



JEFFERSON COUNTY

Historical Commission

Theresa Goodness
Chairman

Leslie McMahan
First Vice-Chairman

Linda McMahan
Secretary/Treasurer and Coordinator

Paul Prosperie
Second Vice-Chairman

Ron Ellington
Past Chairman

JCHC Bi-Monthly Meeting

Noon, Thursday, March 26, 2015

Museum of the Gulf Coast, 700 Procter Street, Port Arthur, TX 77640

Call to Order / Greetings – Chair Theresa Goodness called the meeting to order at Noon at the Museum of the Gulf Coast. Commission members in attendance were: Sarah Bellian, Bill Cummings, Jessie Davis, Ron Ellington, Ramona Hutchinson, Brenda Jackson, Steven Lewis, Mike McGreevy, Les McMahan, Linda McMahan, Paul Prosperie, Jef Russell and Don Smart. Visitors were Ron Jackson and Gordon Williams.

Consider Minutes of Previous Meetings – A motion was made by Les McMahan and seconded by Jef Russell to accept the Minutes for the January 22 and February 19, 2015 meetings as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Linda McMahan reported of the 2015 Budget in the amount of \$12,850, \$1,182.43 has been spent with \$11,667.57 remaining. (Attachment 1)

Chair Report – Theresa Goodness reported that:

- Guest Speaker Gordon Williams would speak in the Museum Theatre after the regular business meeting. Mr. Williams is the producer of an upcoming historical fiction short film entitled “The Example” set during the 1943 Beaumont Race.
- For those interested, Sarah Bellian would give a tour of the Museum after the meeting.

Coordinator Report – Linda McMahan

- Linda thanked Sara for hosting the meeting at the Museum and also Jessie Davis for bringing popcorn from the Regional Visitors Center. Water was provided by the Historical Commission.
- Linda reminded members to turn in Volunteer Hours. A form was included in the handout packet.
- A news release from SETRPC (South East Texas Regional Planning Commission) was handed out giving information on a Household Hazardous Waste and Scrap Tire Collection event to be held April 18, 2015 at the Bob Bowers Civic Center Parking Lot in Port Arthur.

This would be a good opportunity to get rid of hazardous waste around the house. There is no charge. (Attachment 2)

- Linda shared about attending the opening reception of the restored First National Bank in downtown Port Arthur. She shared some of the pictures of downtown Port Arthur on exhibit at the Bank were from originals from the Museum, Yvonne Sutherlin and the City of Port Arthur.

Committee Reports

Archeology – Chair Brenda Jackson reported that volunteers are needed to help with the John J. French Trading Post Summer Camp July 16 and July 23, 2015. The hours are 9 AM to Noon and any help would be appreciated. Brenda introduced her husband, Ron, who was in attendance to tour the Museum after the meeting. (Attachment 3)

Cemetery – **Paul Prosperie** – On March 25, 2013, Commissioners Court approved the use of public funds, county employees and equipment to cleanup and maintain Lincoln Cemetery also known as Broussard Cemetery, a historic abandoned cemetery located on Labelle Road in Precinct 4. Commissioner Alfred's staff is doing a good job of clearing the cemetery. Paul passed around pictures taken of the work so far. Of the eleven acres to be cleared, two to three acres have been cleared. This work in progress will take several months to complete. Research has been ongoing and narrowing down the years of usage will help determine more about the cemetery.

Certified Local Government – **Ramona Hutchinson** – Ramona shared that the CLG Committee will begin meeting to discuss the County's windshield survey. (In 2013, a Letter of Intent (LOI) to the Texas Historical Commission from Jefferson County was turned down. The LOI stated that the County was applying for a \$10,000 grant (\$5,000 from THC / \$5,000 from JCHC) to do a windshield survey of areas of the County that are not already classified as a Certified Local Government. The City of Beaumont and the City of Port Arthur will not be included as they are already designated CLGs.

Courthouse Oversight – Linda McMahan reported that work has begun in the basement and first floor areas of the Courthouse to install a new fire alarm and suppression system. There is limited public access through the basement area. No date has been announced when the Café will be closed. Since the Café provides meals to County employee first responders, the work cannot be done during Hurricane Season.

Dick Dowling Days - **Mike McGreevy** reported that a letter had been sent to the Texas Historical Commission expressing the JCHC and Dick Dowling Camp's desire to hold the Dick Dowling Days living history and battle reenactment this year at the Sabine Pass Battleground Historic Site on September 12-13, 2015. It will be a traditional size event. (Attachment 4)

Historical Markers – Les McMahan

- Arrangements are in the making to install the Moon Mulligan historical marker in Magnolia Cemetery. We are waiting to hear back on the date that is agreeable with Precinct 4 Service Crew.
- The marker for West Beulah Missionary Baptist Church has been received and dedication services are in the planning stage.

History Preservation

Texas Treasure Business Awards – Jef Russell reported that he had no news but would have something to report at the May meeting.

Bill Quick's Book – Bruce Hamilton – No report.

Web Site – Bill Cummings – Work is coming along on the revised website. You can go online and see the work in progress.

Gilbert-Hinchee House – Steven Lewis is gathering information on the Gilbert Building in downtown Beaumont. He is continuing to try and get in to take pictures.

Yellowed Pages – Charlotte Holliman is scanning the *Yellowed Pages Indexes*. This will make using this magazine much easier. The JCHC is making arrangements to purchase a second set of the magazine for our library.

Sam Houston State Library – Don Smart shared that the Library is open for research. Several JCHC members want to visit the library to research Bill Quick's papers.

Magnolia Cemetery – Jimmy Sparks – No report.

Unfinished Business / New Business

Theresa shared two letters she is sending to the Texas Senate Finance Committee, Texas House of Representatives Appropriations Committee and the Texas House of Representatives Culture, Recreation & Tourism Committee encouraging their full funding for the Texas Heritage Trails Program and the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. (Attachment 5 & 6)

The meeting moved to the Museum Theatre where guest speaker Gordon Williams shared a short clip and information about the upcoming historical fiction short film set during the 1943 race riot in Beaumont titled "The Example." Filming will start in the near future.

Sarah gave a tour of the Museum and made suggestions as to work for possible volunteer hours for those who were interested.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be at Noon, Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at the Ben Rogers Visitors Center.