



JEFFERSON COUNTY

Historical Commission

Theresa Goodness
Chair

Linda McMahan
Secretary/Treasurer and Coordinator

Brenda Jackson

Leslie McMahan
1st Vice-Chairman

Paul Prosperie
2nd Vice-Chairman

Jefferson County Historical Commission (JCHC) Bi-Monthly Meeting

Friday, September 30, 2016

Ben Rogers Regional Visitors Center

5055 IH-10 South, Beaumont, TX 77705

Call to Order / Greetings – Chair Theresa Goodness

The meeting was called to order by Chair Theresa Goodness. Members in attendance were Bill Cummings, Jessie Davis, Bruce Hamilton, Brenda Jackson, Steven Lewis, Linda McMahan and Don Smart. Visitors attending were Bill Peavy and Richard Gachot.

Consider Minutes of Previous Meeting – Chair Theresa Goodness

Theresa shared that the Minutes of the July 20, 2016 meeting had been emailed to each member for review. She asked if there were any additions or corrections. There were none. A motion was made by Bill Cummings and seconded by Steven Lewis to accept the Minutes as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Linda McMahan

Treasurer McMahan reported the final 2015 – 2016 JCHC expenses were included in the member handout. She also shared the 2016 – 2017 Budget had been approved by Commissioners Court with no changes made. Our operating budget remains at \$11,600.

Chair Report – Theresa Goodness

Theresa introduced guest Richard Gachot from Lamar University. Richard prepared the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the Lamar State College of Technology Administration Building, Beaumont, Jefferson County, TX. It was accepted and placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Richard is presently working on the new Beaumont “SPARE” Survey #4. Several JCHC members shared they have information that might be of help in the research.

Theresa introduced our speaker, JCHC member Steven Lewis. Steven presented the power point presentation “A Snapshot in the Life of Frank Weber.”

He included maps and pictures. An informative question and answer period followed.

Coordinator Report – Linda McMahan

Linda shared that we are getting close to the end of the year so please turn in your volunteer hours. She reminded everyone that they most have fifty (50) hours or more to meet membership requirements. If you have any questions or need to know how many hours you have already turned in, please email or call Linda.

Linda has been going through files in the JCHC Office / Library and has found duplicates of Marker programs and other miscellaneous items such as pens, note pads and other things you might find of interest. She invited members to take any of the items spread out on the table along the wall.

Committee Reports

About Town Photographs – Steven Lewis shared some of his new “finds” during his power point presentation.

Archeology – Brenda Jackson reminded everyone that October is THC Archeology Month and the JCHC is hosting a regional workshop on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 in the Jury Impanelling Room on the first floor of the Courthouse near Security. THC’s Dr. Kerry Nichols will be leading the workshop and talking on different archeological time periods and also significant recent cultural resource management projects in SE Texas that include McFaddin Beach, Luce Bayou and possibly others. The workshop is open to the public.

Brenda also shared that an exhibit featuring the David French house, McFaddin Beach and the Texas Archeological Society is on display in the Courthouse Mini-Museum through December. The mini-museum is located near the main exit door of the Historic Courthouse.

Bruce Hamilton shared pieces of coal with JCHC members that has washed up on the beach near Sabine Pass. On September 28 and 29, 1863, a storm drove ashore a Federal ship, the “Manhasset,” which was carrying 300 tons of coal. Confederate troops seized the ship along with its cargo. Coal can still be found on the beach from that ship.

Beaumont Land Mark Commission – Jessie Davis shared some months the Commission may not meet. There was no report to share at this time.

Bill Quick's Book - Bruce Hamilton and Don Smart – No news on progress of the Book. The inventory is almost complete with three boxes left to inventory.

Cemetery – Paul Prosperie and Jimmy Sparks – First day of the two day cemetery tour took place on Thursday, September 29th at 5 PM with good attendance. Paul said they are making note to tell people to bring mosquito spray. The second day of the tour will be Saturday, October 1 at 10 AM. We have contacted Allison Getz of Temple Emanuel about including the Jewish Community in the next tour sometimes in the spring. She said the Temple is honored to be asked.

Certified Local Government / Museum of the Gulf Coast – Sarah Bellian – There will be an oral history interview with Floyd Frank at Commissioner Alfred's Service Center on Tuesday, October 25th. Mr. Frank started working on the McFaddin ranch as a very young boy and he remains very active with the Rodeo in the Cheek area. He recently was inducted into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame in Fort Worth. Mr. Frank is 98 years old.

Courthouse Oversight – Linda McMahan The JCHC Conference Room is still being used as the Law Library Research Room per Judge Branick. The Law Library in District Attorney Bob Wortham's area is being remodeled. The way things look now it might be the end of the year before completion.

Dick Dowling Days – Mike McGreevy No activity at this time.

Historical Markers – Les McMahan No activity. It looks like a marker for the Sabine Lighthouse will probably not come to be. THC wanted it geared toward transportation and importance to Texas as opposite to the relationship of the Lighthouse to the Battle of Sabine Pass.

Port Arthur Landmark Commission – Les McMahan The Landmark Commission participated with other local entities who met in regards to ideas for the City's Comprehensive Master Plan update. The last update was in 1989.

Sam Houston State Library / Early Sports – Don Smart No report at this time.

Tourism / Ben Rogers Visitors Center – Jessie Davis – Jessie invited JCHC members to attend the next START meeting to be held at the Visitors

Center, Thursday October 13th at 9:30 AM. Sandra Wilturner, of the JCHC Advisory Council, is hosting the meeting and will give an update on the Historic Evergreen Cemetery on Pine Street in Beaumont. The JCHC has made two applications for a historical marker for the cemetery but both have been turned down. The JCHC continues to encourage and make suggestions of ways for the Evergreen Cemetery Board to raise money to help support the cemetery.

Jessie said the IH-10 construction should be complete by the end of this year.

Web Site – Bill Cummings Minor adjustments and additions continue on the JCHC web site. The JCHC is very appreciative of the long hours of research and work Bill Cummings has donated to this project. We have had good feedback on the information found and the ease of using the web site.

Unfinished Business / New Business – None

Adjournment / Next Meeting – The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 16, 2016. This will be our Annual Meeting. The location will be announced at a later date.