

Minutes for the Jefferson County Historical Commission Bi-Monthly Meeting
Noon, Wednesday, August 21, 2020
Agriculture Auditorium, 1225 Pearl Street, Suite 200
Beaumont, TX 77701

The meeting was **Called to Order at 12:01 PM** by JCHC Chair **Theresa Goodness** after it was determined a Quorum was met. In attendance were: Jay Camp, Theresa Goodness, Steven P. Lewis, Les McMahan, Linda McMahan, Don Smart, Brenda Jackson, Kate Hambright and Lynn Simon. Theresa apologized that the Zoom meeting attempted on August 12, 2020 did not work due to difficulties on the County's part but was glad to see nine of our thirteen members present at today's meeting. Several members expressed their appreciation to Theresa for her hard work in setting up the meeting.

Scheduled to attend a Hinchee House Board meeting in the early afternoon, **visitor Ed Touchet** was invited to speak first on progress being made at the Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House restoration project. He thanked the JCHC members who were helping or dropping by, and invited those that have not seen the work completed thus far to come by and see what was going on.

There was no Citizens Communication to be shared.

ACTION ITEMS

Secretary Report - Jen Trenbeath Chair Theresa Goodness asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes for Wednesday, March 11, 2020 that had been emailed to each member prior to the meeting for review. There were none. A motion was made by Don Smart and seconded by Les McMahan to accept the Minutes as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Linda McMahan reported on past expenditures and the remaining budget. (See attachment #1.)

Linda also reported on Budget Hearings held in July for the 2020 – 2021 Budget year. The JCHC did not request any additional funds for the new year but did request several line item adjustments. Due to the cost of printing and the mailing of the JCHC Historical Calendars, money was removed from "Travel" and "Mileage" and placed in "Supplies" and "Education". These requests were agreed to by county officials. (See attachment #2.)

The JCHC Board is excited we have more members wanting to attend state and regional meetings. To help our budgeted money cover more people, the JCHC will not be able to pay all expenses per person as before. As each trip is considered, it will be determined what expenses JCHC will pay and which expenses the member will be responsible to pay. This is in no means trying to stop our members from traveling but to be more careful in our spending.

Chair's Report – Theresa Goodness

Liberty County Historical Commission Regional Meeting Cancelled

Theresa began her report by sharing the JCHC had received an email from the Liberty County Historical Commission Chair that the planned Regional CHC meeting scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 2020 had been cancelled. The Texas Historical Commission had informed the Liberty CHC that, at this time, there will be no travel for in-person speaking / meetings. As COVID-19 has prevented people from getting together safely, Liberty felt it was best to reschedule the meeting at a later date.

Report on 2019 Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Historical Commission

1. County Judge Jeff Branick recognized JCHC in Commissioner's Court on 7/13/2020, for earning the Texas Historical Commission's 2019 Distinguished Service Award. Unfortunately, neither the Chair nor the Coordinator had been informed by the Judge's office that he intended to make the recognition in Court on that date.
2. Congratulations to our members for this important recognition!

Discussion of 2020 JCHC Calendar

1. Prior to the meeting, an email was sent out to all members requesting those who had chosen a month to research to please bring their information to the meeting to share with other members. There were still two month that had not been chosen as yet.
2. A lively discussion of the information was shared and added to by other members. At the end of the meeting, all months had been chosen.
3. It was suggested that those that needed to add to their information do so ASAP so Theresa could forward the information to Triangle Blue Print to prepare the set-up of this year's calendar. Linda was also working with Purchasing to get a Purchase Order to forward to the printer to pay for the calendars.

Committee Reports

Historical Preservation:

Early African-American Schools and Educators - Lynn Simon reported on several projects he is involved with and requests he has received from the public in preserving early African-American history in Beaumont. He also thanked several members that had forwarded information to him that will be included in the database Mr. Simon is building. He shared that Coordinator Linda McMahan had asked him to make contact with someone who was requesting information on the Charlton Pollard High School during the 1950's and 1960's. In doing so, he was able to obtain additional information that would be helpful to him. The JCHC is thankful for Mr. Simon's help in preserving this very important part of Beaumont and Jefferson County's African-American history.

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Theresa Goodness The Beaumont Landmark Commission met two (2) times since Theresa's last report in March:

On June 8, 2020, the Beaumont Landmark Commission met to review the following Requests for a Certificate of Appropriateness:

1) CA-3187: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove a tile roof to replace with a shingle roof. Applicant: Jesus Cardona. Location: 2262 Liberty Avenue. The request was approved with a stipulation to replace decorative corner, ridge and finial pieces with similar pieces as those that were removed.

2) CA-3190: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace front door, remove dormers and replace roof with shingles. Applicant: Gerardo Loza. Location: 2255 North Street. The request was denied.

3) CA-3192: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to paint a house. Applicant: Jeff Allen. Location: 2230 Hazel. The request was approved with white trim.

4) CA-3193: Request for a Certificate of Demolition to demolish a garage apartment. Applicant: Marvin Lindow. Location: 2455 North Street. The request was approved.

On July 13, 2020, the Beaumont Landmark Commission met to review the following requests for a Certificate of Appropriateness (Theresa was absent from this meeting):

1) CA-3198: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install a 6 ft. tall chain link fence with barbed wire. Applicant: Suzieanna Bone. Location: 2120 Broadway Street. The request was approved as to installing the fence along the north property line and denied as to installation along the west property line.

2) CA-3200: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove shutters. Applicant: Gerald Condon. Location: 2455 Gladys Avenue. The request was approved.

3) CA-3201: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to widen a rock driveway to create a parking pad in front of the house. Applicant: Carl Hubbell. Location: 2355 Liberty Avenue. The request was denied.

4) CA-3209: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to add a front porch to a house. Applicant: Quenten Pete. Location: 2075 South Street. The request was approved to add a front porch with a pitch to match the gable above the porch.

5) CA-3212: Request for a Certificate of Demolition to demolish a house. Applicant: City of Beaumont. Location: 1791 North Street. The request was approved.

On August 10, 2020, the Beaumont Landmark Commission was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.

Port Arthur Landmark Commission – Les McMahan reported no meetings or submitted cases, even though there was supposed to have been one from Lamar State College – Port Arthur for another student housing unit.

Tyrrell Historical Library – Steven P. Lewis reported the library was closed at the beginning of the pandemic but has reopened for its regular hours Monday through Friday. He has visited twice and it seems to be operating in good order. Bill Grace reported that a patron was tested COVID-19 positive. The library closed and the building was sanitized. It then reopened.

Photos of Historic Buildings – Steven P. Lewis reported in the past he scanned the entire Weber collection at the Texas Energy Museum but was limited. He was allowed to take the negatives home to scan. However, at the time he had an old HP photo scanner. Since then he has gotten a superior Epson photo scanner. Ryan Smith allowed him to rescan all 855 of the negatives. Another limitation was he was not allowed to take the prints out of the museum so he scanned them with a hand scanner, of much lower resolution than a flatbed scanner. Since the rescan of the negatives, Ryan has allowed him to take the prints home. Steven is currently working on a photo album of 101 pages with around 400 images. There are 115 photos of the activities of the Beaumont Light Guards at Camp Mabry in Austin. He is trying to determine when the photographs were taken; his best guess is sometime between 1904 and 1911. He is approximately 2/3 finished with the album. One of the photographs is of the 1893 court house taken in 1899. The other photographs include cabinet cards and loose photos. He will be allowed to scan these after he finishes the photo album.

A second scanning project was 1355 photographic slides in the archives of Gladys City. The collection including construction of the reproduction of Gladys City, the moving of the Lucas Gusher Monument from the Sulphur Drive location to its current placement near Gladys City, images of the original Spindletop museum on College Street and the later location on Florida Street in the old Spindletop Elementary school buildings. Boom Days were also represented, including the elephant ride.

In both projects, the more time-consuming activity is the documentation of the images and the creation of a finding guide. Descriptive information can be imbedded in the meta-data in the digital images, such as a description of the image, date, location, key word, and the size of the image. This information can then be copied to a searchable Excel spreadsheet.

Report on Historic Buildings Photography Project – Steven P. Lewis reported other photographic activity has been locating the new FEMA houses, now being constructed on pilings instead of slabs. Harvey and Emelda have educated us to areas that are prone to flooding. So far, Steven has found and photographed 25 sites.

Sam Houston State Library – Don Smart reported the Sam Houston Center is open for research by appointment only. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the center is limiting the number of researchers in the Reading Room at a given time as well as quarantining the materials after patron research.

1. Prospective patrons will email or call to request an appointment.
2. An on-line registration form will be emailed to the patron. He/She should complete and email it back to samhoustoncenter@tsl.texas.gov for processing.
3. That email will explain other steps necessary to request specific materials for research.
4. The materials must be located and examined for any restricted information (home address, social security numbers, personal information)

5. Appointments are scheduled from 8:30 am to 11:30 am and from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm Tuesday through Friday. No more than four (4) persons are to be scheduled for any slot.

The museum is open by appointment only, also, but limited to very small groups. Please call or email to schedule an appointment during the same hours as the Reading Room appointments. Staff will work within reason to schedule your group.

If you have any questions regarding these procedures, please feel free to contact the SHC.

Tyrrell Park Coalition – Bruce A. Hamilton Due to Bruce's absence, no report was given.

Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Restoration – Bruce A. Hamilton Due to Bruce's absence, guest Ed Touchet reported on the status of the restoration of the historic home.

Military History – Kate Hambright reported she has been solely occupied in assisting her research partner with his Vietnam manuscript as needed. It has now been turned over to the publisher. Her contribution to the project at this latter stage was editing

Historical Markers and Research – Les McMahan

Report on Status of Marker Application / Dedications

Replacement markers for Nancy Tevis and Beaumont Lumber Mill Town have been received from THC and are stored in the Precinct 4 warehouse awaiting a determination for a spot to install them. Will require approval/permission from City of Beaumont if they are to go back in Riverfront Park.

Marker applications for William G. (Bill) Hall (Gulf Coast Recording Company] and The Methodist Church in China, Texas were both approved by THC at their meeting on July 31st, 2020, and marker fee payments to THC were requested from the marker sponsors. Both sponsors have remitted their payments as of August 5th.

We have been approached by Solid Rock Baptist Church in Port Arthur regarding a marker application that current church staff said was written up about 10-15 years ago but possibly never turned in. They cannot find the paperwork at the church, and Linda has been unable to find any record of it in the JCHC files. Linda also contacted our past coordinator, Susan Arceneaux, and she did not recall any such application being turned in. The church may pursue this application again next year if they still have the history and research data for the prior application.

Furnished a headstone picture and article for Sebron Berry prepared by Exxon Mobil some years ago to an environmental survey firm doing work for Sunoco, the burial site being on a currently-unused tract of industrial land east of the intersection of Hwy 366 and Port Neches Avenue.

Report on Marker Survey / Maintenance - There is no updates on marker survey and no maintenance activities completed.

History Appreciation:

Report on Current Courthouse Mini-Museum Exhibits and Discussion of Proposed Exhibits - **Linda McMahan** thanked Brenda Jackson for allowing her Forest Park High School exhibit to remain in the Mini-Museum due to the pandemic. October is Archeology Month and Archeology Chair Brenda Jackson will be putting in a new exhibit to celebrate archeology work in Jefferson County and across the state.

Report on updates to JCHC website and social media – **Jen Trenbeath** was absent but sent in her report. The Friends of the JCHC Facebook page continues to get a few new likes each week. She has added “On this Day” posts pulling from the 2020 JCHC calendar and also interesting posts from other preservation groups.

Report on events to Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum – **Don Smart** reported important dates coming up for the Museum: October 10, 2020 is Black Gold Bash; November 7, 2020 is the car show; November 14, 2020 is Girl Scout Day; and January 9, 2021 is the Spindletop anniversary.

Report on Coastal History – **Jay Camp** Due to the length of the meeting, Jay said he would share a new article about Coastal History at a meeting in the future.

Archeology Committee – **Brenda Jackson** reported October is Archeology Month and she will be placing a new exhibit to celebrate archeology work in Jefferson County and across the state.

Cemetery Committee – **Paul Prosperie** was not in attendance due to work but sent word that he has been checking on our local cemeteries. A number of interesting articles and little-known information on local cemeteries can be found on Face Book and other preservation websites.

Courthouse and Sub-Courthouse Oversight Committee – **Linda McMahan**

Courthouse and Sub-Courthouse - Many County departments and courts have been making changes in their areas to better be able to work more safely with the public. The aim is to keep both the public and also Courthouse employees safe during this time of safe distancing.

Courthouse Master Plan – Work on the Courthouse Master Plan is complete and has been forwarded to the Texas Historical Commission (THC). Word has been received that the THC has approved the plan.

Certified Local Government (CLG) – Theresa Goodness – History Preservation Officer

Consider and possibly approve opinion in regards to a National Register of Historic Places nomination for a Port Arthur Downtown Historic District.

- The area is roughly bounded by West Reverend Ransom Howard Street, Fort Worth Avenue, Lakeshore Drive, and Waco.
- As a participant in the CLG program, JCHC and the County Judge are required to separately notify both the THC's National Register program and CLG program of our opinions in regards to this nomination no later than September 11, 2020.

After discussing the nomination, a motion was made by Linda McMahan and seconded by Les McMahan to notify both the THC's National Register program and CLG program of our support in this nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of status of THC sub-grant application for the National Park Service Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund Grant

- A second draft of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for this project has been prepared and submitted to THC for review and comments. Lisa Hart, Program Specialist for the HIM ESHPF Grant Program, has responded with comments and a few minor corrections for the RFQ.
- The funding agreement which the county and THC will sign has been reviewed by the Auditor and County Attorney. A few minor changes were requested by the County Attorney, and THC made some revisions to accommodate the request. The County Attorney approved the revised agreement, and it was placed on the Court's agenda for approval on 8/11/2020. The Court approved the funding agreement unanimously and commended JCHC for our commitment to historic preservation.
- In consultation with the Purchasing Agent, the Request for Quote (RFQ) will be placed on the Court's agenda for approval on 9/1/2020. Responses will be due back by November 4, 2020.

Report on consultations conducted under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

- Eddingston Court, National Register Property – On March 13, 2020, THC sent a letter to the City of Port Arthur regarding the proposed demolition of 100 Eddingston Court. THC has determined the demolition of Apartment 1-NW will be an adverse effect.

Letters on behalf of JCHC finding no adverse effect on any known historic sites were sent on the following projects:

1. March 31, 2020, Consultation under Section 106 Of The National Historic Preservation Act and The Antiquities Code of Texas for Verizon Wireless proposed telecommunications facility installation on County Line Road near Brush Island Road, EBI Project #6120002054.
2. April 23, 2020, Consultation under Section 106 Of The National Historic Preservation Act And The Antiquities Code of Texas for 236 Dryden Place, Port Arthur, Texas, to reconstruct and possibly elevate a residence damaged by flooding.
3. August 17, 2020, Consultation under Section 106 of The National Historic Preservation Act And The Antiquities Code Of Texas for AT&T proposed telecommunications facility installation at 4999 Highway 73, Port Arthur, TX, EBI Project #6120005366.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be in September and will be dependent on the date the JCHC can reserve the Agriculture Auditorium.

**Jefferson County Historical Commission
2019 – 2020 Budget Report
August 12, 2020**

Line Item	Budget	Spent	Remaining
30-10 Books	\$250	\$22.50	\$227.50
30-78 Supplies	\$1,500	\$125.00	\$1,375.00
30-90 Education	\$1,500	\$920.25	\$579.75
50-05 Mileage	\$500	\$469.57	\$30.43
50-12 Markers	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000.00
50-21 Dues	\$850	\$430.00	\$420.00
50-62 Travel	\$2,000	\$1,891.29	\$108.71
Total	\$11,600	\$3,858.61	\$7,741.39

**Jefferson County Historical Commission
Budget Adjustments for 2020 – 2021**

		<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>+ / -</u>
30-10	Books	\$250	\$250	Same
30-78	Supplies	\$2,000	\$1,500	Up \$500
30-90	Education	\$3,000	\$1,500	Up \$1,500
40-52	Postage	\$300	\$100	Up \$200
50-05	Mileage	\$500	\$500	Same
50-12	Markers	\$3,300	\$5,000	Down \$1,700
50-21	Dues	\$850	\$850	Same
50-62	Travel	\$1,500	\$2,000	Down \$500
 TOTAL	 (W/Postage)	 \$11,700	 \$11,700	