

JCHC Bi-Monthly Meeting
Noon, Wednesday, July 19, 2017
JCHC Conference Room – Third Floor

Call to Order – Chair Theresa Goodness – The meeting was called to order by Chair Theresa Goodness at Noon. In attendance were Sarah Bellian, Bill Cummings, Jessie Davis, Bruce Hamilton, Brenda Jackson, Steven Lewis, Les McMahan, Linda McMahan, Paul Prosperie, Don Smart, and Jean Trenbeath. Two guests attended: Linda McLemore and Mr. McLemore.

Introduction of Guest Linda Baggett McLemore – Chair Theresa Goodness introduced Mrs. McLemore, sister of Larry Baggett (1956-2015) who wished to present the County with a print of her brother's work of the 1854 Jefferson County Courthouse. This gift will be placed on Commissioners Court agenda for receipt.

Introduction of Speaker: Steven Lewis – Chair Theresa Goodness JCHC member Steven Lewis continued a talk on hydrants. He shared about the colors, age, locations and pressure of different hydrants. Steven showed locations, and gave a short history of some of the older hydrants.

Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meeting – Chair Theresa Goodness shared that the Minutes of the May 17, 2017 meeting had been emailed to members for their review. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Minutes as printed. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Report – Secretary Linda McMahan shared that \$2,801 had been spent with \$8,719 remained in the 2016-2017 budget. Last day of the 2016 – 2017 budget is Friday, September 29, 2017.

Chair's Report – Chair Theresa Goodness reported she restored the historical marker at the French Trading Post Museum. The marker, installed in 1970, is located roadside on French Road in front of the John J. French house, and it is under a tree. The marker was covered with mold and very dirty, causing the inscription to be illegible in part. After a thorough cleaning, the marker was restored according to THC's guidelines, using high temperature paint. The restoration is expected to last many years.

Coordinator's Report – Linda McMahan reminded everyone to turn in their volunteer hours. All members must turn in at least 50 hours per year.

The JCHC has had great feedback to the French and Charlton Pollard High School Exhibits in the Mini-Museum. It has been expressed that we also include schools from other cities.

Linda shared the framed Certified Certificate from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior for Jefferson County being a Certified Local Government and partner in the Federal Preservation program since March 2012.

Monthly memorial services for persons lost on ships attacked by German U-Boats sailing from or to Southeast Texas during WW II continue to be held at the Seafarers' Center at the end of Procter Street in Port Arthur. As dates are determined, a notice will be sent out to JCHC members.

The JCHC has been contacted by Stacey McCarthy and staff of Wal-Mart #846 in La Grange, TX. Someone left a 40" x 60" portrait of Sheriff Charley Meyer in their parking lot. Ms. McCarthy said it was too big to mail and asked if we wanted to send someone to pick it up. JCHC member Jennifer Trenbeath volunteered to get it.

Committee Reports

About Town – Steven Lewis Because of interest in the history of fire hydrants, Steven was speaker for this bi-monthly meeting and continued sharing history of local fire hydrants.

Archeology Committee – Brenda Jackson reported nothing out of the ordinary was found during the beach nourishment project at McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge. This work replaced some of the sand lost in recent hurricanes and will help prevent salt water getting into fresh water marshes.

Brenda also reported she will be sitting up an exhibit this summer at the David French House highlighting the archeological excavations done there in the early 1990s. She is also working to set up a regional meeting to be held in Beaumont during October's Archeology Month. Final plans will be shared at the September meeting.

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Jessie Davis – No meeting to report.

Cemetery Committee – Paul Prosperie and Jimmy Sparks reported the

next cemetery tour will be on August 3, 2017 at 5 PM for the 130th anniversary of the founding of Magnolia Cemetery. We have at least four docents available to talk on several histories of Beaumont's past.

Planning continues for the annual October tour. The tour dates have yet to be determined but will probably be around the first week in October. It is hoped to include Hebrew Rest in the tour.

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

Sarah reported Lamar University Professor of Public History, Josh Howard, whose students were working on contacts for Sarah's oral history list has resigned.

The Museum will house a World War I exhibit in September.

Courthouse Oversight Committee – Linda McMahan shared there is no new Courthouse project going on at this time.

Dick Dowling Days / Spindletop Days – Mike McGreevy – Nothing to report.

Marker Committee – Les McMahan reported the St. Paul United Methodist Church marker has been approved by the THC. Because the St. Paul payment was 149 out of 150 on the latest marker list, and inscriptions are written by THC in the order payment is received, it may be a while before a draft inscription is ready for review by the JCHC and the sponsor.

No new inquiries for 2018 markers except for the Cheek Rodeo Association, which is being worked on at this time.

Port Arthur Landmark Commission – Les McMahan – No meeting to report.

Sam Houston State Library / Early Sports – Don Smart reported the Library is open but closed to the public until November. Inventory work is almost complete on Bill Quick's papers.

Tourism / Ben Rogers Visitors Center – Jessie Davis reported that Summer Hours are in practice at the Visitors Center.

Web Site / Facebook Friends of the JCHC – Jen Trenbeath reported she will be meeting with the Web / Facebook committee in the near future. If members or the public have topics of discussion to be placed on the page, please let her know. Jen is contacting different museums for information on upcoming events.

Unfinished Business / New Business – Richard Gachot, Associated Professor of Art History and Design, Lamar University, and some of his students continue to work on the SPARE update.

Adjournment – Next meeting is scheduled for Noon, Wednesday, September 27, 2017 in the JCHC Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned.