

**Harris County Historical Commission  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Meeting  
Saturday, February 7, 2009  
The Carriage House  
Clayton Genealogical Library  
5300 Caroline, Houston, Texas 77004**

Chairman Patrick Van Pelt, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The Chairman introduced Ms. Lesley Douthwaite, Assistant Director of Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research. Ms. Douthwaite welcomed the Harris County Historical Commission to the new facility and invited the attendees to join her for a tour of the newly remodeled facilities on the Clayton campus after the meeting.

The Chairman introduced Candy Kasserman-Howard who delivered greetings from County Judge, Ed Emmett. She presented Certificates of Appreciation and a Harris County tote bag to all members of the Historical Commission. Judge Emmett also sent copies of the Historical Commission Bylaws for each member as a reminder of the scope and duties of the Commission. She mentioned that all activities of the Commission members are noticed and appreciated by Judge Emmett.

The Chairman welcomed all new County Historical Commission members and visitors to the meeting. He also welcomed those Commission members continuing for another term.

The first order of Business was to elect a Commission Secretary. Beverly McMahan was nominated as a candidate for the position. Dr. Edward Chen made the motion that nominations cease and that Mrs. McMahan be elected by acclamation. Nancy Burch seconded that motion, the motion carried. The Secretary for the 2009-2010 term will be Beverly B. McMahan.

The Chairman introduced the officers for the 2009-2010 Commission term:

Chairman – Patrick Van Pelt  
Vice Chairman – Janet K. Wagner  
Treasurer/Finance Chairman – Robert “Bob” Coller  
Secretary - Beverly B. McMahan

Chairman Patrick Van Pelt introduced the Historic Commission committee structure. He distributed an Organization Chart and Listing of Commission Areas of Responsibility. (Attached) Patrick reviewed the organizational chart and committee areas. He made the point that we all work collaboratively and collectively.

Patrick explained that the Harris County Historical Commission was partnering with the Texas Historical Commission on the 2010 annual Regional Conference. The HCHC role is to create ‘synergy and excitement’ for the conference. Al Davis and Barbara Eaves will chair the committee for that 2010 event. As we prepare for the event next year, Patrick encouraged all members who are able to attend the 2009 event to be held April 15-17, at Lakeway in Austin, Texas. He reminded us that in 2008 our group won the award for most Marker Applications at the Regional Conference and hopes that we will do as well this year.

Patrick stated that our liaisons with the Texas Historical Commission are Amy Hammond and Amber Nunez. These ladies office in Austin and will work with the HCHC to support its efforts and activities and will be helping the HCHC with its hosting of a Regional County Marker Conference in the fall of 2009. We also look to Judge Emmett and his office for support of this conference.

The Minutes of the HCHC 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2008 meeting were presented. As the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter meeting did not have the required quorum, we are required to present those minutes and actions for approval. Dr. Edward Chen made the motion that we ratify minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter meeting and the actions of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter meeting. Bob Coller seconded the motion; motion carried.

Minutes for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2008 meeting were presented. Nancy Burch made the motion that we approve the 2008 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Minutes. Mrs. Gay seconded the motion; motion carried.

There was a discussion of the Marker Committee. It was noted that the Texas Historic Commission may set a “cap” on the number of individual and site markers. They may possibly put more focus on the arts. Patrick mentioned that the Marker Inventory database administered by Jim Fisher could tell us where the ‘holes’ are. Jim reported that the database contains 345 state markers (THC, DRT, etc.) and 415 County markers. The database is still being developed; the cemetery listings were recently added. There is an effort to make this database available to members on the HCHC website.

A period of general discussion followed:

- Mrs. Gay stated that she is currently serving as resource for the black community and offered to help with publicity in any way possible.
- The Chairman asked Publicity Chairperson Nancy Burch to get an updated local publications listing in order to submit information to publicize the Commission activities such as the regional workshops, and to raise awareness of the group.
- Loretta Williams spoke to recognize the volunteer efforts of Chris Varela s’ volunteer efforts for a Marker dedication and a BBQ fundraiser to pay for the marker.
- Francita Ulmer presented an Allen Ranch marker update. Sponsored by the Atlantic Richfield Co. thirty years ago, the marker has disappeared.
- Jason Fuller reported that he is working on a marker for the Beaconsfield Apartments building, which was built in 1909.
- The Chairman led a discussion about an Oral History project the City of Houston is sponsoring. The city has a \$500,000 grant for developing a black oral history collection. The results are to be deposited at the Gregory School (not the Metropolitan Archives).

The Chairman reviewed the results of the 2008 annual membership survey. He stated that the survey is not complete and urged all members to take the survey if they had not already done so.

Dr. Edward Chen made a motion to adjourn, Nancy Burch seconded that motion, motion carried. A tour of the recently remodeled Clayton facilities followed.

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Submitted by Beverly B. McMahan, Secretary

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Accepted by Patrick Van Pelt, Chairman

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Attendance at the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting:

HCHC Members Present:

Susan Armstrong  
Louis Aulbach  
Jim Bailey  
Darrell Beck  
Ann Dunphy Becker  
Trevia Wooster Beverly  
Gina Bouchard  
Nancy Burch  
Elbann Boulard Burrell  
Shelby Rulf Cantrell  
Cheryle Cavitt  
Ed Chen  
Bob Coller  
Joel Draut  
Gayle Davies  
Robert De Berardinis  
Jan DeVault  
Ralph Dittman  
Barbara Eaves  
Jim Fisher  
Jim Ford  
Linda Frost  
Jason Fuller  
Willie Lee Gay  
Jim Glass  
Will Howard  
Beverly B. McMahan  
Thomas McWhorter  
Bernice Mistrot  
DeEtte Nesbitt  
David Pomeroy  
Keith Rosen  
Wally Saage  
Frank Salzhandler  
Paul Scott  
Debra Blacklock Sloan  
Joseph Strange  
Anne Thomas  
Francita Stuart Ulmer  
Patrick Van Pelt  
Chris Varela  
Janet Wagner  
Loretta Martinez Williams

Guests:

Jill Jasso  
Candy Kasserman Howard of Judge Emmett's office  
Richard Frost  
Kim Yancey of Councilman Garcia's office

*Posted Agenda for Meeting*

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**Harris County Historical Commission  
2009-2010**

1st Quarterly Meeting  
Saturday, February 7, 2009

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Clayton Library - New Carriage House

**WELCOME**

1. INTRODUCTION OF SUSAN KAUFMAN, DIRECTOR OF CLAYTON LIBRARY CENTER FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH
2. INTRODUCE CANDY KASSERMAN with greetings from County Judge Emmett
3. WELCOME TO VISITORS
4. INTRODUCTION OF NEW HCHC MEMBERS
5. INTRODUCTION OF HCHC MEMBERS
6. MOTION: To elect Beverly McMahan as HCHC Secretary.
7. INTRODUCTION OF NEW OFFICERS
8. INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND CHAIRMAN
9. MINUTES OF THE 4th QTR, 2007
10. \*\* MOTION: To ratify the decisions made at the 4th Quarter, 2007, meeting.
11. \*\* MOTION: To accept the minutes of the 4th Quarter, 2007, meeting.
12. REVIEW 2008 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS.
13. GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ADJOURN**

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