determine the age of the cabinet cards, internet sources indicate that they were produced from 1863 until 1906, although some were made up until the 1920s. Judging from the absence of automobiles in the photographs, Steven feels that 1906 is probably the most recent date for this collection of cabinet cards.

Archeology Committee – Brenda Jackson reported that she will be installing a new exhibit in the Mini-Museum on Friday featuring Archaeology Month. The exhibit will remain until December.

She also shared that many of the state archaeological events and meetings that would typically be held in person have been moved to online, including fundraisers, due to COVID-19.

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Theresa Goodness reported the Landmark Commission has only met one time since her last report.

- 1) CA-3225: Required for a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace a tile roof.
Applicant: Billie Dale Caywood
Location: 2290 Liberty Avenue

The request was approved with a stipulation to re-install the original decorative Corner, ridge and finial pieces.

- 2) Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a metal roof.
Applicant: Jose A. Moreno
Location: 2443 Laurel Street

The request was denied.

Cemetery Committee – Paul Prosperie sent his report stating that there appears to be some tree damage to Magnolia Cemetery and that it has become very overgrown. He will be visiting the county's cemeteries and report at the November meeting.

Certified Local Government – Chair Theresa Goodness Please see attachment # 2.

Courthouse Oversight Committee – Linda McMahan reported no damage to the Courthouse from Hurricane Laura has been reported. Commissioner Arnold has inquired concerning the use of the JCHC Conference Room. The County is looking for an office area and meeting room from a non-profit group (Disaster Recovery) that helps coordinates volunteers, donations and other interested groups that wish to assist with natural disaster recovery for Jefferson County residents. The Judge requested the County look for an office area for meetings and for their Executive Director to use. They work very closely with the Emergency Management Department which currently does not have extra office space. Since the JCHC is not meeting in our conference room, we have offered the use of our conference room, if needed.

Dick Dowling Days / Spindletop Days – No report

Hinchee House- Bruce Hamilton reported new physical repairs going on at the House. A workday is scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2020. The Hinchee House hosted a group of Lamar Engineers to see if they would like to take on the project. The Veteran's group is doing much of the physical labor on the grounds of the Hinchee House. Currently the garage of the office building is being cleaned to be used to store pieces that have been removed or recovered. A Halloween Photo Op is being planned two weeks prior to Halloween.

Marker Committee – Les McMahan reported no word has been received on the draft marker inscriptions for the "The Methodist Church in Chine, TX" or "William G. (Bill) Hall / Gulf Coast Recording Company (Beaumont)".

The JCHC has received an inquiry from a lady in Nederland who wants to do a marker for her family home which has been in existence since 1906. She was told that the marker application window is closed for 2020 but was given a sample narrative so she can begin working on it. The structure does not qualify for a Registered Texas Historic Landmark designation since it has been added to over the years and is clad with vinyl siding and has more modern windows. The marker would be for the family home.

Port Arthur Landmark Commission – Les McMahan reported no meeting has been scheduled. The JCHC has submitted requests to find out when meetings can be expected to resume and no response has been made.

Sam Houston State Library / Early Sports – Don Smart- No report

Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum- Don Smart reported on several that events happening. The Black Gold Bash is to be held October 10, 2020 as a fundraiser. The Classic Antique Car Show is to be held November 17, 2020. Don was also proud to announce the Museum was the recipient of TripAdvisor's Traveler's Choice Award.

Tyrrell Historical Library Association- Steve Lewis reported the library is open from 9 to 5, Monday through Friday. The Tyrrell Historical Library Association (THLA) has discussed funding another staff position at the library. Bill Grace contacted Steven about this possibility. The library has not had a full-time archivist for years. A part-time position (29 hours per week) with no benefits is the current situation. Bill asked the THLA to pay for a full-time archivist (40 hours per week) and the City would pay for the benefits package. Steven sent an email to the THLA board members to approve this proposition. It was approved. The City of Beaumont determined that the salary would be \$41,600 per year and they would pay benefits. A second email was sent to board members to approve the salary. It was also approved.

Tyrrell Park Community Building – Bruce Hamilton reports that equipment for construction has been placed at the CCC building to begin the demolishing of the roof.

Military History- Kate Hambright shared she looking for help in finding early plat maps circa 1904 – 1910 for the Beaumont Golf Club.

Web Site / Facebook Friends of the JCHC – Jen Trenbeath- No report

Unfinished / New Business

Lynn Simon submitted digital videos of the St. Paul United Methodist Church, Port Arthur, marker dedication ceremony for our marker files.

A report was submitted regarding the Preservation Resource Survey. RFQs have been sent and the bid will be awarded November 17, 2020. Repairs to the Jefferson Theatre will also be made under the same grant program.

Adjournment- Meeting adjourned at 1:20pm. Next meeting will be held November 18, 2020.

**Jefferson County Historical Commission
2019 – 2020 Budget Report
September 16, 2020**

Line Item	Budget	Spent	Remaining
30-10 Books	\$250	\$22.50	\$227.50
30-78 Supplies	\$1,500	\$580.79	\$919.21
30-90 Education	\$1,500	\$1,420.25	\$79.75
50-05 Mileage	\$500	\$469.57	\$30.43
50-12 Markers	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000.00
50-21 Dues	\$850	\$480.00	\$370.00
50-62 Travel	\$2,000	\$1,891.29	\$108.71
Total	\$11,600	\$4,864.40	\$6,735.60

Report on letter from THC regarding Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Project Review, Vuylstekke House, 1831 Lakeshore Drive, Port Arthur, Texas.

- THC has approved a project to replace the roof.
- The proposed scope of work includes selective demolition of the existing roof, including the associated flashing, asphalt composite roof shingles, wood decking, and wood eave trim, then replacing in-kind the wood decking and trim before repainting and installing a slate-styled synthetic composite shingle roof system with new underlayment, flashing, gutters, downspouts and ventilation.
- This project is being overseen by architect, Dohn Labiche.

Report on email from Texas General Land Office regarding a Programmatic Agreement with THC for blanket mitigation efforts in Griffing Park, a neighborhood in the City of Port Arthur.

- The Texas General Land Office is working on rehabilitation and reconstruction of Hurricane Harvey impacted homes. THC designated Griffing Park as historic as a good example of a mid-century district. The GLO has agreed to blanket mitigation efforts, which will consist of the compilation of a historic context for the neighborhood. The City of Port Arthur responded to their inquiry regarding historic status of a house in the neighborhood with the information that the neighborhood does not have a local historic designation and a Certificate of Appropriateness would not be necessary.

Report of status of Historic Resources Survey and Preservation Plan project to be conducted under the National Park Service Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (HIM-ESHPPF) Grant.

- RFQ was approved by Commissioner's Court on September 8, 2020.
- Submittals from vendors are due by November 4, 2020.
- Expected award of contract is November 17, 2020.

Report on consultations conducted under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

- THC sent us a copy of a THC initiated project-by-project consultation letter for the Jefferson Theater rehabilitation project to be conducted through a HIM-ESHPPF grant. Hurricane Harvey caused damage to the interior of the theater and the historic organ. This NPS funded project will entail repairing 7577 square feet of masonry on the east wall of the building, the west side organ and chamber restoration. Additionally the Solo Organ Pipe Chamber has work planned including removing and replacing ceiling plaster and repair to the organ itself.