



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, Monday, May 10, 2021

Agriculture Auditorium, 1225 Pearl Street, Suite 200, Beaumont TX 77701

Call to Order – Chair Theresa Goodness called the meeting to order. Attending were Kate Hambright, Bruce A. Hamilton, Brenda Jackson, Steven P. Lewis, Les McMahan, Linda McMahan, Lynn Simon and Don Smart.

It was determined a Quorum was met. There was no Citizen Communication. There was no guest in attendance.

ACTION ITEMS:

Secretary's Report – Jen Trenbeath - Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meeting – Chair Theresa Goodness asked if there were any corrections to the March 10, 2021 JCHC Minutes. Being none, a motion was made by Kate Hambright, seconded by Les McMahan, to accept the Minutes as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Linda McMahan reported that out of the \$11,700 2020 - 2021 Budget, \$559.34 had been spent. There is ample money remaining for the printing and distribution of the 2022 Historical Calendars.

Linda also reported that paperwork for the preparation of the 2021 – 2022 Budget had been received and was due in the Auditor's Office by June 1, 2021 with Budget Hearings to be held July 19 – 23, 2021.

Chair's Report – Chair Theresa Goodness

- Discussion of Marker Survey – Theresa reminded everyone that one of the JCHC's 2021 Goals was to 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. A list of existing markers, the survey form, and assignment of markers were discussed. Monday, August 2, 2021 was the suggested due date to have information turned in.
- Discussion of 2022 JCHC Calendar – Theresa reminded everyone that another 2021 JCHC Goal was to research and prepare the 2022 Historical Calendar highlighting photographs and important historical events from Jefferson County's history. The project should be ready to send to the printer by October 1, 2021 which will allow time for proofing and printing. Each member will be 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. All information is due by September 1, 2021.

Committee Reports

Historical Preservation:

Early African-American Schools and Educators – Lynn Simon started his report with a thank you to Dr. Steven Lewis for his time and shared information about the Beaumont early African American community.

The information is related to families, educators, physicians, businesses and information from the Sanborn maps dated 1885 – 1951. The information will help on a current Charlton Pollard history committee project to identify the locations of the Irving Street, Forsythe Street and Gladys Street community businesses. Information about the families who operated these business locations will also be added.

Mrs. Carolyn Charlton Lamb has information about her family that she would like to have included into the Jefferson County Records, and Mrs. Lamb would like to attend a JCHC meeting to discuss the adding of the Charlton Family history to its records.

Dr. Lewis also visited the Charlton Pollard Memorial Park and the Anthony Cemetery. He shared a 1931 African American Community Progress Report and a photo of the Charlton Pollard school building at construction completion.

Mr. Ed Moore has family information, also information pertaining to his time as Jefferson County Commissioner. He would like to include the information into Jefferson County Records.

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Theresa Goodness

Please see attachment # 1.

Port Arthur Landmark Commission – Les McMahan reported no Applications for Certificates of Appropriateness have been considered as the Landmark Commission has not met in months. The make-up of the Landmark Commission has been reduced to seven members to reflect the current number of Council positions. JCHC will retain a position on the Commission, but members have yet to be appointed / reappointed.

Tyrrell Historical Library – Steven Lewis shared the library is open from 9 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday. At this time, he does not know of any pandemic related closures.

Richard Gachot, a long-time researcher on downtown Beaumont has given Steven seven boxes of material that he has collected over many years of research. In sorting through the collection, Steven found a complete set of SPARE Beaumont 1989 prints. Using the Survey documents, Steven created labels for the photos. When completed, he put them in photo pages and three ring binders and donated them to the Tyrrell.

On the day he visited the library, the staff was in the process of sorting through an anonymous donation of city directories of Beaumont and Port Arthur.

Photos of Historic Buildings – Steven Lewis reported that he continues his weekly photo run to Tyrrell Park to check on the progress on the CCC building. There has been little progress on the exterior of the building except that the window frames on the east wing have been installed. The rear roof area has not been shingled. Since the City does not want visitors on the inside of the building, Steven is not sure what has been done interiorly. There is evidence that electrical wiring is being done. Piles of new wood debris indicate that paneling is being installed.

Steven continues to document new FEMA homes construction. Most of the houses he has found were on wooden pilings but since our last JCHC meeting he has found another on concrete pilings. When he finds a new house construction, he continues to photograph the house until the sod is laid. So far, he has found 70 new homes on pilings.

Steven brought old photographs for viewing by commission members. Many of these were of downtown buildings and some high viewpoint images. These were among photographs from Richard Gachot. Some items are of a water feature at Tyrrell Park with family members. One item is a cabinet card of Irene Lockhart taken on July 4, 1896. A Google Earth image shows the location of the Josey Miller site.

Charlton-Pollard Memorial: Judith Linsley asked Steven about the Charlton-Pollard Memorial but he was not familiar. He located it on Irving Street but could not get close because the fence was locked. After some searching, he was given the phone number of Frederick Brown, who had a key and was also a classmate of Lynn Simon. Steven met him at the memorial. After taking photographs, he took Steven to the

Anthony cemetery so he could photograph the graves of Charlton and Pollard family members.

Steven spent several hours at Lynn's house and shared Lynn has an amazing collection of Charlton-Pollard neighborhood history.

Sam Houston State Library – Don Smart reports nothing new at the library. If you want to use the library, you must make an appointment. It is only open to eight people at a time.

Tyrrell Park Coalition – Bruce A. Hamilton added to Steven's report on picture taking at the Tyrrell Park Community Building built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. He also shared the Tyrrell Park Coalition is waiting on the final results of the current City of Beaumont elections to request a vote to complete the roof on the CCC building. The Coalition is planning to continue to encourage the newly elected and reelected Councilmembers to complete the roof.

Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Restoration – Bruce A. Hamilton reported on the status of the restoration work and plans for the future.

Military History – Kate Hambright reported on a work in progress of a 29-page draft report on early Beaumont carnivals and fairs in Southeast Texas (1899 – 1946). She also reported on several research projects she is working on concerning early military in Jefferson County.

Historical Markers and Research – Les McWhan

Report on Status of Marker Applications / Dedications

2020 Cycle Markers:

- The JCHC has received the draft inscription from THC for the Bill Hall – Gulf Coast Recording Company 2020 Cycle subject marker. The inscription was reviewed by sponsor and JCHC and was sent back to THC with corrections and additions on May 6, 2021.
- The Methodist Church in China 2020 Cycle subject marker draft inscription has been received from THC. The church objected to the marker title proposed by THC (China United Methodist Church) since the church has been part of numerous Methodist affiliations in the past, and may soon be dropping the "United" designation. The rest of the inscription was fine, and was sent back to THC with minor corrections and additions on May 6, 2021.

2021 Cycle Markers:

- A surprise Chambers House application for a RTHL marker (Beaumont) in the 2021 Cycle was received and has been submitted to THC and accepted for consideration by THC in July 2021.

- Dr. Laidacker 2021 Cycle subject marker application (China) has been postponed to the 2022 Cycle due to an issue of the property owner delaying giving written permission for marker placement on their property until their house is completed and they decide where to best place the marker.
- Another surprise marker application from St. Elizabeth Catholic Community – Port Neches was submitted to the THC on June 5, 2021, and was successfully packaged and was submitted to THC on June 7, 2021 for their consideration in July, 2021.
- No response received after initial contacts from Solid Rock Baptist Church and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (both Port Arthur) on 2021 Cycle subject marker applications.
- No response received to attempted contacts with Ellis Home or Broussard's Mortuary (both Nederland) on 2021 Cycle subject marker applications.

Report on Marker Survey / Maintenance

Les thanked those that have turned in their marker survey information and encouraged those that were still working on markers chosen.

History Appreciation:

Courthouse Mini-museum – Linda McMahon thanked Steven Lewis for his “SPARE Beaumont 1977” exhibit consisting of 47 photographs and postcards. SPARE is an acronym for **S**urvey and **P**reservation **A**nalysis of **R**esources and **E**nvironment. This exhibit will be on display through July.

Linda asked for suggestions for exhibits to be placed in the Mini-museum. Several were mentioned but no set dates were made.

Report on Updates to JCHC Website and Social Media – Jen Trenbeath was not in attendance and no report was given.

Report on Events at Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum – Don Smart reported that due to the February Winter Storm, the Gusher is not working. Help is being discussed with several Southeast Texas petrochemical producers. Dow Chemical sent their technicians to look at it and find a solution. Hopefully this will lead to a fix and be up and running soon.

The Museum has had Gladys City Live and our first Jazz and Wine. While we always want more visitors, these were popular events. The second Jazz and Wine was hindered by weather but there will be another one on June 18. We have a photography class on June 5. It costs only \$100 to learn great photography skills. Also a kid's blacksmith class is scheduled for June 12. The Beaumont Amateur Radio Club will be using the museum for its annual national Field Day venue on June 26 and 27. The Events Committee met and we are planning some more great events in the future.

Archeology Committee – Brenda Jackson reported that she will be involved in several archeological digs this summer and have more to report at our next meeting.

Cemetery Committee – Paul Prosperie was not at the meeting. No report was given.

Courthouse and Sub-Courthouse Oversight Committee – Linda McMahan reported the County is still waiting approval from THC to install a screen on the wall in Commissioners Court for presentations / and or sharing of Court information.

Commissioner Pierce asked that a framed 3 ½ foot by 4 foot map of Calcastec Pass to Sabine Pass be hung in the hall on the first floor of the Courthouse across from Purchasing. It is a beautiful map and will be enjoyed more in that location than in an office.

Certified Local Government (CLG) – Theresa Goodness discussed to consider and possibly approve comments on draft Project Management Plan submitted to 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 submitted very minor comments on the draft Project Management Plan, which has been emailed to all members.
- Theresa also included a few of her own comments on the draft, and any additional adopted comments from our members will be passed on to THC and HHM, Inc.
- Don Smart made a motion, seconded by Les McMahan, to accept the changes, The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2021 in the Agricultural Auditorium.

Report of Theresa Goodness, JCHC Designee for Beaumont Landmark Commission
May 10, 2021

The Beaumont Landmark Commission has met once since my last report. On **April 12, 2021**, the Beaumont Landmark Commission met to review the following Request(s) for a Certificate of Appropriateness:

- 1) PZ2021-1: Request for a Certificate of Demolition to demolish a house and garage apartment.

Applicant: City of Beaumont

Location: 2355 Pecos Street

The request was approved as to the garage apartment only.

- 2) PZ2021-74: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace brick columns with wood columns and to reduce, replace, and add shutters to windows.

Applicant: Malcolm Pryor

Location: 2375 Mcfaddin Avenue

The request was denied.

- 3) PZ2021-76: Request for a Certificate of Demolition to demolish a structure.

Applicant: Dalip Rathore

Location: 1974 Liberty Avenue

The request was approved.

- 4) PZ2021-81: Request for a Certificate of Demolition to demolish a garage.

Applicant: City of Beaumont

Location: 2410 South Street

The request was approved.

- 5) PZ2021-82: Request for a Certificate of Demolition to demolish a garage apartment.

Applicant: City of Beaumont

Location: 2449 Broadway Street

The request was approved.

6) PZ2021-87: Request for a Certificate of Demolition to demolish a house and shed.

Applicant: City of Beaumont

Location: 2555 Mcfaddin Avenue

The request was approved.

7) PZ2021-96: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to install solar panels on a roof.

Applicant: Gage Mueller

Location: 2349 Calder Avenue

The request was denied.