



JEFFERSON COUNTY

Historical Commission

Theresa Goodness
Chairman

Linda McMahan
Coordinator

Ron Ellington
Past Chairman

Leslie McMahan
Vice-Chairman

Paul Prosperie
Secretary/Treasurer

JCHC Bi-Monthly Meeting Noon, Thursday, December 11, 2014 Ben J. Rogers Regional Visitor Center

1. Call to Order / Greetings – Chair Theresa Goodness

The meeting was called to order by Chair Theresa Goodness. Those in attendance were Sarah Bellian, Bill Cummings, Jessie Davis, Bruce Hamilton, Brenda Jackson, Steven Lewis, Mike McGreevy, Les McMahan, Paul Prosperie, Jef Russell, Don Smart and Jimmy Sparks. Also in attendance were Bill Peavy, visitor, and Linda McMahan, Coordinator.

2. Consider Minutes of Previous Meeting – Chair Theresa Goodness

A motion was made by Don Smart and seconded by Paul Prosperie to accept the Minutes as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Paul Prosperie

The Treasurer's Report was given by Coordinator Linda McMahan. This was the first report of the 2014 – 2015 Budget Year.

4. Chair Report – Theresa Goodness

- Commissioner Alfred has called a meeting for Tuesday, December 16th to discuss the cleaning of the Lincoln-Broussard Cemetery. This meeting is to include representatives from the Historical Commission, Engineering, Sheriff's Department, County Health and Commissioner Alfred and his staff.

5. Coordinator Report – Linda McMahan

- Volunteer Hours / Annual Report – Linda reminded members that 2014 volunteer hours were to be turned in by January 15, 2015. These hours will be included in the 2014 Annual Report to be presented to Commissioners Court for their approval and forwarded on to the Texas Historical Commission.

Linda reminded everyone that at least 50 hours of volunteer work is required annually of each member. It is strongly encouraged that more hours are turned in. Also each member is required to attend at least two meetings per year. A number of our members work during the day and are not able to attend meetings and they are to stay in contact with the JCHC Coordinator as to what historical project they are involved in.

- Linda shared information about a number of Swearing-In ceremonies of newly elected Jefferson County officials that will take place on January 5, 6, 7, and 8 in the Jury Impaneling Room. The public is cordially invited to be a part of these historical events.
- Beaumont Main Street is holding their Annual Meeting in Hotel Beaumont at 7:30 AM on Tuesday, December 16. The new owner or a representative will be in attendance to share the future plans for the Hotel.
- The JCHC has received requests for information about the Beaumont Grist Mill and early photos of the Jefferson County Airfield. Thanks to several JCHC members and visitor, Bill Peavy, for help with these requests.
- A list of JCHC meeting dates and places were shared with members in attendance.

6. Committee Reports

Archeology – Brenda Jackson shared there will be a special lecture at the McFaddin-Ward House, “Making Heads & Telling Tales,” on Thursday, January 29, 2015. Amanda Danning, a forensic sculptor who specializes in historic facial reconstructions will be in the speaker. The event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6 PM and the lecture will begin at 6:30 PM.

Ms. Danning has worked in collaboration with countless museums, including several projects with the Smithsonian. Her talk will weave science, art, and extensive research from archeologists and anthropologists as well as her own travels across the American Southwest.

- **Cemetery – Marianne Petry** – No report
- **Certified Local Government – Ramona Hutchinson** – No report
- **Courthouse Oversight – Linda McMahan** reminded everyone that work will start in January in the basement and first floor areas to address deficiencies in the fire alarm system at the Courthouse. These two floors will be closed to the public.
- **Dick Dowling Days – Bruce Hamilton** shared that Dick Dowling Days will take place in 2015. Mike McGreevy and Don Smart will also be helping with the event.
- **Historical Markers – Les McMahan** – See Attached
- **History Preservation**

Jef Russell will be making contact with several local businesses eligible to take part in the Texas Treasure Business Awards. This award recognizes the accomplishments of Texas businesses that have provided employment opportunities and support to the state’s economy for at least 50 years.

Bruce Hamilton – Bill Quick’s Information / Book – Nothing new to report

Sarah Bellian – Museum of the Gulf Coast – Sarah invited anyone in need of additional volunteer hours to come to the museum. There are numerous photographs that need to be identified. She also shared events coming up for 2015.

Bill Cummings passed out information and a map of the City of Ronald located in Jefferson County in 1896. This led to discussion of other small towns once situated in Jefferson County.

Steven Lewis shared about taking pictures in the Gilbert-Hinchee House located at 1814 Park Street, Beaumont. It has recently been sold and will be restored. It has been in great need of repairs for a number of years. The house is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1982) and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

Paul Prosperie has added new photos and information to his website “Rediscovering Southeast Texas.” Included are Christmas events around southeast Texas.

Don Smart – Early Sports Around Jefferson County – No report

Jimmy Sparks – Magnolia Cemetery – No report

Bill Peavy – Jefferson County Tidbits – Bill shared some information about the Jefferson County Airport.

- **Website – Bill Cummings – See Attached Report**

- 7. Unfinished Business / New Business – Information was discussed about museums using Facebook as a means of advertisement.**
- 8. Adjournment – Next meeting will be held Thursday, January 22, 2015 at Ben J. Rogers Regional Visitor Center, 5055 IH-10 South, Beaumont.**