



JEFFERSON COUNTY

Theresa Goodness
Chair

Jen Trenbeath
Coordinator/Secretary

Historical Commission

Treasurer

Steven P. Lewis
1st Vice-Chair

Don Smart
2nd Vice-Chair

Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Jefferson County Historical Commission (JCHC), Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Jefferson County Historical Commission Library, 1149 Pearl Street, Third Floor, Beaumont, TX 77701

Order of Business:

1. Call to Order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Determination of Quorum. In attendance were JCHC Appointees Jay Camp, Theresa Goodness, Kate Hambright, Bruce Hamilton, Katherine Leister, Steven P. Lewis, Mike McGreevy, Don Smart, Jen Trenbeath. Also in attendance were JCHC Advisors Les McMahan, Linda McMahan, Gordon Williams and guests.
3. Citizens' Communications. Six guests were in attendance and each introduced themselves. Guest Courtney Pederson from the Beaumont Enterprise shared that she will be starting a new column titled "What Was That" and would appreciate if members of the JCHC would be willing to volunteer to share historical information as needed for the column.
4. Call, Receive Information and Take Appropriate Action on:

Introduction of Guests

ACTION ITEMS:

Secretary's Report – Jen Trenbeath

5. Consider and possibly approve minutes of previous meeting. Minutes of the May 15, 2024 meeting were emailed and included in meeting packets for review. A motion was made by Kate Hambright to approve the minutes as printed. Don Smart seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Coordinator's Report – Jen Trenbeath

- Staff report from Coordinator. Report submitted. See attachment A.

Treasurer's Report – Jen Trenbeath

- Report of Expenditures and remaining Budget. Report submitted. See attachment B.

Chair's Report – Chair Theresa Goodness. Report submitted. See attachment C.

6. Consider and possibly approve a project assisting Leslie Wolfenden from the Texas

*approved
9/18/2024
Jenny
Coordinator*

Historical Commission with a project to research historical African American travel sites within Jefferson County. The project may involve oral histories, meeting one-on-one with members of the community and research. A motion to approve was made by Kate Hambright and seconded by Katherine Leister. The motion passed unanimously

Committee Reports

Historical Preservation:

7. Discuss, consider, and possibly approve sending a letter to the Beaumont Independent School District Superintendent and Board recommending preservation of some of the decorative tiles on the exterior of the historic Beaumont High School now under demolition. Discussion was held which included updates from Steven P. Lewis and Kate Hambright of conversations held with Tillie Hickman, BISD Board President. Information was also shared updating the JCHC on the status of demolition, specifically in the front of the school where the most architecturally significant features were. The demolition of the front of the building and all significant features was projected to be complete by the end of the week (July 19, 2024.) and discussion centered on the lateness of the date which the JCHC became aware of the proposed demolition, and the chance that a letter would be received before the demolition was complete. A motion to strike the action item from the agenda was made by Kate Hambright and seconded by Jen Trenbeath. The motion carried with 8 voting in favor of striking the agenda item and voting against.
8. Discuss status of Gilbert Building in downtown Beaumont following a fire and consider and possibly approve sending letter to Beaumont City Council in support of the building's preservation. Chair Theresa Goodness invited guests Demi Engman and Elayna Luckey of the City of Beaumont to share any information they deemed relevant for the consideration of this item by the JCHC. Demi Engman shared that the Gilbert Building would be on the August 20th City Council docket. A suggestion was made to include in the letter the suggestion of shoring up the building to preserve the façade as recommended by the Texas Historical Commission. A motion to send the letter as discussed was made by Don Smart and seconded by Steven P. Lewis. The motion carried unanimously.
9. Discuss the City of Beaumont's recent July 2, 2024, workshop regarding status of downtown buildings and a possible vacant building registry ordinance for the Central Business District. Theresa Goodness shared that the recommendations by Demi Engman and staff at the City of Beaumont includes a vacant building registry, requiring owners to register the buildings which they intend to keep vacant, update the registry every 6 months, submit floorplans and a letter of intent of future use of the building as well as a criminal trespass notice. Demi Engman clarified upon request from Bruce Hamilton that the proposed requirements would apply to those structures within the CBD (Central Business District).

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Theresa Goodness

- Report on Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness considered by Beaumont Landmark Commission. Report submitted. See attachment D.

Tyrrell Historical Library – Steven P. Lewis

- Report on activities of the Tyrrell Historical Library Association. Report submitted. See attachment E.

Photos of Historic Buildings - Steven P. Lewis

- Report on historic building photography project. Report submitted. See attachment E.

Sam Houston State Library – Don Smart

- Report on research projects conducted at the state library. Don Smart reports that he has been conducting research on Guy W. Junker for the 2024 Magnolia Cemetery Tour.

Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Restoration – Theresa Goodness

- Report on status of restoration of the historic home. Report submitted. See attachment F.

Historical Markers and Research – Kate Hambright

10. Consider and possibly approve researching subjects for 2024 applications to the Texas Historical Commission for an Undertold Marker. A motion was made by Jen Trenbeath and seconded by Kate Hambright. The motion passed unanimously. Kate Hambright states that Undertold Marker applications will be due by November 15, 2024.

- Report on Status of Marker Applications/Dedications.
- Report on Marker Survey/Maintenance. Report submitted. See attachment G.

History Appreciation:

- Report on current Courthouse Mini-museum exhibits and discussion of proposed exhibits. – Jen Trenbeath. Report submitted. See attachment H.
- Report on updates to JCHC website and social media. – Jen Trenbeath. Report submitted. See attachment I.
- Report on events at the Stark House Museum. – Katherine Leister reports that an open house will be held on September 21 with the first two floors open. The Stark House will be fully open for guided tours beginning in October.
- Report on experience at Fort Manhasset. – Matt Reeves- no report submitted.
- Report on Coastal History. – Jay Camp. Oral report shared over Jean Lafitte.

Archeology Committee – Brenda Jackson

- Report on activities that promote the preservation of archeological resources. No report submitted.

Cemetery Committee – Paul Prosperie

11. Discuss, consider and possibly approve contacting specific property owners adjacent to Sabine Pass Cemetery for the purpose of conducting a ground-penetrating radar (GPR) survey on a portion of land to look for graves. This item was previously approved in September, 2023, but specific parcels were not identified at that time. A motion was made by Bruce Hamilton and seconded by Don Smart. The motion passed unanimously. The parcel was identified as being generally to the west of the cemetery and is that belonging to Nathan Richardson, Parcel: 137926.

- Report on status of Annual Magnolia Cemetery Tour plans. Report submitted. See attachment J.
- Report on pending applications for Historic Texas Cemetery Designations, cemetery surveys, clean-up days or other similar activities. Report submitted by Marker Chair, Kate Hambright, see attachment G.

Courthouse and Sub-Courthouse Oversight Committee – Jen Trenbeath

- Report on status of Jefferson County Courthouse or Sub-Courthouse buildings. Report submitted. See attachment K.

Certified Local Government (CLG) – Theresa Goodness

- Report on status of Preservation Plan objectives.

Report submitted. See attachment L.

Other Business

12. Discussion on any other item not on agenda without taking action. Receive reports on matters of community interest from elected officials, staff, or members without taking action. Les McMahan, JCHC Advisor, reported that the Port of Beaumont has indeed saved the bumper from the Santa Fe railroad, which had been spotted by Steven P. Lewis and documented in photos. The Port of Beaumont plans to incorporate the bumper in a future exhibit.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Attachment A

Coordinator's Report July 17, 2024

THC CLG Division has changed their Meeting Minutes Policy stating that CLGs whose approved meeting minutes from the last four years are available online are no longer required to send THC a copy of the minutes.

Beaumont Heritage Society has offered to facilitate fundraising for the replacement of the interpretative panels at Spindletop Centennial Park. Laurie Leister, who was part of the Spindletop Centennial Committee, who established the park in partnership with Jefferson County and the McFaddin Family, is spearheading the fundraising effort, and BHS will collect and administer the funds. I will be working with BHS to co-promote the effort on social media.

We need to submit our calendar order to Triangle Blueprint by August 1st. As of 7/16/2024, I've received dates/photos for the following months:

February, March, April, July, September, October, December.

Today was the deadline to turn in dates/photos. I've added most of the dates to the spreadsheet as I've received them. There remains a little clean-up work to do and work on the photos, so if you did not bring your dates or photos today, I can accept them this evening or Friday, but I do need everyone's information so I can set it all and send it to you all for approval in advance of the August 1st deadline.

Attachment B

Budget Report for Jefferson County Historical Commission

Jennifer Trenbeath, Coordinator/Secretary/Treasurer

- The JCHC budget year runs from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024. The total budget allotted to the JCHC for the 2023/2024 budget year was \$13,200.00. As of July 17, 2024, \$2,924.19 has been spent, with a remainder of \$10,275.81. Changes from the May 2024 meeting include \$2 in postage, annual membership dues to the Texas Historical Foundation and office supplies.
 - Budget workshops are being held next week.

Attachment C

Chair's Report 7/17/2024 Jefferson County Historical Commission

1. Consider and possibly approve a project assisting Leslie Wolfenden from the Texas Historical Commission with a project to research historical African American travel sites within Jefferson County. The project may involve oral histories, meeting one-on-one with members of the community and research. (See attached list of travel sites)

Port Arthur African American Travel Guide Sites

Business Names

Amond, Harold (Harold Garage)
Belmont Pharmacy (846 Grannis)
Bluchie's Paradise No. 2 (401 W 8th)
Briscoe Studio (725 Dunbar)
Broussard, Roy (Roy's Grill)
Brown's Hotel (516 W 7th)
Bush Garage (716 Grannis)
Club 25 (703 W 9th)
Coleman Hotel (732 Texas)
Coleman's Liquor (732 Texas)
Comeaux Hotel (460 W 7th)
Comeaux, Mr. John (462 W 7th)
Dream Land Theatre (507 W 7th)
Elite Hotel, Café, Liquor (732-734 Texas)
Freeman's Drug and Liquor (501 W 7th)
Friendship Beauty Shop (709 W 9th)
Gibson Barber Shop (847 Grannis)
Gibson, Dr. Ulyssess B. (1000 Texas)
Hannah, Mack H (729 W 9th)
Harold Garage (700 Texas)
Henry, Mrs. Laura 1145 W 10th)
Jimmy the Tailor (538 W 7th)
King's Café (428 W 7th)
Manhattan Barber Shop (440 W 7th)
Messina's Liquor (127 7th St)
Messina's Liquor (438 W 7th)
Model Cleaners (801 Grannis)
NAACP, Mann, Clarence (607 W 6th)
Nu-Way BBQ (604 W 7th)
Reid, Dr. Hobart dentist (701 W 9th)
Ritz Café and Hotel (708 Texas)
Roosevelt, Buddie Garage (105 W 9th)
Roy's Place restaurant (419 W 8th)
Shadowland restaurant (632 W 7th)

Sweet Dream Café (462 W 7th)
Tick Tock Café and Hotel (536 W 7th)
White Swan Barber Shop (448 W 7th)
YMCA (710 W 7th)

Owners/Proprietors

Briscoe, Abraham (Briscoe Studio), photographer
Brown, Gertrude (Brown's Hotel)
Bush, Edward Lawrence (Bush Garage)
Carter, James and Nettie (White Swan Barber)
Coleman, Clarence and Irene (Coleman Hotel and Liquor, Elite Cafe)
Comeaux, John and Mamie (Comeaux Hotel, Sweet Dream Cafe)
Connor, Ophelia (Jimmy the Tailor)
Dunbar, Earl (Belmont Pharmacy)
Duplichain, Howard and Lena (Model Cleaners)
Enette, Jules (Nu-Way BBQ)
Fontana, Laurence (Dreamland Theatre)
Fowler, Willard G. (Ritz Café)
Freeman, Charles E. (Freeman's Drug and Liquor)
Gibson, Henry and Maymie C. (Gibson Barber Shop)
Gibson, Ulysses G. and Mathilda (doctor)
Gray, Spurgeon N. (Belmont Pharmacy)
Gundy, Don (Manhattan Barber)
Hannah, Mack H. jr. and Reba (information, Liberian consulate)
Hannah, William "Bluchie" (Bluchie's Paradise)
Henry, Laura Mrs. and Morris (rooms)
Huntsberry Jesse (Manhattan Barber)
Johnson, Mabel (Friendship Beauty Salon)
Johnson, William and Lenora (Shadowland Café)
Keller, Milo B. (Manhattan Barber)
King, Elgia J. and Corinne (King's Café)
Lockley, Cornelius J. (Belmont Pharmacy)
Mann, Clarence and Velana (NAACP)
Messina, Lawrence and Phyllis (Messina's Liquor)
Newman, Howard (Manhattan Barber)
Nicholson, Marshall (Belmont Pharmacy)
Reid, Hobart Dr. (dentist)
Roosevelt, Buddie (garage)
Rozier, John (Tick Tock Café & Hotel)
Williams, Warren E. (Tick Tock Café & Hotel)

Yoeman, Henry (Belmont Pharmacy)

Addresses

Dunbar:

725 (Briscoe Studio)

Grannis:

716 (Bush Garage)

801 (Model Cleaners)

847 (Belmont Pharmacy, Gibson Barber)

Texas:

700 (Harold Garage)

708 (Ritz Café & Hotel)

732 (Coleman Hotel and Liquor)

1000 (Dr. Ulysses Gibson)

W 6th:

607 (Clarence Mann NAACP)

W 7th:

127 (Messina's)

428 (King's Café)

438 (Messina's)

448 (White Swan Barber)

460 (Comeaux Hotel)

462 (Sweet Dream Café)

507 (Freeman's Drug & Liquor)

516 (Brown's Hotel)

536 (Tick Tock Café & Hotel)

538 (Jimmy the Tailor)

604 (Nu-Way BBQ)

632 (Shadowland Restaurant)

710 (YMCA)

W 8th:

401 (Bluchie's Paradise)

419 (Roy's Place)

W 9th:

105 (Buddie Roosevelt Garage)

701 (Dr. Hobart Reid dentist)

703 (Club 25)

709 (Friendship Beauty)

729 (Mack H. Hannah)

W 10th.
1145 (Mrs. Laura Henry)

Attachment D

The Beaumont Landmark Commission has met twice since my last report. On June 10, 2024, and on July 15, 2024, the Beaumont Landmark Commission (HLC) met to review Request(s) for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

- The approved minutes for the April 8, 2024, meeting are attached.
- The May meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.
- The approved minutes for the June 10, 2024, meeting are attached.
- The agenda for the meeting of July 15, 2024, is also attached. The minutes for the July meeting will be submitted with my next report after approval by the HLC in August.

MINUTES

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION

April 8, 2024

Council Chambers, City Hall, 801 Main Street, Beaumont, Texas

A Regular Meeting of the Historic Landmark Commission was held on April 8, 2024 and called to order at 3:32 p.m. with the following members present:

Chairman Dohn LaBiche
Commissioner Hester Bell
Commissioner John Berube *arrived at 3:34 pm
Commissioner Christina Crawford
Commissioner Ronald Kelley
Commissioner Lynda Kay Makin
Commissioner Marva Provo
Commissioner Thomas Sigee *arrived at 3:38 pm
Commissioner Kirk Thomas

Commission Members
absent:

Commissioner Marty Craig
Commissioner Theresa Goodness
Commissioner Janelle Templeton

Also present:

Elayna Luckey, Planner I
John Wilson, Oaks Historic Code Enforcement Officer
Susan Smith, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Makin moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 11, 2024. Commissioner Provo seconded the motion. The motion to approve carried 7:0. Commissioner Berube and Commissioner Sigee not yet present.

REGULAR MEETING

- 1) **PZ2024-93:** A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove stucco and replace with siding.

Applicant: Tristan Addington

Location: 1880 Broadway
Street

Mrs. Luckey presented the staff report. Tristian Addington requests permission to remove the stucco facade from the apartment complex located at 1880 Broadway Street. He intends to match

the profile of the side of the structure, with four (4) by eight (8) Hardie sheets stacked vertically. This structure is currently orange tagged for numerous violations of the adopted International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC).

The apartment complex is listed in the 1989 SPARE Beaumont survey, with its significance listed as *"The building is a good example of middle class apartment buildings constructed in Beaumont in the 1920 's."* When recorded during the survey notes were made that *"The building is structurally sound, but unsympathetic alterations detract from its overall appearance."*

Removal of the stucco and replacement of vertical Hardie siding could eliminate many existing code violations ultimately bringing the structure closer to compliance. Additionally, this could prevent further damage to the interior of the structure and preserve the contributing historic structure.

Slides of the subject property were shown.

Planning staff recommended approval of the request with the following conditions:

1. All applicable permits and inspections shall be obtained through the Building Codes Department.
2. The "La Belle" insignia on the front of the structure shall be maintained and not removed.
3. The siding shall be painted to an approved color and reviewed by staff prior to application.

The applicant was present. Tristan Addington of Merrell-Addington Construction, 3235 Michelle Avenue, Vidor, Texas addressed the Commission. He stated that foundation work will be addressed, followed by demolition of the stucco, and then any carpentry work that needs to be performed. Mr. Addington further stated that several windows will be replaced with like windows and Hardie siding placed on the structure to replicate the current siding. He also stated that siding color currently has not been selected.

Brief discussion followed concerning the time line for completing the project, ownership of the property, condition of the structure, use of Hardie panel stucco fiber cement panel siding, and the insignia located on front of the structure.

Further discussion was had relating to amending the conditions by adding a condition for the use of Hardie panel stucco fiber cement pane siding in fine sand or mounded sand to be used in place of ridged Hardie panel.

Commissioner Makin moved to approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove stucco and replace with siding, as requested in PZ2024-93, with the following amended conditions:

1. All applicable permits and inspections shall be obtained through the Building Codes Department.

2. The "La Belle" insignia on the front of the structure shall be maintained and not removed.
3. The siding shall be painted to an approved color and reviewed by staff prior to application.
4. Hardie panel stucco fiber cement pane siding in fine sand or mounded sand to be used in place of ridged Hardie panel.

Commissioner Bell seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Chairman LaBiche-Aye; Commissioner Bell-Aye; Commissioner Berube-Aye; Commissioner Crawford-Aye; Commissioner Kelley-Aye; Commissioner Makin-Aye; Commissioner Provo-Aye ; Commissioner Sigee-Aye; Commissioner Thomas-Aye. The motion to approve the request carried 9:0.

HISTORIC DISTRICT CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Officer Wilson presented the Historic District Code Enforcement Report, including information about current violations and inspections.

The Commission thanked him for his work in the District.

OTHER BUSINESS

Brief discussion was had relating to the ordinance for homeless encampments.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:59 P.M.

MINUTES

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION

June 10, 2024

Council Chambers, City Hall, 801 Main Street, Beaumont, Texas

A Regular Meeting of the Historic Landmark Commission was held on June 10, 2024 and called to order at 3:31 p.m. with the following members present:

Acting Chair Lynda Kay Makin
Commissioner Hester Bell
Commissioner John Berube
Commissioner Marty Craig *arrived at 3:35 pm
Commissioner Christina Crawford
Commissioner Theresa Goodness
Commissioner Ronald Kelley *arrived at 4:05 pm
Commissioner Janelle Templeton
Commissioner Kirk Thomas

Commission Members absent: Chairman Dohn LaBiche
Commissioner Marva Provo
Commissioner Thomas Sigee

Also present: Demi Engman, Director of Planning &
Community Development
John Wilson, Oaks Historic Code Enforcement Officer
Susan Smith, Recording Secretary
Roy West, Mayor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Templeton moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 8, 2024. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. The motion to approve carried 7:0. Commissioner Craig and Commissioner Kelley not yet present.

REGULAR MEETING

- 1) **PZ2024-94:** A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove and replace windows and exterior doors.
Applicant: Omar Elkhodour
Location: 2033 Broadway

Ms. Engman presented the staff report. Omar Elkhodour, is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to keep exterior alterations made to the structure located at 2033 Broadway Street. A stop work order was posted in December 2023 during an inspection when it was noted that, ten

(10) or more windows had been removed from the structure , other windows replaced, exterior doors replaced, and additional mechanical, electrical and plumbing work occurred without the benefit of an approved Certificate of Appropriateness or building permits.

The applicant states the property owner replaced twelve (12) windows , replaced the exterior doors, sidelights and repainted the exterior of the structure only. Indicating they did not replace siding, foundation or move piers.

This home closely aligns with colonial revival style. These homes typically feature large sets of windows and elaborated entries with porch columns and often porte cocheres. The number of windows removed makes the alteration unsympathetic to the typical features of these homes.

Slides of the subject property were shown.

Planning staff recommended approval of the request with the following conditions:

1. All applicable permits and inspections shall be obtained through the Building Codes Department.
2. The individual eight (8) pane wrap around windows shall be reinstalled above the porte cochere.

Brief discussion followed concerning specifics of the request relating to the windows.

The applicant was present. Omar Elkhodour, 7656 Anchor Drive, Port Arthur, Texas addressed the Commission. He inquired as to the guidelines of the recommended conditions relating to window size and style. Mr. Elkhodour stated that the property owner has owned the home less than one year. He further stated that the property owner obtained a necessary electrical permit, but did not know that a permit for the windows is required.

Further discussion followed concerning the window casements, the number of windows removed/replaced by the property owner, and consideration of amending the recommended condition relating to the windows in order to restore the home to its original Colonial style. Upon additional discussion, it was determined that the conditions will remain as recommended by staff.

Commissioner Berube moved to approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove and replace windows and exterior doors, as requested in PZ2024-94, with the following conditions:

1. All applicable permits and inspections shall be obtained through the Building Codes Department.

2. The individual eight (8) pane wrap around windows shall be reinstalled above the porte cochere.

Commissioner Crawford seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Acting Chair Makin-Aye; Commissioner Bell-Aye; Commissioner Berube-Aye; Commissioner Craig-Aye; Commissioner Crawford-Aye; Commissioner Goodness-Aye; Commissioner Templeton-Aye; Commissioner Thomas-Aye. The motion to approve the request carried 8:0. Commissioner Kelley not yet present.

Commissioner Craig stated that the Commission is not following its guidelines when approving and denying requests.

- 2) **PZ2024-122:** A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to resize and replace 109 windows.
Applicant: Jose Carrillo
Location: 2120 Broadway

Ms. Engman presented the staff report. Jose Carrillo, is requesting an amended Certificate of Appropriateness to resize and replace 109 windows on the property at 2120 Broadway Street. The new proposed types of windows will be a mixture of 9/6, 6/6, and 12/6 windows and all of the new windows will be white vinyl. The existing living room window is 32W x 74H, and the new windows will be two (2) 36W x 72H. The existing kitchen windows are 32W x 36H, and the new windows will be two (2) 36W x 46H. The existing bedroom windows are 32W x 74H, and the new windows will be 36W x 74H. The existing bathroom windows are 32W x 36H, and the new windows will be 36W x 46H. A Certificate of Appropriateness was originally approved by staff in early 2023, when a request to repair the structure came in with the understanding that the windows would be replaced to match. Permits were issued and work began.

A stop work order was posted by the Building Codes staff on May 10th, when an inspector noticed substantial work being done on the property with expired permits, prompting the applicant to come in and renew his application revealing the request to resize the windows once again.

This property is not listed in the SPARE Beaumont Survey.

Slides of the subject property were shown.

Planning staff recommended approval of the request with the following conditions:

1. All applicable permits and inspections are obtained through the Building Codes Department.
2. The new windows be framed and painted to match the existing look of the windows.

Brief discussion followed concerning the SPARE Beaumont Survey.

A representative of the applicant was present. Jose Hernandez, 18839 S. Memorial Drive, Apartment #708, Humble, Texas addressed the Commission. He stated that the windows, 2024 be replaced with the correct sized windows. Mr. Hernandez further stated that the window air conditioning units are temporary and will be removed upon installation of the new windows.

Further discussion followed concerning specifics of the request.

Commissioner Templeton moved to approve the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to resize and replace 109 windows with a note that will be no additional brick removal for installation of the window, as requested in PZ2024-122, with the following conditions:

1. All applicable permits and inspections are obtained through the Building Codes Department.
2. The new windows be framed and painted to match the existing look of the windows.

Commissioner Templeton requested that it be noted that there is to be no additional brick removal for installation of the windows.

Commissioner Goodness seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken. Acting Chair Makin-Aye; Commissioner Bell-Aye; Commissioner Berube-Aye; Commissioner Craig-Aye; Commissioner Crawford-Aye; Commissioner Goodness- Aye; Commissioner Templeton-Aye; Commissioner Thomas-Aye. The motion to approve the request carried 8:0. Commissioner Kelley not yet present.

HISTORIC DISTRICT CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Officer Wilson presented the Historic District Code Enforcement Report for the months of April and May, including information about current violations and inspections.

Mrs. Engman explained the process for grass cutting violations.

OTHER BUSINESS

Brief discussion was had relating to the ordinance for homeless encampments, flyers and yard signs for homeowners within the Oaks Historic District, and the status of the Downtown Overlay District. Mrs. Engman suggested a presentation be conducted at a future meeting in order to provide the Commission with an update of the preservation of downtown Beaumont.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:15 P.M.

AGENDA
HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
July 15, 2024

REGULAR MEETING
HISTORIC LANDMARK
COMMISSION
Council Chambers, City Hall, 801 Main St. - 3:30 p. m.

AGENDA

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 10, 2024.

REGULAR MEETING

- 1) PZ2024-156: A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a second driveway on property.
Applicant: Milagros D Martell Ponce
Location: 2595 Louisiana Street
- 2) PZ2024-158: A request for a Certificate of Demolition to demolish an unattached garage on property and a Certificate of Appropriateness to place a new accessory building. Applicant: Homer Howard
Location: 885 North 4th Street
- 3) Historic District Code Enforcement Report

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURN

"To protect, enhance and perpetuate historic landmarks which represent or reflect distinctive and important elements of the City's and State's architectural, archaeological, cultural, social, economic, ethnic and political history and to develop appropriate settings for such places."

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact Kaltrina Minick at 409-880-3777.

Meeting Notes 17 July 2024

Historic Landmark Commission
June 10, 2024

Tyrrell Historical Library: Since our last meeting, David Greer at the Tyrrell has entered the corrected captions for all 535 photographs in the Weber Collection. However, it was up to Bill to approve the final descriptions. A few times a week, I would check the Tyrrell online collections. After a bit, the collection was missing from the website. I assumed that the corrections were being uploaded. Eventually, it was back up but the header for the collection was not corrected. Finally, the header was corrected but there were only 63 photographs shown. I checked with David Greer and he said that when the upload was initiated, the collection was inadvertently deleted, but not lost. Efforts are being made to reconstitute the entries. I have been checking daily for several weeks and only 63 images are there. I went by the Tyrrell Monday and found out that Bill was unaware that the reconstituted collection had not been posted. He will check to see what the problem is.

Historic Buildings Photography: I have continued photographing the demolition of the AT&T Building. Although the walls had been demolished by 6 April, the massive foundation and basement were extant. By 21 May, the building had been knocked down to ground level, leaving the concrete lined basement. Starting on 22 May, dump trucks started filling the hole. By 2 July, the hole was filled and leveled. Since then, there seems to be very little activity and the construction fence is still around the site. I photographed the location on 14 July but nothing new. An up-to-date photo album is being passed around.

Three fires were reported on 6 June in Beaumont. A fire on the porch of the Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House and a major fire in the Gilbert Building in downtown Beaumont. The city council quickly put the Gilbert Building on their agenda. A number of members of the JCHC spoke in favor of saving the structure. The city council

decided that the owner of the building, Tom Flanagan, has sixty days to come up with a plan to either renovate or demolish the structure. Additionally, he must secure the building with a six-foot chain-link fence.

I have been photographing the Gilbert Building since 2013, including interior shots. Since the fire, I have photographed the building five times. The last time was Sunday and the security fence has been installed. I have paired up pre-fire and post-fire images for then-and-now comparisons. Some of those images are being circulated.

While Tom Flanagan is not a popular person, but I find that it is more important to save the Gilbert Building. I have supplied him with pre-fire photos, post-fire photos, interior images including some shot by Richard Gachot, and some post-fire drone photographs shot by Tim Sudela. If it is possible to save the building, I hope that these images can help make a reconstruction plan.

The Beaumont Enterprise on 30 June had an article by Courtney Pedersen on the Gilbert Building. Also, they ran an opinion piece by Katherine Leister.

Starting on 23 June, I started photographing the demolition of the Beaumont High School building. By that date the addition in front of the original building façade had been removed and demolition was begun at the back of the school complex. I have gone to the site on a regular basis and have photographed the progress of the demolition. Photographs are circulating—the first photo in the demolition album is a Google Earth image that shows the extent of the demolition as of yesterday. The removal of the front addition has exposed decorations on the building. It was suggested that these may have been done by Herring Coe. Kate Hambright found a 1929 Beaumont Enterprise article⁹ about them but after extensive

research could not determine that they were done by Coe. None the less, they are significant and should be saved. Using a telephoto lens, I photographed them, the images are circulating.

On 6 July, I composed an email for the superintendent and the seven board members of BISD. I personalized it for each recipient and sent them out. An automated response from the superintendent's office stated that she would be out of the office until 9 July. On 8 July, I get a response from board member Robert Dunn stating that he was in Dallas and would forward the email to the board president, Tillie Hickman. Also, on the 8th, I get a response from Tillie stating *"Steven, Thanks for raising the alarm. I know the some parts of the building are being preserved, but I'm not sure what. While it may be too late at this point to save particular parts of the building, I will share this information with the Superintend and see what can be done. Again, thanks for the heads up! Tillie"*

I sent her a follow up email but she has not responded.

The superintendent, Shannon Allen, responded to my second email on 12 July. I will not read her response but I will attach the email chain. Her responses never address as to why no plans were made to salvage parts of the building and deflect from the situation by stating that the contractors own the building and demolition debris. This was a time critical situation and Dr. Allen and Tillie Hickman delayed responding so the demolition can destroy the decorations on the front of the building. (The views expressed in my correspondence are my own and not those of the JCHC.) My third message to her was to attach six photographs of artifacts that were salvaged from the demolition of the 1908 Pietzsch Elementary School in 2000. These photos are circulating. I am also attaching my first email to Dr. Allen. The text is the same as to all seven of the board members.

I contacted Courtney Pedersen of the Enterprise about the demolition and after a delay she responded that she would notify photographer Kim Brent about the situation. Kim called me and we agreed to meet at the site at 3:00 on Monday. We met and the demolition of the front of the building was in progress. I have been to the site yesterday and the front decorations are being destroyed.

I emailed Mike Getz and he responded that there was nothing that he could do. I emailed Shelby Brannan, Executive Director of the Beaumont Heritage Society, and she responded that she would send a letter of support. Apparently, it will be too late.

Finally, I did find one HUD house under construction on Church Street.

Exterior siding is currently under repair and/or replacement where necessary. The contractor is currently working on replacing siding on the Irma Street side of the house. The recent storms and Hurricane Beryl have slowed down this work.

A grant in the amount of \$20K has been awarded from the Mamie McFaddin Ward Heritage Foundation on November 2, 2023, for the purpose of painting the exterior of the Hinchee House. THC has approved the painting of the Hinchee House, but a significant amount of siding must be replaced before painting can begin. The house exterior has been washed and is being prepped for painting as soon as the siding is completed.

On the night of June 6, 2024, the Hinchee House was the target of an arsonist. Fortunately, thanks to the vigilance of a concerned citizen and the efforts of our first responders at Fire Station No. 11, the fire caused minimal damage to this historic property. Due this fire and at the recommendation of the Beaumont Police Department, the Hinchee House Board is working to install a monitored security system and cameras. The system installation should be completed this week. Additionally, the Board has sought grants and donations to cover these costs.

Report on Status of Marker Applications/Dedications

The long awaited historical marker for the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers House has finally arrived. Shelby Brannan is ecstatic.

The inscription for the HTC plaque for Pear Orchard Cemetery has been approved and should be sent to the foundry for casting shortly.

Marker sponsor Danny Chand has now approved the revised marker inscription for his grandfather Pandit Mehar Chand, our first Undertold Marker application to be filed and approved by the THC this past fall and it should soon be sent to the foundry for casting. We are still awaiting the inscription for Sprott Hospital, our second Undertold Marker application approved in November and it should hopefully be received soon.

Potential New Marker Requests

We have been contacted by Linda Duhon LaCour, the new outreach coordinator for the Tyrrell Historical Library, about a possible Historical Texas Cemetery designation application for Blessed Sacrament Cemetery, a/k/a Haven of Rest, in the Pear Orchard neighborhood. This cemetery adjoins the Pear Orchard Cemetery. I have been working on deed research as well as a history of the cemetery and have a follow up meeting with Linda to visit with Father Ernie Caprio, Interim Chancellor of the Diocese of Beaumont, soon. My research uncovered another possible name for this graveyard, Prairie Cemetery.

Jessie Davis, our marker sponsor for last year's Pear Orchard Cemetery HTC project, now wants to start work on a similar designation for Blanchette Cemetery. I have once again been busy filling in holes on my prior deed research and have also busy working on research on the history of this cemetery. I have also discovered that the county owned this cemetery at one point in its early history and there may possibly have been early indigent burials on the property in the mid to late 1910s before the County abandoned the property.

NRHP Nomination

The THC approved the nomination of the Temple to the Brave to the National Register of Historic Places at its State Board of Review meeting on January 13, 2024. I submitted edits to the narrative in early February. The THC counseled patience as they are very short staffed, telling me in February that they needed to prepare for new (unrelated) National Register submissions to be presented at their State Board Review meeting on May 18 in El Paso. As that unrelated meeting is now two months in the THC's rear view window and we are also six months out from our own SBR meeting, the THC's backlog really must be severe. I have not had a reply to my email to Greg Smith, our State Historic Preservation Officer and feel quite discouraged that this memorial will be entered in the next year.

Marker Relocation updates:

Site of Old Aurora: This marker remains in storage in Commissioner Sinegal's Pct. 3 warehouse for the duration of an anticipated six months-long improvement project along Woodworth Boulevard between Procter Street and Lakeshore Drive. The City of Port Arthur is aware of this project. They have not responded to a query for an update on this project.

Miscellaneous:

None at this time.

Mini Museum

The Beaumont Heritage Society will be installing a new panel exhibit on July 26, 2024. The exhibit panels will replicate the panels at their newest exhibit at the Chambers House Museum, “Pressed Pleats and Altered Hems”, a display of the clothing of the Chambers Family, as interpreted by the Beaumont Heritage Society’s summer intern, Emma Woods.

Web Committee
July 17, 2024

The Web Committee met on June 4th, 2024. The following recommendations were made at the meeting and have been addressed.

1. Website has been updated to reflect current years' board.
2. I've checked the "Beaumont Texas, Then and Now" Facebook group's privacy settings, and it is a private group, therefore we cannot share posts from within the group to our page. I also checked the "You're Probably from Beaumont TX. If you remember..." group and the same is true.
3. A "museums" layer has been added in the new GIS map which is currently in development.
4. The most recent markers have been added to the existing GIS map.
5. The GIS marker map has been added to our website under the "Jefferson County History" tab.
6. Guidance has been received for links which can be featured on our website. Links such as those to the Sam Houston State Library, Tyrrell Historical Library, Museum of the Gulf Coast, Energy Museum, etc. are still acceptable, while links to Facebook groups or pages other than our own, are not.

The following recommendations were made that are still to be addressed.

1. Waiting for Facebook icon to be added to all webpages
2. List of markers needs to be checked against current markers + the THC atlas.

Unfortunately, because of work, I will not be able to attend the JCHC meeting tomorrow. So here are a few thoughts on this year's cemetery tour in October.

Since Thursday is usually our most popular tour day, I would like to add more time. I understand we can't go later in the evening due to the darkness and the mosquitoes, but we can start earlier. Many of those taking the tour are retired and may be up for coming early and taking a walking tour, along with visiting the regular stations and listening to the presenters.

Thursday should be from 2:30-6:30, with the walking tour starting at 2:45.

Saturday would run from 10 AM-2 PM

I would like to set up a meeting next week, but this may be impossible due to work. If not, I will reach out individually to those involved in the cemetery tour via email, or telephone to see what histories will be added to the program.

Courthouse Oversight

The THC will be considering the applications for the Round XIII THCCP grant program at 8:30 a.m. on July 18th, 2024. I will be in attendance virtually, and have prepared the following public comment.

“Good morning. It’s a privilege to be with you all this morning. On behalf of Jefferson County, I want to thank each of you for the time you dedicate to preserving the history of Texas, and particularly, her courthouses. It is our hope that the 1931, art-deco Jefferson County Courthouse will benefit from this grant cycle and will allow us to address immediate concerns and plan our future restoration, aligning with our Master Plan. We appreciate your consideration of our applications. Thank you.”

We continue to be in a holding pattern with the insurance company regarding the roof repairs from the supercell storm in 2023. Fortunately, no new damage has been discovered as a result of Hurricane Beryl.

Certified Local Government Committee Report

July 17, 2024

- Report on status of Preservation Plan Objectives.

Attached is a copy of our Implementation Plan and Timeline adopted as part of Preservation Plan. The plan timeline begins in FY 2025, but we have already begun sharing our survey data online by posting on our website and by emailing a link to the survey and preservation plan to the Mayors and City Managers of all the municipalities in our survey area, which includes:

Bevil Oaks

Nome

China

Nederland

Groves

Port Neches

Taylor Landing

We will be following up with phone calls to the cities to answer any questions they might have with regard to the survey data.