

Minutes for JCHC Bi-Monthly Meeting
Noon, Wednesday, May 15, 2019
Jefferson County Courthouse - Third Floor JCHC Conference Room
1149 Pearl Street
Beaumont, TX 77701

Call to Order – Chair Theresa Goodness

In attendance were: Jay Camp, Mary Darbonne, Theresa Goodness, Bruce Hamilton, Brenda Jackson, Steven Lewis, Les McMahan, Linda McMahan, Don Smart, Jen Trenbeath and guest Mr. Simon.

Consideration of Minutes of Previous Meeting – Chair Theresa Goodness

Minutes were accepted as printed. Motion made by Bruce Hamilton. Seconded by Steven Lewis, unanimously approved.

Budget Report – Coordinator Linda McMahan.

Attachment # 1 is the Budget Report for March, April and May. We have \$7,360.07 remaining in this year's budget. Budget requests for 2019-2020 are due in Auditing by May 31, 2019. We are not asking for additional money for the next budget year.

Chair's Report – Chair Theresa Goodness.

Report submitted. See attachment # 2. Discussion was held regarding the creation of 2020 Calendar. A motion to proceed was made by Steven Lewis and seconded by Don Smart. The vote was unanimous. All months have been assigned. Photos and information are to be submitted by September 1st, 2019.

Coordinator's Report – Linda McMahan

The JCHC continues to exhibit Steven P. Lewis's pictures on the exterior of the 1931 Courthouse and some postcards of the 1893 Courthouse. We have had a lot of positive feedback on this exhibit.

Don Smart will be putting in a new exhibit for the summer on May 24, 2019.

The Beaumont DAR will be putting in an exhibit during the month of September in honor of Construction Week September 17 -23. This chapter has been very active in communicating the importance of the Constitution in our community. The materials used will be DAR sponsored. It will include a large poster board of the Constitution and various DAR brochures such as the American Creed, pledge of allegiance, and other patriotic items. The DAR is a Non-Political organization. They will not display any items promoting any political party.

In October, Brenda Jackson will place an exhibit highlighting Forrest Park High School.

Committee Reports

About Town in Pictures – Steven Lewis

Tyrrell Historical Library—Photographed interior of library on 21 February and 26 March 2019 for documenting the progress on the repair and renovation. Circulated comparison photos (then-and-now) of 2013 and 2019. Have no official update of re-opening date but with the remaining work—inspection and repair of termite damage, new carpets—date may not be until of the year.

Photographs of Historic Buildings and other projects—circulated photographs

1. Follow up on school buildings demolitions. 12 March 2019, demolition progress and completed site photo of the South Park Independent School District Administration Building. 15 April 2019, completed site photo of Adams School.
2. Photographs of interior of CCC Community Building at Tyrrell Park showing the deterioration of this historically significant building.
3. Photographs of Temple to the Brave, 25 April 2019. An event sponsored by Beaumont Main Street and the VFW. Students from Saint Anne's school were shown around Dennis White and commission member Bruce Hamilton with assist by Ed Touchet.
4. Photographs on the Big Thicket Association boat, Ivory Bill, of a tour arranged by Lamar University History Department on 5 May 2019. The tour started at the salt water barrier, going upriver to Ten Mile Bayou. Historians Judy Linsley and Ellen Reinstra talked about the significance of the Neches River to the history of Beaumont. Originally the Ivory Bill was launched from Riverfront Park but since Hurricane Harvey the tours usually leave from Collier's Ferry.
5. Photographs of the dedication of the Ivory Bill at Riverfront Park on 24 April 2014 have historical importance. The increased Neches River flow after Harvey destroyed about a third of Riverfront Park and washed away the dock and two historical markers. The Ivory Bill was built for Lamar University as the Cardinal before acquired by the BTA.

Archeology Committee – Brenda Jackson

Dr. Charles Bollich and I spoke to Dr. Richard Gachot's honors seminar at Lamar University in February. Our topic was archeology and prehistory of Southeast Texas. I prepared and distributed a detailed handout for the students. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

In February I worked with the Houston Archeological Society at a miniCAST workshop for science teachers held in Orange. We had displays in a booth and handed out information about archeology in Texas, with an emphasis on this area.

Beaumont Historical Landmark Commission – Theresa Goodness

Report submitted. See attachment # 3.

Cemetery Committee – Paul Prosperie

No report submitted.

Certified Local Government - Theresa Goodness

Report submitted. See attachment # 4.

Courthouse Oversight Committee – Linda McMahan

Routine maintenance continues at the Courthouse. I have taken a copy of the newest THC Courthouse Maintenance book to the head of Maintenance. There was some concern as to how much pressure to be used when pressure washing mold off the outside of the building.

I have also met with Maintenance and the tree cutters to discuss work around the Courthouse. We are waiting on a bid for that work. This is a company that has been used before and they know what is needed and how the work is to be done.

We are still waiting for the kickoff meeting date between the County, Don LaBiche and the Texas Historical Commission to begin work on the new master plan for the Jefferson County Courthouse.

The Engineering Department is restoring the original Commissioners Court located in the present Engineering Department. They are waiting on several minor things to complete the restoration and then they will have an open house so the public can see how it originally looked.

Dick Dowling Days / Spindletop Days – Mike McGreevy

No report submitted

Historical Commission Library – Mary Darbonne

No report submitted

Marker Committee – Les McMahan

Central Baptist Church and Friendship Baptist Church are officially merged as Grace Baptist Church. The Central Baptist Church marker, along with a supplemental plaque, will be moved soon to its new location in Groves.

Providence Church, formerly Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, indicated recently that they plan to set the latter church's marker at the new church in the near future.

No update on delivery of our two replacement markers - Nancy Tevis and Beaumont Lumber Mill City of the 19th Century.

Port Arthur Landmark Commission – Les McMahan

No meetings have been held since last JCHC meeting. To my knowledge, the Commissioners have yet to be re-appointed.

City and Commission will be working with Motiva on restoration of the old Federal Building in downtown Port Arthur, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Motiva has stated that the building will be fully restored to its original condition.

Sam Houston State Library / Early Sports – Don Smart

No report submitted.

Tyrrell Park Community Building – Bruce Hamilton

Report submitted. See Attachment # 5.

Tourism / Ben Rogers Visitors Center – Jessie Davis

No report submitted.

Web Site / Facebook Friends of the JCHC – Jen Trenbeath

No report submitted

Unfinished / New Business

Several Commission members participated in Emergency Preparedness Training in May. The focus of the training was creating an Emergency Preparedness Plan. Discussion was held regarding creating a Preparedness Plan for the JCHC as operating under the Preparedness Plan for Jefferson County. Motion was made by Jen Trenbeath and seconded by Bruce Hamilton. Vote was unanimous.

Members were reminded to complete online Open Meetings Act training.

Adjournment - Next meeting will be July 17, 2019

**Jefferson County Historical Commission
Budget Report
May 15, 2019**

Line Item	Budget	Spent	Remaining
30-10 Books	\$250	-----	\$250.00
30-78 Supplies	\$1,500	\$1,333.73	\$166.27
30-90 Education	\$1,500	\$918.81	\$581.19
50-05 Mileage	\$500	\$422.56	\$77.44
50-12 Markers	\$5,000	-----	\$5,000.00
50-21 Dues	\$850	\$145.00	\$705.00
50-62 Travel	\$2,000	\$1,419.83	\$580.17
Totals	\$11,600	\$4,239.93	\$7,360.07

Chair's Report 05/15/2019

Jefferson County Historical Commission

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

- On 5/13/19 Commissioner's Court authorized JCHC to submit a grant application from the Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund grant from the National Park Service. The purpose of the grant would be to develop a professional historic resource survey. The grant will be administered by the Texas Historical Commission, and does not require matching funds from the county. The minimum grant award is \$30,000 and the maximum grant award is \$250,000.
- The deadline to submit the application is May 24, 2019. The requirements are currently being gathered, and the County Auditor has agreed to assist with the application.

Report on National Votes for Women Trail project to recognize Women's suffrage and the women's movement.

- The National Collaborative for Women's History Sites is a national organization working to elevate women's history and historical sites. The organization is sponsoring a new initiative called the National Votes for Women Trail Project.
- They have identified over 1000 women's suffrage sites nationwide, but only a few in Texas.
- According to the Texas Handbook Online, an organization called the *Texas Equal Rights Association* was organized in 1893 and had a chapter in Beaumont by 1894.
- So far efforts have been fruitless to locate the names of chapter members or the location of their meetings. If any members have information on this subject, it would be very helpful.

Report on efforts to preserve courthouse blueprints.

- We have ordered unbuffered archival boxes and tissue paper for storage of the blueprints of the 1893 and 1931 courthouses received from the County Engineer.
- Also a small map cabinet has been transferred to our inventory from another department.
- Linda and Les McMahan compiled an inventory of the blueprints.
- When the supplies arrive, we will work on sorting, labeling, and storing the blueprints. Also we will attempt to scan the documents that are not too fragile.

Theresa Goodness

From: Clg-I <clg-I-bounces@lists.thc.state.tx.us> on behalf of Lorelei Willett
<Lorelei.Willett@thc.texas.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 1:57 PM
To: clg-I@lists.thc.state.tx.us
Subject: [Clg-I] FW: Women's Suffrage and Women's Rights Places
Attachments: Untitled attachment 00029.txt

Happy Friday everyone!

Just wanted to forward this bit of information from the National Trust to you. If you can think of anything, please let me know or feel free to reach out to Sehila. Thank you and have a great weekend!

Lorelei Willett
Certified Local Government Program Coordinator
(512) 463-7812
www.thc.texas.gov

From: Sehila Casper <SCasper@savingplaces.org>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 1:36 PM
Subject: Women's Suffrage and Women's Rights Places

CAUTION: External Email – This email originated from outside the THC email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings,

I hope that this email finds you and everyone at the agency well. I currently sit on the board of the [National Collaborative for Women's History Sites](#), a national organization working to elevate women's history and historical sites.

I wanted to let you know about a wonderful initiative taken on by the National Collaborative called the [National Votes for Women Trail](#). The project is an exciting undertaking to recognize women's suffrage and the women's movement. It is a work-in-progress led by state volunteers to identify women's suffrage sites across the country. These sites include the homes of leading suffragists and places where suffrage, anti-suffrage meetings, and marches were held.

We currently have over 1000 sites in our national database. ***And only a handful from Texas, but we know we can get more.***

Our partner, The William G. Pomeroy Foundation, is complementing our efforts by donating 250 historic markers nationally. Each state will get up to five markers and we need to submit our applications as soon as possible.

We would appreciate any names of women, resources you can point us to, or sites where women's suffrage and women's movements occurred. Of course, we are looking to tell the full story and are through an intersectional approach to recognize women of color and those of the LGBTQ community.

Report of Theresa Goodness, JCHC Designee for Beaumont Landmark Commission
May 15, 2019

The Beaumont Landmark Commission has met twice since my last report.

On April 8, 2019, the Beaumont Landmark Commission met to review the following Requests for a Certificate of Appropriateness:

- CA-3026: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to paint a house.
Applicant: Melinda McWhite
Location: 2471 Long Street

The request was approved.

On May 13, 2019, the Beaumont Landmark Commission met to review the following Requests for a Certificate of Appropriateness:

- CA-3031: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to remove the decorative wall above the porte-cochere.
Applicant: HRC
Location: 2497 Liberty Street

The request was denied. The homeowner did not want to remove the decorative elements of the porte-cochere. It was the contractor who had requested the COA.

- CA-3035: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to expand a front porch and replace front windows.
Applicant: Saeed Daniali
Location: 2574 McFaddin

The request was approved.

- CA-3048: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to restructure existing garage into carport and obtain a waiver to eliminate sidewalks.
Applicant: Travis Berg
Location: 2098 McFaddin

The request was approved.

- CA-3053: Request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to replace six (6) windows and close seven (7) windows.
Applicant: Ernesto Torres
Location: 2293 Hazel

The request was denied.

Report of Theresa Goodness, Historic Preservation Officer
May 15, 2019

- On April 23, 2019, JCHC members attended a workshop for webinar training for Emergency Preparedness entitled Hurricanes, Tornadoes and Fires, Oh My! Creating Your Emergency Preparedness Plan being conducted by the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board (THRAB) to equip those caring for archival materials with the knowledge and skills to prepare repositories for threats and to recover damaged collections. Ten (10) members attended the webinar. The handouts for this training have been printed and a copy is available for all members.
- On May 1, 2019, JCHC members attended a workshop for Part 2 of this training entitled, Hurricanes, Tornadoes and Fires, Oh My! Responding to Your Emergency. Seven (7) members attended this training, and one (1) member of the public. The handouts for this training have been printed and a copy is available for all members.
- All members of the CLG Committee should attend Open Meetings Training. This training is available online from the Texas Attorney General's website. To date only the Historic Preservation Officer has submitted a certificate as proof of attendance.
- The Texas Historical Commission requires members of Certified Local Government committees to submit a resume. To date only two members have submitted their resumes, those being the JCHC designees to the Beaumont Landmark Commission and the Port Arthur Landmark Commission.
- One of the tools discussed during the Emergency Preparedness Training is the ***Emergency Pocket Response Plan (PREP)***. This document is a concise document for recording essential information needed by staff in case of a disaster or other emergency. A proposed Emergency Pocket Response Plan is on the agenda to be considered for approval.

Reports by Bruce A. Hamilton, past Chairman of the Jefferson County Historical Commission for the May 15, 2019 Bi-Monthly Meeting.

***** Status Report on the City of Beaumont's efforts to renovate the Tyrrell Park Community Building:

Laurie Leister and myself as the Co-Chairmen of the Tyrrell Park Coalition have been in contact with J. Rob Clark, Vice President of Architectural Alliance, Inc. This firm has been contracted by the City of Beaumont to oversee the renovation of the Tyrrell Park Community Center.

Our latest communication, as of May 8th, indicates that the architect has received and starting to check the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing drawings. His plans were to have the check set with comments returned to the engineers by yesterday, May 14th. He was still waiting for technology data specifications from the City. Mr. Clark stated that he would be out of the office from the 15th through the 20th of May. Upon his return, he would start working to finalize drawings and look at the regional bid calendar with city staff to plan for bidding and receipt of bid dates.

The Tyrrell Park Coalition is please with the progress so far and the care of the architect, J. Rob Clark, and the Architectural Alliance in their efforts to preserve the historical integrity of this important building while meeting the needs of the City's plan to renovate the structure as a Birding Visitor's Center for Cattail Marsh.

Unfortunately, so far, the City of Beaumont still plans to leave the south wing of this historic structure without a roof. We continue to encourage the City of Beaumont to replace the entire roof structure.

Report submitted by Bruce A. Hamilton, Co-Chairmen of the Tyrrell Park Coalition

***** Status Report on the Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Restoration:

The Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Restoration Project is progressing very well. The nonprofit will be submitting a grant request to the National Park Service Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund Grant by the May 24, 2019 deadline. We are very pleased with our efforts in preparing this grant application and especially appreciative of the contributions made by architect, Dohn Labiche.

Fundraising is progressing through a Facebook effort and several planned events. We have an agreement with Linda McLamore to sell prints and cards of the artwork of her late brother, Larry Baggett.

The organization has recently enlisted the volunteer efforts of Chuck Morris of Environmental Tree Service as landscaping consultant. The Community is really stepping up to help save this Nation Register and Recorded Texas Landmark.

Report submitted by Bruce A. Hamilton, Executive Director of The Caroline Gilbert Hinchee House Restoration, Maintenance and Management Project, (501c3).