



JEFFERSON COUNTY

Historical Commission

Theresa Goodness
Chair

Jen Trenbeath
Secretary

Linda McMahan
Coordinator/Treasurer

Bruce A. Hamilton
1st Vice-Chair

Donald Smart
2nd Vice-Chair

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Jefferson County Historical Commission (JCHC)

Noon, Wednesday, July 7, 2021

Agriculture Auditorium, 1225 Pearl Street, Beaumont, TX 77701

Call to Order – Chair Theresa Goodness called the meeting to order. Attending were: Jay Camp, Kate Hambright, Bruce A. Hamilton, Steven P. Lewis, Linda McMahan, Paul Prosperie, Lynn Simon and Don Smart.

It was determined a Quorum was met. There was no Citizen Communication.

One Guest was in attendance: Per suggestion by several JCHC members, Gordon S. Williams was extended an invitation to join the JCHC. Due to his work schedule, Gordon is not able to meet attendance or volunteer hour requirements but expressed his desire to help the Commission in any way he was able. Mr. Williams' name was added to the non-voting JCHC Advisors List.

ACTION ITEMS:

Secretary's Report – Jen Trenbeath – Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meeting Due to Secretary Jen Trenbeath's absence, Minutes were presented by Coordinator Linda McMahan. Chair Theresa Goodness asked if there were any corrections or additions to the May 10, 2021 Minutes. One correction was noted in the spelling of a name. A motion was made by Steven Lewis and seconded by Kate Hambright to accept the corrected Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Linda McMahan reported that out of the \$11,700 2021 – 2022 Budget, \$958.34 has been spent with \$10,741.66 remaining. Budget Hearings for 2021 – 2022 are scheduled for July 19 – 23, 2021. The JCHC has been notified that the JCHC does not have to appear due to no increase in our budget.

Chair's Report – Theresa Goodness reported:

1. Discussion of Marker Survey

- **2021 Goal - Conduct a survey of all Jefferson County historical markers to ascertain whether they are missing or damaged from Hurricanes Laura and Delta, and whether restoration is warranted for each.** The list of existing markers, the survey form, and assignment of markers to survey were discussed. August 2, 2021 was suggested date to have information complete.

2. Discussion of 2022 JCHC Calendar

- **2021 Goal - Design JCHC calendar for 2022, highlighting photographs and important historical events from Jefferson County's history.** Members were tasked with selecting a month from the calendar, finding an historic photograph to illustrate an event from the selected month, and locating any additional historic dates to be added to the calendar for that month. Suggested date to have information ready to turn in by email for proofing is August 2, 2021.

3. Consider and possibly accept resignation of Doug Porter

- Coordinator Linda McMahan was asked to read into the Minutes a resignation letter from member Doug Porter. Due to not being able to meet JCHC requirements for meeting attendance or volunteer hours, Doug asked that his name be removed from Active Membership to non-voting JCHC Advisor status. A motion was made by Don Smart, seconded by Steven P. Lewis to accept Doug's resignation from active JCHC membership to non-voting JCHC Advisor status and also to compile a non-voting "Board of Advisors." The motion passed unanimously
- Membership status: Bruce A. Hamilton suggested a non-voting "Board of Advisors" list be compiled and attached to the list of active JCHC members that are approved each January by Commissioners Court.

Committee Reports

Historical Preservation:

Early African-American Schools and Educators – Lynn Simon

I received a VCR tape from the Ed Moore family. The video was recorded at the first Hebert High School Mass Reunion in June of 1986.

HHS 1st Mass Reunion Video: This video contains the activities over the three days celebration. I have been transferring this VCR tape to a digital file. The file will be returned to the Moore family, passed on to the Hebert Alumni Association, and to be shared with the JCHC.

Charlton-Pollard Vintage Football Video: Mr. James Booker and Mr. Lawrence Durso, members of the Charlton Pollard class 1965, located reel to reel footage of football games during the 1965 year. This film is being prepared and transferred to data files.

My Involvement in collecting information about the history of Charlton-Pollard, Southend, Northend, and the Hebert, Pear Orchard Afro-American communities is a never ending process. Old history and ever-growing current events keeps me very busy. All history collected will be verified and processed. This information will be shared with the Afro-American community and with the JCHC.

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Theresa Goodness

The Beaumont Landmark Commission has met once since my last report. On **June 14, 2021**, the Beaumont Landmark Commission met to review the following Request(s) for a Certificate of Appropriateness:

1) PZ2021-142: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new construction
Applicant: Alberto Arellano
Location: 70 Guffy Street
The request was approved.

2) PZ2021-146: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new construction.
Applicant: Jeremy Wilson
Location: 2331 Angelina Street
The request was approved.

3) PZ2021-154: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness for a new construction.
Applicant: Jeremy Wilson
Location: 2214 Angelina Street
The request was approved.

4) PZ2021-158: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace windows and to reduce the siding profile of the house.

Applicant: Pawan Kumar

Location: 1812 Hazel Street

The request was approved.

5) PZ2021-165: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove dormers from a house

Applicant: Eric Hellberg

Location: 2429 Broadway Street

The request was denied.

Port Arthur Landmark Commission – Les McMahan was not in attendance but sent his report. “No activity to report. There is still no firm date when City Hall will fully open and the PAHLC can resume meetings.”

Tyrrell Historical Library – Steven P. Lewis

Yesterday we had a board meeting of the Tyrrell Historical Library Association, the first one since February 25, 2020. Bill Grace gave a presentation listing recent activities of the Tyrrell—June 2020-June 2021.

- Collections increased by 4: 100 to 104
- Digital items grew by 5000 items—85,500 to 90,500
- Finding Aids grew by 52: from 54 to 106
- Collections added to Archives, 25 added; approximately 750 collections in the Archives

WideTEK 48 Scanner Project, started in June 2020, finished February 2021. First completed project was scanning the 6,439 line architectural drawings in the Milton H. Bell Papers. Future projects include more architectural drawings and large oversized maps.

Five new oversized stationary shelving units were purchased for the Tyrrell by the THLA. With existing shelving, it is anticipated that there is room for 10 years for new acquisitions.

Bill Grace and the new archivist have freed up space in the movable shelving unit to accommodate an additional 10 years of new archival donations.

Historic Buildings Photography: Steven Lewis

I have continued my weekly photo run to Tyrrell Park to check on the progress on the CCC building. All the window frames on the building have been installed, stained, and painted. The rear roof area still has not been shingled. The city does not want visitors, even Coalition members, on the inside of the building. However, Coalition members Laurie Leister, LaRue Rougeau, Bruce Hamilton, and I met with Chris Durio, new city councilman for Ward IV, in the parking lot of the CCC building. Our purpose was to inform him about the building and, especially, the reluctance of the city to reroof the entire building. Since the building was open and workers were present, we took the opportunity to go inside.

On June 8, 2021, I met Dorisann Loomis at the Woman's Club building at 575 Magnolia; the structure completed in 1909. In 1994, the clubhouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior. I was impressed by the fact that there are five grand pianos present. The building was damaged by one of our many hurricanes and renovation is planned for the exterior of the building. I had prints made of my photographs and will give them to the group. I am not completely satisfied with my images and plan to go back for further photography.

Jillian Fertig of KFDM television station contacted me about doing an interview on the San Jacinto Life Insurance Building. I had some information learned from Milton Bell about the building but no verification. Since Kate is so good searching old newspapers, I asked her if she could find some articles about the structure. She found 12 newspaper accounts, many verifying Milton Bell's accounts. I was interviewed on 1 July. I provided images of the move of the three-story building and others to help explain the history of the building. The air date has not been announced.

I have continued to document new FEMA home construction. When I find new house construction, I continue to photograph the house until the sod is laid. So far, I have found 75 new homes on pilings.

Discussion was held by members as how to photograph old books without damaging them or breaking the spine. It was shared that there is a camera at the Tyrrell that takes pictures from above the book and it has software that will smooth out any wrinkle or shadows.

- Coordinator Request after meeting: Linda McMahan asked Steven if he could give more information about the scanner mentioned above. Please see Attachment # 1.

Sam Houston State Library – Don Smart reported that the Library is closed to the public at this time due to no air conditioning. A motion was made by Bruce A. Hamilton, seconded by Lynn Simon to contact Alana Inman, Director of the Sam Houston

Regional Library to see how the JCHC could help. The motion passed unanimously. After discussion of possibly sending letters to the Texas State Library / Texas Historical Commission to let them know of our concern, Chair Theresa Goodness called and spoke with Alana Inman, the Director of the Sam Houston Region Library. She informed Theresa the state is currently pursuing several options to address the HVAC system. The Texas Facilities Commission is currently designing a replacement HVAC system, and the Purchasing Department has dispatched multiple vendors to the site to review the situation. These vendors are expected to shortly provide quotes for temporary cooling options and / or repairs to the current system to bridge the gap until a new system is installed. Alana is keenly aware of the impact current conditions could have on the collections.

As Alana believes the state is timely pursuing all available options, she does not believe a letter of support to the state from the JCHC is warranted at this time. She is VERY touched by our support and asked Theresa to convey her appreciation to our members.

Alana promised to keep the JCHC informed of the state's progress on the HVAC system. If a fix is not forthcoming, Theresa will send a letter to the state library commission of our concern.

Tyrrell Park Coalition – Bruce A. Hamilton shared **additional information to Steven P. Lewis' report of plans for future meetings and public contacts concerning the Tyrrell Park Coalition group.**

Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Restoration – Bruce A. Hamilton shared plans and future activities in the restoration of the Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House.

Military History – Kate Hambricht reported on several research projects she has working on.

- Research into Jefferson County's early VFWA posts – The 29 organizations researched represented veterans, descendants of veterans, or spouses / children of veterans from the American Revolutionary War to the present.
- Research on Jerry Lloyd, a Buffalo Soldier; and Sgt. George Shaw, a WWI Black soldier KIA in France, who are both buried at Evergreen Cemetery,
- Attended a Memorial Day Service at Evergreen Cemetery sponsored by Spindletop VFW 1806, met with owners / caretakers of cemetery following service and discussed their ongoing preservation efforts as well as a possible upcoming work day to help clean up the cemetery grounds.
- Reviewed a collection of information concerning Beaumont's first "flying field" at the foot of Franklin Street and first municipal airport at College and 11th Streets.
- Assisted fellow JCHC members with research on various projects, including the San Jacinto Building, the origins of the People's Theatre; a 1907 electrical storm, a 3/3/1905 fire at the ice plant of Beaumont Ice, Light & Refrigerating Company;

and the 1926 murder of Mrs. Claudie Chiles. Researched The Oaks hotel, formerly located at Calder and Oakland. The hotel was destroyed by fire in February 1907.

- Researched City Hall's brief residence in Temperance Hall from second week of August 1926 to the beginning of February 1928.

Historical Markers and Research – Les McMahan was absent by sent his report.

Historical Marker Applications

- The revised draft inscription for the Methodist Church in China, TX was received by Les and the sponsor, and was approved and returned to THC. The marker casting order was to be forwarded to the foundry.
- The JCHC still have yet to receive the revised draft inscription for the W.G. ("Bill") Hall – Gulf Coast Recording Company in Beaumont. A recent contact was made with THC and Les was told the THC was concentrating on approval of applications for the 2022 Cycle and would finish up the 2021 Cycle inscriptions issue thereafter.
- For the 2022 Cycle, JCHC had two marker applications submitted to THC and accepted as compete – the Chambers House in Beaumont and St. Elizabeth Catholic Community in Port Neches. Both were strong applications.

Report on Marker Survey / Maintenance – Discussed during Chair's Report.

Discuss, consider and possibly approve applying for a historical marker for George Willis Shaw, World War I soldier, who may be buried at Evergreen Cemetery, Beaumont. A motion was made by Lynn Simon and seconded by Steven P. Lewis to begin work on gathering information to apply for a marker for George Willis Shaw. There are sufficient funds in the JCHC budget to pay for this marker.

History Appreciation:

- **Report on current Courthouse Mini-museum exhibit and discussion of proposed exhibits – Linda McMahan** reported the SPARE exhibit remains in the Mini-museum. No new exhibit is scheduled at this time
- **Report on updates to JCHC website and social media – Jen Trenbreath** was absent. No report given.
- **Report on events at Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown – Don Smart** reported on activities at Gladys City. Please see Attachment # 2.

- **Report on Coastal History – Jay Camp** read an interesting article, “U. S. Life Saving Service”, which was published in January 2020 in the Beach Treton. Jay’s knowledge of the Texas Gulf coast between Sabine Pass and Galveston is important in the preserving of our coastal history.

Archeology Committee – Brenda Jackson was absent due to her participation in an archeological dig out of state.

Cemetery Committee – Paul Prosperie shared information on the annual Magnolia Cemetery Tour.

In May, I was contacted by Kelli Maness, who is a board member for Magnolia Cemetery. She is running the day-to-day operations for the cemetery and had a few questions on the history and how to obtain a Historic Texas Cemetery designation. In our discussion, she had mentioned that she wanted to bring back the annual cemetery tour. I agreed to plan it, and so the Magnolia Cemetery Tour will be on October 21 and 23. We are in the planning stages of the tour and need to discuss possibly renting golf carts or even a hayride-type scenario with the board. If this is approved, then I would like to add Kol Israel and Hebrew Rest Cemeteries to the tour. I will contact Temple Emanuel to see if they would like to participate.

As of today, I think that there will be six stations.

- 1 The old office Sibbie Van Wormer, Max Holmes, Hubert B. Oxford
- 2 Herring Coe, Florence Stratton, W Tyrrell
- 3 The Hill, McFaddins, Caroline Hinchee
- 4 Firefighters plot, Miss Jack McDonough memorial, Catherina Stengele
- 5 Confederate plot
- 6 MF Yount

We will need a few volunteers at the stations, so if you would like to volunteer, we will give you all the historical information on your subject.

Since Bruce Hamilton is at the meeting, he will be able to add more information if needed. Bruce will be co-planning this tour with me.

Any suggestions are welcome!

Court and Sub-Courthouse Oversight Committee – Linda McMahan reported that termites are still a problem in the Beaumont Courthouse. The building is being sprayed and putting out termite traps is an option being considered. A & M has been contacted as how to handle the infestation.

Certified Local Government (CLG) - Theresa Goodness

Consider and possibly approve comments on Draft Investigative Study Research Design, Draft Public Involvement Plan, and Draft Fieldwork Methodology submitted by HHM, Inc., Contractor for Historic Resources Survey and Preservation Plan project to be conducted under the National Park Service Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund Grant.

- Lisa Hart at THC has not yet submitted any comments on the Draft Investigative Study Research Design, Draft Public Involvement Plan, and Draft Fieldwork Methodology, a copy of which has been emailed to all the members.
- Leslie Wolfenden at THC has submitted minimal comments on 7/7/2021, a copy of which is being provided to the members at today's meeting.
- Les McMahan, who was not able to attend this meeting, emailed in a few comments, which are mainly corrections of misspelled locations.
- Any additional adopted comments from our members will be passed on to THC and HHM, Inc.
- After discussion, Don Smart made a motion, seconded by Kate Hambright, to approve comments on the Draft Investigative Study Research. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021.

JeffCo Historical Commission

Attachment # 1

From: Steven Lewis <historylewis48@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 3:53 PM
To: JeffCo Historical Commission
Subject: Re: Camera at Tyrrell

Linda, The device and description is given below; it is from Bill Grace's justification for the item:

KIC Click Mini Scanner Explanation

The library is in desperate need of a good overhead scanner for patrons to use in copying bound materials from the historic collections. Currently, many bound books are being systematically destroyed through repeated copying by using a totally inadequate copy machine. Cracked bindings caused in the copying process have happened on popularly used items in the library. These materials include: school yearbooks; city directories; paper bound genealogy books; and popular hardbound books like Father Hebert's Louisiana Catholic Church vital records compiled lists. In short, an overhead scanner is required to scan these books in standard digital formats with the ability to get the tightly bound gutter areas of information legibly captured while scanning. The ideal scanner for the job is the KIC Click Mini Scanner. It has many superior qualities that many other small overhead scanners either perform poorly in or totally lack altogether. The KIC Click Mini scans normally at 200 dpi with a maximum range up to 300 dpi. The scanning of an individual item only takes approximately five seconds to complete. Its scanning optics can easily capture the tightly bound gutter areas of books. The output formats include: pdf; jpeg; tiff; gif; PNG; and Rich Text. The delivery method of scans include: e-mail; thumb drive (USB); fax; and the cloud (via Google Box and others). The scans can also be directly downloaded either to a laptop, a smartphone, or a tablet device. A computer screen on the neck of the scanner allows the patron the ability to have direct viewing access to the quality of the scan as it is being produced. Cropping features include taking either a small image and converting it to a full-length page image, or cutting out smaller areas from a larger image to produce separate images. While collating features allow images to be rearranged in any desired order with the renaming of those files. Other features include an interlibrary loan component of being able to generate the routing form and then sending requested digital images as well as a desktop publishing component whereby patrons can create scrapbooks or memory books and send them to registered publishers for publication. The later may prove valuable for patrons wishing to publish their family genealogies. Clearly for its low cost, this walkup patron scanner is far superior to all others that are currently being marketed and provided to libraries.

The cost of the scanner was \$5,231.35.

Steven



Attachment # 2

Upcoming Events

July 10 – Beaulympics, Downtown, CVB event

July 17 – Opening of Historical Southeast Texas Art Show, in collaboration with Artists of Southeast Texas, Sponsorships are needed

September 12 & 26, October 10 & 24, November 7 & 21 – GC Open Mic/Family Picnic Times

September 24 – Jazz and Wine, 6-8 pm, \$10 for non-member, free for member

October 26 – Spindletop Spookfest, 5-8 pm

November 13 – Big Red's Ride Car show, All Day long, Free Admission

December 1 – January 2 – Christmas in Boomtown Light Show, 6-10 pm, Sponsorships are available

January 8 – 121st Spindletop Anniversary, 10-4 pm

March 19 – Gladys City Live

April 9-10 – Country Life Festival

June 11 – Black Gold Bash

Continually-we will schedule Blacksmith, Bladesmith & Photography Classes, Jazz and Wine, and more events. Also, look our for our derrick in businesses around Southeast Texas for free admission or 10% coupons in store

Social Media

Facebook-spindletopgc

TikTok-spindletopgc

Twitter-spindletopgc

Youtube-

Instagram-spindletopgc

Pinterest