



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, September 19, 2018
Jefferson County Courthouse - Third Floor Conference Room
1149 Pearl Street – Beaumont, TX 77701

Call to Order - Chair Theresa Goodness called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM. Those attending were Sarah Bellian, Bruce A. Hamilton, Brenda Jackson, Steven Lewis, Les and Linda McMahan, Don Smart and Jen Trenbeath.

Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meeting – Chair Theresa Goodness asked if there were any corrections to the July 18, 2018 Minutes. There were none. A motion was made by Bruce A. Hamilton and seconded by Les McMahan to accept the Minutes as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Report – Secretary Linda McMahan reported the September 18, 2018 Budget report was the last report of the 2017-2018 Budget Year. The JCHC has received notice that the 2018-2019 Proposed Budget was approved and will be voted on in Commissioners Court on Monday, September 24, 2018. JCHC did not ask for any increase or decrease in any line item; therefore, the 2018-2019 Budget will remain the same as the 2017-2018 Budget.

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Chair's Report – Theresa Goodness reviewed the attached list of the Status of Goals for 2018. Several of the listed Goals still need additional work.

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Chair Goodness also reported a Cemetery Preservation Study Project has been commissioned by the Texas Historical Commission to learn more about the state of cemetery preservation by counties. Contractor Steph McDougal, proprietor of McDoux Preservation LLC, is leading this project and will be contacting counties to answer survey questions.

Chair Goodness reported the November 14, 2018 meeting is our Annual Meeting. 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, Second Vice-Chair, Secretary and Past Chair may be made. (It was reminded that the Treasurer is not a position voted on by the JCHC membership. As an employee of the County and approved by Commissioners Court, the Coordinator is the sole individual responsible to handle JCHC funds.) Theresa asked if anyone

would be interested in any of the positions. Bruce A Hamilton said he has served as Chair in the past and would volunteer to serve as Past Chair. If anyone is interested in any of the positions please let the Coordinator know. Two weeks before the meeting a list will be mailed out of those interested in the listed positions. They will be voted on at the November 14, 2018 meeting. Also at that time, nominations may be made from the floor.

Coordinator's Report – Linda McMahan reminded everyone to please turn in their volunteer hours.

Linda also shared the JCHC still has markers that need to be surveyed. A list of the markers is attached. It would be appreciated if anyone would like to survey several of the markers to help complete the project.

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It was also shared that the "Spindletop to Port Arthur Oil Pipeline Corridor" marker located at the southeast corner of Spur 93 and 60th Street, Port Arthur, is missing. The marker was broken off of the pole at the base of the marker with paint transfer left on the pole and damage to an adjacent fire hydrant. This indicates it may have been hit by a wide-turning vehicle. Linda suggested this information be placed on the JCHC Friends page to make the public aware of the missing marker.

Committee Reports:

About Town in Pictures – Steven Lewis shared that two projects he is participating in are the Hinchee House and the CCC Community Building at Tyrrell Park. He is on the board of the non-profit to save the Hinchee House and has been photographing the progress of the renovation. He is also on the Coalition to Save the CCC Building at Tyrrell Park and has gone to coalition meetings and city council meetings on this subject.

Steven also shared he has been photographing the signal control boxes that are being painted around Beaumont. So far, he has photographed 72 of them and three murals on the Weinbaum Building on Fannin. A mural is being painted on the side of the convenience store being built at the site of the Calder Pig Stand. He has taken a few photos of it but it is not complete yet.

Archeology Committee – Brenda Jackson shared that October is Archeology Month. An exhibit will be in the mini-museum sharing information on the subject during the months of October and November.

Brenda also shared she attended the annual TASN workshop in San Felipe de Austin on August 17 – 18, 2018.

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – No report given. Jessie Davis was out of town.

Cemetery Committee – Paul Prosperie was not in attendance. Linda McMahan shared that she had received word from a friend of a friend that there is a home in Port Neches that has a burial on their property. This is being checked out and more information will be shared at the November meeting.

Certified Local Government / Museum of the Gulf Coast – Sarah Bellian reported there was no new Certified Local Government news. She also reported on on-going projects at the Museum of the Gulf Coast.

Courthouse Oversight Committee – Linda McMahan reported that lights have been installed to shine on the flags and the front of the historic courthouse. She also shared the latest find in the cleaning of the old jails was a shoe in the elevator shaft on the 12th floor. No body was found.

Dick Dowling Days / Spindletop Days – Mike McGreevy was working shut-down so no report was given. Bruce A. Hamilton shared that Dick Dowling Days did not happen due to the strained relationship with the Texas Historical Commission.

Marker Committee – Les McMahan reported the St. Paul United Methodist Church marker has yet to be received. St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, Port Neches has requested and received marker application information probably for next year since this year's cycle has already begun. They will be celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2022.

Port Arthur Historical Landmark Committee – Les McMahan reported that a public meeting was recently held to collect public input on what is desirable or not wanted in the way of design standards and guidelines to be developed by the City's design firm. The meeting was well-attended, started well, but quickly got off track and probably did not give the design firm the direction they were anticipating.

Sam Houston State Library / Early Sports – Don Smart -

At this time I am working on seven projects dealing with the history of Beaumont and Jefferson County. The one that is almost complete is the Bill Quick's collection located at the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center located in Liberty, Texas. This project should be completed by the 6th of October 2018.

The other projects that are being worked on at this time are still in the research phase. So far most of the information on these projects are coming out of old Beaumont Enterprises and Journals. These projects are (1) Unusual events in Beaumont history; (2) History of the French ISD; (3) Early Beaumont baseball 1890 – 1920; (4) History of the Beaumont Smart Set (1904) and the Beaumont Black Oilers (1915 – 1924) members of the Texas Baseball Negro League; and (5) History of the Albert Sidney Johnston United Confederate Veterans Camp 75.

There is one other project that my wife and I are in charge of and that is the Beaumont Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 292's museum located at the corner of 5th and McFaddin. This is still an ongoing project that hopefully will be completed in 2019.

Tyrrell Park Community Building - Bruce A. Hamilton shared the latest information, plans and events planned for the Tyrrell Park Community Building. More detailed information will be shared at the November meeting.

Tourism / Ben Rogers Visitors Center – Jessie Davis was out of town so no report was given.

Web Site / Facebook Friends of the JCHC – Jen Trenbeath shared

I'm currently working on a variety of projects with regard to local history. In addition to the JCHC Facebook and Webpage projects, I am working with Bruce Hamilton on the Hinchee House History. Currently I am cataloging documents found in the Jefferson County records showing the purchase of the property, and a variety of other properties bought and sold by Caroline Gilbert Hinchee and M.L. Hinchee. I have joined the Tyrrell Park Coalition and have attended several meetings in the interest of lending support to the restoration of the entire building. My current personal project is compiling information from a variety of sources on George Washington O'Brien. G.W. O'Brien was a principal partner in the Gladys City Oil Company and many other oil companies and is an ancestor of mine. Much is known about him, however, through the JCHC Facebook page a distant relative has contacted us asking for information on both G.W. O'Brien and the various oil companies he was involved in. My goal is to be able to send him information and resources so he can then delve into his own research.

Unfinished / New Business:

Linda McMahan suggested that letters be sent to First Baptist Church, Beaumont; Providence Church, Nederland; and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Beaumont to see what plans were for exhibiting their markers.

Les McMahan reported on his presentation to the Nederland Historical Society on the history of railroads in Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana. He agreed to share it with the JCHC at a later date.

Jessie Davis has asked to be removed from the Beaumont Landmark Commission due to other commitments. Bruce A. Hamilton has offered to serve on the Beaumont Landmark Commission in her place.

Adjournment – Next meeting is Wednesday, November 14, 2018. This will be the JCHC Annual Meeting and will be held at Noon in the JCHC Conference Room.

**Jefferson County Historical Commission
Budget Report
September 19, 2018**

Line Item	Budget	Spent	Remaining
30-10 Books	\$250	\$209.00	\$41.00
30-78 Supplies	\$1,500	\$862.82	\$637.18
30-90 Education	\$1,500	\$1,022.84	\$477.16
50-05 Mileage	\$500	\$252.33	\$247.67
50-12 Markers	\$5,000	\$3,860.66	\$1,139.34
50-21 Dues	\$850	\$590.00	\$260.00
50-62 Travel	\$2,000	\$606.59	\$1,393.41
Totals	\$11,600	\$7,404.24	\$4,195.76

Chair's Report 09-19-2018

Jefferson County Historical Commission

Status of Goals for 2018:

- Create a page on the JCHC webpage linked from the Historical Marker page containing a google map with pins for every historical marker.
 - ✓ The GIS Specialist in the County Engineer's Office has designed an interactive county map containing location pins and other information for most of our markers. The Web Committee has been tasked with reviewing this information before posting to our website. The link is: [ArcGIS Web Application](#)
- Conduct a survey of all Jefferson County historical markers to ascertain whether they are missing or damaged from Tropical Storm Harvey, and whether restoration is needed for each.
 - ✓ Our members have been conducting this survey and the majority of our markers have now been documented on paper and with photographs. Only a handful of markers are left to document before the survey is complete.
- Continue digitization of JCHC files to provide valuable research material to members and the public.
 - ✗ We have not accomplished much on this goal.
- Design JCHC calendar for 2019 highlighting photographs and important historical events from Jefferson County's history.
 - ✓ All but one month of the calendar is complete. The coordinator, Linda McMahan, is awaiting a reply from Judge Stevens as to whether we can use a Spindletop photograph he owns for the January page.

Markers Still Need to Be Surveyed

Arceneaux House

Boudreaux House

Leo Edward Craigen

Crockett Middle School

Dugaat – Hamshire House

John Warne Gates

Hamshire House

Idle House (Land Manor)

Mayumi Legacy (original and relocated sites)

Pivoto – Robinson Cemetery – new information given to Don Smart

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Presbyterian Church – in storage

Sabine Pass Cemetery

Spindle top Park

Arthur Edward Stilwell