



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

Minutes for JCHC Bi-Monthly Meeting

Noon, Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Jefferson County Courthouse - Third Floor JCHC Conference Room
1149 Pearl Street
Beaumont, TX 77701

Call to Order – Chair Theresa Goodness called the meeting to order. Attending were Bruce Hamilton, Brenda Jackson, Steven Lewis, Linda and Les McMahan, Paul Prosperie and Jen Trenbeath. Laurie Leister was our guest.

Chair Goodness introduced Laurie Leister, daughter of long-time JCHC member Mildred Hall (deceased). Ms. Leister had called and asked for a few minutes to share with the Commission the state of the Tyrrell Park Community Building. It was heavily damaged during recent storms and has been placed on the City of Beaumont's list of structures to be demolished.

Ms. Leister shared there is a group of interest citizens who will be at the next Beaumont Historic Landmark Commission meeting in support of saving the building. Chair Goodness offered to write a letter in support of saving the building (see attached). The letter will be presented at that meeting.

Ms. Leister expressed her appreciation of the JCHC's support and she looked forward to working with the JCHC in preserving this important part of Jefferson County history.

Speakers – Chair Theresa Goodness introduced JCHC members Bruce Hamilton and Steven Lewis who shared information about the historic Hinchee House preservation project. This included a PowerPoint of the history of the house and pictures of work going on to bring the house up to its original grandeur. JCHC members shared their personal memories and information of the house.

Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meeting – Chair Theresa Goodness asked if there were any corrections on the February 7, 2018 JCHC meeting. There were

none and a motion was made by Brenda Jackson, seconded by Jen Trenbeath, to accept the Minutes as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Report – Secretary Linda McMahan reported that \$4,992.83 remains in the 2017-2018 budget.

Chair's Report – Chair Goodness reminded everyone to pick a month to gather information and a picture of an historical event to be used in a calendar the JCHC is preparing to hand out at special events and regional meetings. The JCHC is talking with Kathy Hughes at the Visitors Center about applying for a grant from the Hotel Occupancy Tax money to pay for the printing of the calendar.

Coordinator's Report – Linda McMahan handed out a list of Jefferson County historical markers and asked everyone to choose markers to survey for possible replacements, cleaning or damage. For each marker, a survey form (attached) will need to be completed along with three pictures showing the status and location of the marker.

Committee Reports

Archeology Committee – Brenda Jackson shared the new regional archeologist for East Texas is Maggie Moore. She is available to answer questions and to hear concerns, new information and news from our area. When she is in our area she will do her best to meet with the JCHC, conduct site visits or whatever else is needed.

The archeological report for the 1991 David French House excavation is being compiled. Brenda wrote the historical background, which will be included with other sections of the publication.

The annual summer camp of the Beaumont Heritage Society, Camp Lookinback, will be held the weeks of July 9 and July 16. Brenda is planning the archeology day activities.

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Jessie Davis – Working / No report.

Cemetery Committee – Paul Prosperie – No news to report.

Certified Local Government / Museum of the Gulf Coast – Sarah Bellian – Working / No report.

Courthouse Oversight Committee – Linda McMahan shared with the members items found while cleaning in the old jail area on the 12th floor. One was a handmade shank.

Dick Dowling Days / Spindletop Days – Mike McGreevy – Working / No report.

Marker Committee – Les McMahan reported the Port Arthur St. Paul United Methodist Church's marker inscription has been approved and sent to the foundry.

Port Arthur Landmark Commission – Les McMahan reported the City of Port Arthur has hired a company from Austin to do the historical guidelines and inventory for managing the City's one historic district and other individual historical structures in the city.

Sam Houston State Library / Early Sports – Don Smart- Working / No report.

Tourism / Ben Rogers Visitors Center – Jessie Davis – Working / No Report.

Web Site / Facebook Friends of the JCHC – Jen Trenbeath reported the Web Committee will be meeting with Chair Goodness and MIS to update the JCHC web page.

Unfinished / New Business - None

Adjournment - The next meeting will be held noon, Wednesday, July 18, 2018 in the JCHC Conference Room..



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May 9, 2018

Beaumont Landmark Commission
Hand Delivered

RE: PRESERVATION OF TYRRELL PARK COMMUNITY BUILDING

Dear Beaumont Landmark Commission Members:

The dire condition of the Tyrrell Park Community Building is such that members of the preservation community must urge swift action by the City of Beaumont. The Jefferson County Historical Commission (JCHC) recommends the Beaumont Landmark Commission table any action to approve the removal of the roof/ceiling structure and doors and window sashes from this historic building which would undoubtedly hasten the demise of a long neglected structure built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. A plan of action to stabilize the building and to prevent further damage would be a much better use of the estimated \$130,000 the City plans to spend on removing the roof.

This is not the first time members of the preservation community have urged the City to seek a means to save this historic building, one that several generations have enjoyed for dances, graduation parties, and other events since the 1930's. In August of 2013, members of JCHC and Beaumont Historical Society addressed Beaumont City Council where we made the same request after learning from the City of Beaumont's Director of Capital Projects, Brenda Beadle, of an actual full restoration plan the City had commissioned. The plan was an ambitious one, but it has never been funded in the City's capital projects budget.

Many good things have been happening at Tyrrell Park, and more visitors are coming to tour the botanical gardens and to view the birds and other wildlife at Cattail Marsh Scenic Wetlands and Boardwalk. The restored stables are also drawing visitors to Tyrrell Park, as is the golf course. We agree the community building must have a purpose to support itself, but believe the increased traffic at the park speaks to the potential for a restored historic community building to be a well-used city venue.

Please feel free to contact me or Linda McMahan, our Coordinator, if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Theresa Goodness
Chair

cc: JCHC File

**Jefferson County Historical Commission
Historical Marker Survey
2018**

Title of Marker:

Location of Marker:

Condition of Marker:

Recommendation:

Date of Survey:

Person conducting Survey:

Please include three pictures of each marker:

1. First picture up close to show the condition of the marker. Does it need cleaning, scrubbing, refurbishing?
2. Second picture to show if the marker is leaning or needs to be moved.
3. Third picture to show the surrounding area of the marker.

Jefferson County Historical Commission
Budget Report
Wednesday, May 9, 2018

Line Item	2017/18 Budget	Spent To Date	Remaining
30-10 Books	\$250	\$209.00	\$41.00
30-78 Supplies	\$1,500	\$0	\$1,500
30-90 Education	\$1,500	\$502.84	\$997.16
50-05 Mileage	\$500	\$252.33	\$247.67
50-12 Markers	\$5,000	\$3,800	\$1,200
50-21 Dues	\$850	\$485	\$365
50-62 Travel	\$2,000	\$1,358	\$642
Totals	\$11,600	\$6,607.17	\$4,992.83