

Minutes
JCHC Bi-Monthly Meeting
Noon, Wednesday, November 15, 2017
1149 Pearl Street - Third Floor Conference
Beaumont, TX 77701

Call to Order – Chair Theresa Goodness called the meeting to order and welcomed JCHC members Bill Cummings, Jessie Davis, Brenda Jackson, Steven Lewis, Les McMahan, Linda McMahan, Paul Prosperie, Don Smart and Jen Trenbeath.

Introduction of Speaker – Chair Theresa Goodness introduced JCHC member Steven Lewis.

- Steven gave a PowerPoint Overview of SPARE Beaumont 1989 which he had shared with the Oaks Historical District at their October meeting.
- Steven also shared Google Earth pictures before and after Tropical Storm Harvey of two Historical Markers (Nancy Tevis and Beaumont Lumber Mill) located in Riverfront Park.

Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meeting – Chair Theresa Goodness asked if there were any additions or corrections to the September 27, 2017 JCHC Meeting Minutes. Jessie Davis made a motion, seconded by Paul Prosperie to accept the Minutes as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Report – Secretary Linda McMahan shared the JCHC Budget Year started on October 1st and at this time no money had been spent.

Chair's Report – Theresa Goodness shared the JCHC Meeting dates for 2018:

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

All meetings will be held at Noon in the Third Floor JCHC Conference Room.

- Because of damage caused by Tropical Storm Harvey, it is more important than ever that a Jefferson County Historical Marker survey be completed. Each member was asked to survey at least ten markers.

- Information needed: Close-up picture of marker to show the condition, if it needs to be refinished, or scrubbed. Also please include a picture to show marker location.
- Members were asked to let the JCHC Coordinator know which markers they would be surveying. This would prevent the same marker being surveyed by several people. The finished survey can be emailed to the JCHC office. A list of all markers, including, name, address or location, and type of marker was given to each member at the meeting.
- At present, there are only two damaged / lost markers. They are Nancy Tevis and Beaumont Lumber Mill. The markers had been located in Riverfront Park until the strong river current eroded the land where the markers had been placed and were washed away.

Coordinator's Report – Coordinator Linda McMahan

- JCHC members were reminded to please get their Volunteer Hours turned in ASAP. This information is needed for the 2017 Certified Local Government and Texas Historical Commission Annual Reports.
- We have received a request for help from the Naval History & Heritage Command, Washington D.C. Naval Yard, concerning a loan of a 40' mm gun mount and landing craft located at the Golden Triangle Veterans Memorial Park. These two items are on loan and must be renewed every five years. The JCHC and the County Attorney are working on this project.

Committees

Archeology Committee – Brenda Jackson

- A press release has gone out informing the public of the Archeology Exhibit housed in the JCHC Mini-Museum. It will remain until mid-January 2018.
- State regional archeologist Dr. Kerry Nichols will speak in Beaumont about the prehistory and archeology of this area, including McFaddin Beach and the recent dune restoration project. The talk will be held on March 8, 2018 at the McFaddin-Ward House Visitor Center. The Jefferson County Historical Commission and the McFaddin-Ward House are co-sponsors of the event.

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Jessie Davis

- It was reported that the Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House has been tagged by the City of Beaumont to be demolished. No date set.
- Tyrrell Park Community Center – City of Beaumont has let this building eventually be demolished by neglect. No date set.

Cemetery Committee – Paul Prosperie

- Plans for the Spring Cemetery Tour will be announced at the January meeting.
- Damage caused by wild hogs has been found in several of our cemeteries. Sabine Pass Cemetery and Port Neches Oak Bluff have noticeable damage. Magnolia Cemetery has some minor damage from Tropical Storm Harvey.

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

- No Certified Local Government Report
- The Museum of the Gulf Coast flooded eight inches on Procter Street, exactly where it flooded from Hurricane Ike. Some damage to carpets occurred but since the water came in where it was expected, water socks and sandbags were ready, sustaining no serious damage. There was a lot of mildew.
- The Port Arthur Convention and Visitors Bureau is “homeless” and now occupying the third floor of the Museum. We are happy to share our space.

Courthouse Oversight Committee – LindaMcMahan

There was minor damage at the Courthouse from Tropical Storm Harvey. A grant is being prepared by several County departments for help with the damage repairs.

Dick Dowling Days / Spindletop – Mike McGreevy - Nothing to report at this time.

Historical Markers – Les McMahan

- The JCHC still has not received a draft inscription from THC for St. Paul United Methodist Church.
- Cheek Rodeo Association will not complete and turn in their marker this year. Because of that, we will now have available funds to replace both loss markers (Nancy Tevis and Beaumont Lumber Mill). The cost for both is \$3,800 which includes application fee and new marker on pole. Motion was made by Les and seconded by Bill Cummings to start work on applying for replacement markers. The motion passed unanimously.

Port Arthur Historical Landmark Commission – Les McMahan

Port Arthur Historical Landmark Commission commissioners’ terms expired in April 2017 so there are no meetings to report on. City Council will consider reappointing the Commission with six returning members and three new members. Les McMahan has been recommended for reappointment.

Sam Houston State Library / Early Sports – Don Smart

- Don donated two pieces of Port Arthur history to pass on to the Museum of the Gulf Coast. Both are small advertising signs. One needs minor repair and Les McMahan will work on that and then pass them on to Sarah Bellian at the Museum.
- The Sam Houston State Library is opened for business but the Museum is closed at this time.

Tourism / Ben Rogers Visitors Center – Jessie Davis

The Visitors Center had water damage from Tropical Storm Harvey and repairs are being made.

Web Site / Facebook Friends of the JCHC – Jen Trenbeath

People continue to checkout our Friends page. If there is anything you would like listed, please make contact with Jen.

Unfinished / New Business

Jimmy Sparks has turned in his resignation to Magnolia Cemetery and the JCHC. He has changed jobs but is still in the area. We will miss Jimmy and his valuable help with our Cemetery Committee. We wish him well in his new venture.

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is our Annual Meeting to be held Wednesday, January 17, 2018 in the Third Floor Conference Room. A light lunch will be served.