



JEFFERSON COUNTY

Historical Commission

Theresa Goodness
Chair

Linda McMahan
Secretary/Treasurer and Coordinator
Brenda Jackson

Leslie McMahan
1st Vice-Chairman

Paul Prosperie
2nd Vice-Chairman

**Jefferson County Historical Commission (JCHC) Bi-Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2016
Third Floor JCHC Conference Room
1149 Pearl Street, Beaumont, TX 77701**

Call to Order / Greetings – Chair Theresa Goodness

Chair Goodness welcomed the entire JCHC membership: Sarah Bellian, Bill Cummings, Jessie Davis, Bruce Hamilton, Brenda Jackson, Steven Lewis, Mike McGreevy, Les McMahan, Linda McMahan, Paul Prosperie, Don Smart and Jimmy Sparks. Visitors were Jen Trenbeath and Bill Pevy.

Consider Minutes of Previous Meeting – Chair Theresa Goodness

Chair Goodness shared that Minutes from the Wednesday, March 16, 2016 Bi-Monthly Meeting had been emailed for review. She asked if there were any additions or corrections. Page two (2), line two (2) should read “Two (2) JCHC members did not fulfill this commitment.” Don Smart made a motion, seconded by Jessie Davis to accept the corrected Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report – Linda McMahan

Linda reported out of the \$11,600 Budget, \$2,570.49 had been spent with \$9,029.51 remaining. Linda also reported that money had been tagged to help with expenses for the Dick Dowling Memorial to be held in September and supplies will be ordered in August. Linda shared a handout from Broadfoot Publishing Company of Genealogy and History Reference Sets. She was open to suggestions of things to order.

Chair Report – Theresa Goodness

- **Introduction of Speaker** – Theresa reported Gordon George, the scheduled speaker, had to cancel due to business commitments. Gordon is doing research on the Masonic Lodge and had offered to share with the Historical Commission. Many early prominent citizens, including lawyers and judges, were members of the Lodge. His talk will be rescheduled at his convenience.

- Introduction of Visitor - Theresa asked Bruce Hamilton to introduce his guest, Jennifer Trenbeath. Ms. Trenbeath is interested in becoming a member of the JCHC. She has a life-long appreciation of history and is a 7th generation Beaumontier.
- Theresa is currently working on scanning some materials received from Kathy Lewis at the China CLG meeting. Items include memorabilia, photographs of a historic home in China, newspaper articles and history of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in China.
- Theresa attended the Beaumont Heritage Society Annual Meeting on May 12, 2016. Speaker Alana Inman, Director of Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, shared the Center has received over \$2 million from the Legislature for much needed repairs. A new fire alarm and suppression system have been installed. A new security system and safety lighting are now protecting the complex from break-ins which had been experienced at one point. One of the historic buildings that had not been open to the public will now have public ADA accessibility and tours. Additional parking is being completed adjacent to the Jean and Price Daniel home. Renovation of the onsite museum is also planned.
- Theresa attended the Texas Gulf Coast Historical Society Spring Meeting on April 27, 2016. Bill O'Neal, Texas State Historian, gave a very entertaining presentation regarding Sam Houston and his leadership qualities. Also mentioned was the essay, "Faded Beacon: A History of the Sabine Pass Lighthouse" by Zachary DeFrancis, for which he won the Dr. Andrew J. and Betty H. Johnson Editor's prize.

Coordinator Report – Linda McMahan

- Volunteer Hours - Linda reminded members to please turn in their volunteer hours for January – May, 2016 as soon as possible if not already done so.
- Report on 2016-2017 Budget - Linda reported the 2016-2017 Budget was due in Auditing by May 31, 2016. The JCHC is asking no increase in the new Budget or that any money be removed.
- Jefferson County Fifty-Year Time Capsule – Commission Brent Weaver, Precinct #2, is putting together a Jefferson County 50-year time capsule which will be housed in a glass case in his office. He has contacted the JCHC about how to protect the contents. Linda talked with the Texas Historical Commission and Port Neches Library as how to protect the contents of a time capsule. The library presently has an exhibit of a time capsule they have recently opened containing Port Neches history.
- Linda reported that at the end of the meeting a picture would be taken to be included in the time capsule, along with the latest JCHC newsletter and a Jefferson County Line article submitted by the Historical Commission concerning the 1892 and 1931 cornerstone of the County Courthouse.

- Request of the Port of Beaumont – Steven Lewis has requested information for the Port of Beaumont concerning several possible historical markers they would like to have included on the National Register of Historic Places or as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks. Linda reported that she would be meeting with the Port the following day to give them the requested information.
- Historical Markers of Jefferson County – Linda said a new list of Jefferson County historical markers was included in the handout packet. There are 148 markers listed.

Committee Reports

About Town Photographs – Steven Lewis - I have continued to try to get information about the 800+ negatives at the Energy Museum. Ryan Smith provided that the photos were given to the Spindletop Museum in April 1979 by Mrs. Frank Weber of 720 15th Street in Beaumont. I have shown prints to James Broussard and Pete Shelton. Mr. Broussard tentatively identified one person (Emmett Kelly owner of Kelly Dairies) as a friend of his father.

I located the black and white negatives from the 1977 SPARE Beaumont Survey at the French House. In addition to the negatives, I scanned color slides and color negatives for the Beaumont Heritage Society.

I led a tour for the Gulf States Camera Club Council Convention on May 6, 2016. I took five people to the Hinchee House, the Temple to the Brave, the Jefferson County Courthouse, and locations along Pearl Street, including the Tyrrell Historical Library. Members of the Beaumont Camera Club have expressed interest in taking the tour in the future.

Archeology – Brenda Jackson - I will be assisting Dr. Charles Bollich in analyzing artifacts and preparing a report on excavations at the David French House (41JF67). This site, located on Beaumont Heritage Society property, was recorded in 1991 with the Texas Historical Commission.

I will attend the annual field school of the Texas Archeological Society near Columbus in June. I plan to work on a crew doing historical excavation.

Beaumont Land Mark Commission – Jessie Davis – Jessie has been appointed by the Beaumont City Council to represent the Jefferson County Historical Commission as representative to the Beaumont Land Mark Commission. The Land Mark Commission will meet as needed. No meetings were held in April or May.

Bill Quick's Book – Bruce Hamilton, Don Smart - Darlene Smart has forwarded an up-to-date list of Bill Quick's materials housed at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center. Special thanks to JCHC members who have helped inventory Bill's materials.

Cemetery – Paul Prosperie / Jimmy Sparks – The Beaumont Heritage Society Happy Hour was held at Magnolia Cemetery on April 28, 2016. There was great

attendance and special thanks to JCHC members Paul Prosperie, Jimmy Sparks and Mike McGreevy who work hard to make it informative and engaging for the community.

Certified Local Government / Museum of the Gulf Coast – Sarah Bellian - At the Museum of the Gulf Coast work is still underway on the Maritime Gallery renovation funded by Andrew Green. We are still in the planning phases. Bill Cummings has graciously volunteered to read the proposed exhibit content.

We are also working towards our 2017 Vice exhibit “Betting, Booze, and Brothels” on the James Commission.

In September the Museum will be launching a “historical markers scavenger hunt” with prizes. There will be an article on this in the next “Off Ramp” magazine or contact me for more information. I am looking for 25 of the “best” markers in our county and encourage people to recommend the ones they feel are most interesting. Ideally, there would be good historic photos of the site before the marker was placed there, and something that can still be seen (house, building).

The Certified Local Government Committee (CLG) has had two successful meetings and an upcoming meeting is scheduled in the Hamshire-Fannett area for June 7 at 6 PM at Justice of the Peace Precinct 4, 19217 FM 365, Beaumont, TX 77705. Please bring any completed survey forms. We also have an invitation to go back to Mr. Kuebedeux’s home in China. It would be ideal if we were able to bring a laptop and a scanner and camera. If I am able to attend, I will bring a video camera. We could record him talking about the things he has collected.

The interview conducted by Theresa Goodness with Robert and Paul Noyola has been put on DVD – Theresa and Linda McMahan have their copies, and I have mailed Robert two DVDs.

Courthouse Oversight – Linda McMahan – Linda reported on the continuing restoration being performed in the 317th District Court and Commissioners Court. Work is almost complete with the installation and testing of fire alarms in the historic courthouse. Commissioners Court should be complete mid-summer.

Dick Dowling Days – Mike McGreevy – Plans are still in progress for the Dick Dowling Day Memorial Commemoration Service and Picnic to be held September 10, 2016 at the Sabine Pass Battleground Historic Site.

Historic Markers – Les McMahan – No action to report but members were reminded if they or someone they knew would like to do a marker application to please contact the JCHC office for details.

Port Arthur Land Mark Commission – Les McMahan – No recent meetings have been held nor have any been scheduled for the future.

Sam Houston State Library / Early Sports – Don Smart – Don shared if you have ever wondered what people did for fun in 1901 go to the Gladys City Games to be held June 4, 10 AM to 3 PM at Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown.

Tourism / Ben Rogers Visitors Center – Jessie Davis – Jessie said due to work being done on I-10 business has been slow at the Ben Rogers Visitors Center. Road work should continue for another year.

Web Site – Bill Cummings – Bill met with Theresa Goodness and Linda McMahan to consider options for packaging historical marker information: marker text, photos and narratives. Theresa had discovered a new version of Harris County's marker presentation which should work for Jefferson County too.

Using the THC marker number as an index we will be able to present a list of markers. Within the list each row will represent a marker and links from that row will access the text, photos and narrative. Data elements will be prepared and linked to the marker index. The current one-piece presentation of photos and text will be broken up into components for individual markers. Linda is copying marker photos that have been emailed to the Historical Commission, and they too will be accessible.

Unfinished Business / New Business – There was no unfinished or new business.

Adjournment/Next Meeting – The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be at Noon, Wednesday, July 20, 2016, in the JCHC Conference Room