



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) Annual Meeting

Noon, Wednesday, November 16, 2016

Third Floor JCHC Library

1149 Pearl Street, Beaumont, TX 77701

Call to Order / Greetings – 1st Chair Les McMahan

Due to the absence of Chair Theresa Goodness, the meeting was called to order by 1st Chair Les McMahan. Members in attendance were Sarah Bellian, Bill Cummings, Jessie Davis, Bruce Hamilton, Brenda Jackson, Steven Lewis, Linda McMahan, Mike McGreevy, Paul Prosperie, and Jen Trenbeath.

Consider Minutes of Previous Meeting – 1st Chair Les McMahan

First Chair McMahan shared the Minutes of the Wednesday, September 14, 2016 had been emailed to each member for review. He asked if there were any additions or corrections. There were none. A motion was made by Jessie Davis and seconded by Steven Lewis to accept the Minutes as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Linda McMahan

Treasurer McMahan reported the final 2015 – 2016 JCHC expenses were included in the member handout. She also shared the 2016 – 2017 Budget was also included but did not include one outstanding expense which will show on the next budget report.

Chair Report – 1st Chair Les McMahan

Annual Meeting - Election of Officers

This is the year JCHC members will have an opportunity to nominate people for our Executive Board. At this meeting, nominations for Chair, First Vice-Chair, and Second Vice-Chair may be made. (Please note the position of Secretary / Treasurer is not a position voted on by JCHC membership. As an employee of the County and approved by Commissioners Court, this person is the sole individual responsible for

handling all financial matters of the JCHC, with consideration of suggestions made by the JCHC.)

Nominations shall be made and presented in writing to the general membership. Nominations may also be accepted from the floor from any voting member with the consent of the nominee. There must be a two week period between nomination and voting. Due to time requirement (and Chair on vacation), a Special Meeting is called for Friday, December 9, 2016 for voting.

Election shall be by written ballot unless there is one candidate and a motion is made to elect by acclamation. A simple majority vote of those present qualified to vote, and voting, shall constitute election. Proxy or absentee voting will not be allowed in officer elections.

Nominations were made by members in attendance to continue to retain Theresa Goodness as Chair, Les McMahan as 1st Chair and Paul Prosperie as 2nd Chair. Voting will take place December 9, 2016.

Recommendation of Programs and Activities for the Ensuing Year

Sarah Bellian of the Museum of the Gulf Coast reminded everyone of the exhibit "Betting, Booze, and Brothels" scheduled for May 2017. Items are still needed for the exhibit.

Several members suggested the JCHC having a Facebook page. Sarah said the Museum is on Facebook and it is a wonderful tool in getting out information to the public. Jen Trenbeath said she would be glad to work up some ideas for review.

Several ideas for activities for the JCHC were: to encourage County to clean up historic cemeteries, re-conditioning historical marker faces, reach out to schools districts and community to become more involved in history of area and use website to advertise marker application information.

JCHC 2017 Meeting Dates / Locations

Chair Theresa Goodness forwarded proposed 2017 JCHC meeting dates and locations. All meetings would take place on the third floor of the JC Courthouse.

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at Noon

Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at Noon

Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at Noon

Wednesday, July 19, 2017 at Noon

Wednesday, September 20, 2017 at Noon

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at Noon

A motion was made by Bill Cummings and seconded by Paul Prosperie to accept the proposed dates and locations. The motion passed unanimously.

Coordinator Report – Linda McMahan

JCHC Members Appointment / Reappointment

JCHC members are appointed by the Jefferson County Commissioners Court for a two-year term beginning on January 1 of odd number years. Each member is required to submit at least 50 hours of volunteer service each calendar year and attend

a minimum of two (2) meetings annually. Secretary Linda McMahan is canvassing each member to confirm they have each met requirements. She must have at least 50 volunteer hours per member by December 1, 2016. Additional hours may be turned in through December 31, 2016 to be included in the THC / JCHC Annual Report.

Important Date to Remember:

Texas Gulf Historical Society Fall Meeting is Thursday November 17, 2016 at the McFaddin-Ward House Visitor Center at 7 PM. The program is Ellen Rienstra and Jo Ann Stiles tracing the Lutchter-Stark Lumber Dynasty.

Committee Reports:

About Town Photographs – Steven Lewis

Steven continues to work on negatives from previous SPARE surveys and “Then and Now” photos of Beaumont.

Archeology – Brenda Jackson

Brenda reminded everyone that an exhibit featuring the David French House, McFaddin Beach and the Texas Archeological Society is on display in the Courthouse Mini-Museum through December.

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Jessie Davis

Jessie reported the business for the November 14, 2016 meeting concerned a request for a certificate of appropriateness for a house at 2350 Pecos Street in the Historical District. The Landmark Commission is working with the homeowner to meet requirements.

Cemetery – Paul Prosperie and Jimmy Sparks

Paul reported Sandra Wilturner, of the JCHC Advisory Council, hosted the October START meeting and gave an update on the Historic Evergreen Cemetery on Pine Street in Beaumont. The JCHC has made two applications for a historical marker for the cemetery but both have been turned down. The JCHC continues to encourage and make suggestions of ways the Evergreen Cemetery Board could raise money to help support the cemetery

Certified Local Government / Museum of the Gulf Coast – Sarah Bellian

Sarah reported she was looking for someone to do a voice recording for an exhibit at the Museum. Several JCHC members recommended a member of the Dick Dowling Camp 1295. A name and contact information was forwarded to Sarah after the meeting.

Courthouse Oversight – Linda McMahan

The JCHC Conference Room is still being used as the Law Library Research Room per Judge Branick. The Law Library in District Attorney Bob Wortham’s area is being remodeled. No definite date has been given for completion.

Brit Barr, THC Courthouse Program Reviewer, met with County Judge Branick and Commissioners at a conference in Galveston in October. Britt is very aware of our termite problems. He has been in contact with Dr. Robert Puckett, an Entomologist at Texas A&M, who is at the forefront of termite research. Dr. Puckett expressed interest in learning more about the specific problems the Courthouse is experiencing. THC / Dr. Puckett and his team and JC Maintenance will meet on Thursday, December 1 to exchange information about the termite situation and see what suggestions / help we can received from Dr. Puckett and his team.

Dick Dowling Days – Mike McGreevy

Dick Dowling Camp 1295 has elected officers for 2017. Congratulations to JCHC members Commander Don Smart, Adjutant Mike McGreevy, former JCHC member Historian Warren Guidry, and Past Commander Bruce Hamilton.

Historical Markers – Les McMahan

JCHC / St. Paul United Methodist Church (Port Arthur) is waiting feedback from THC as to the status of the marker application for the church.

Port Arthur Landmark Commission – Les McMahan

No activity.

Sam Houston State Library / Early Sports – Don Smart

The JCHC was sorry to learn of the passing of Don Smart's mother on Monday, November 14, 2016. Bruce shared information about time and place of viewing and service.

Inventory of Bill Quick's Books and Papers - Bruce Hamilton and Don Smart

The inventory is almost complete with three boxes left to inventory.

Tourism / Ben Rogers Visitors Center – Jessie Davis

Jessie reported IH-10 construction should be completed by the end of this year.

Web Site – Bill Cummings

Minor adjustments and additions continue on the JCHC web site. The JCHC is very appreciative of the long hours of research and work Bill Cummings has donated to this project. We have had good feedback on the ease of using the web site and also the information found there.

Unfinished Business / New Business – None

Adjournment / Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be a Special Meeting in the JCHC Library on Friday, December 9, 2016 to vote on the Executive Board. .