



Smith County Historical Commission
Meeting Agenda
Date: August 12, 2025
Time: 1:30pm

Location: Commissioner Courtroom, Smith County Annex Building: 200 E Ferguson St, Tyler, TX

1. Call to Order
2. Consider Approval of Minutes
3. Reports from Officers
4. Reports from Committee Chairs
5. Old Business
 - 5.1. Smith County Historical Sites Atlas
 - 5.2. Camp Ford
 - 5.2.1. Organization Meeting (Sabota)
 - 5.2.2. Fence Repair Project/Workshop (Thacker)
6. New Business
 - 6.1. Archeology Day at Camp Ford (Herterich/McMakin)
 - 6.1.1. Potential dates, activities, partner organizations.
 - 6.2. Discuss CHC input, ideas for new courthouse plaza design. (Herterich)
 - 6.2.1. Markers, Maxwell water fountain, Lady liberty, etc.
 - 6.3. Section 106, invitations to consult
 - 6.3.1. EIS for Toll 49 Segment 6 from SH 110 to US 271 (accepted)
 - 6.3.2. Construction of 196' cell tower @ 15817 Hwy 64 W (declined)
7. Work Session for the listing of agenda items to be discussed at the next meeting.
8. Adjourn

Date: 8-8-2025

Time: 2pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Conor Herterich".

Conor Herterich, Chair

Smith County Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: 10 June 2025

Time: 1:30 pm

Location: Commissioners' Courtroom, Smith County Annex Building: 200 East Ferguson Street, Tyler, TX

Commissioners Present: Conor Herterich, Mark Thacker, Todd McMakin, Charles Turner, Jud Bailiff, Larry Wade, Kevin McCall, Dorothy Franks.

Meeting called to order at by Mr. Herterich at 1:31 pm with a quorum being present.

Mr. Wade requested that the words “No Report” be deleted from the Cemetery Committee report since a report had been given. **Mr. McMakin made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Seconded by Mr. Wade. Motion carried.**

Officer Reports:

Vice Chairman: Mr. McMakin reported that there would be a presentation by representatives from the county technology team later in the meeting dealing with the development of the interactive website.

Treasurer Report: Nothing to report.

Secretary Report: Nothing to report.

Committee Reports:

Subject Marker Committee: Mr. Thacker reported that there was nothing new to report—no marker applications had been submitted. He expressed a concern that no one is aware of the availability of the SCHC to assist with the applications process.

Mr. Wade reported that he was aware of an application submitted or in the process of being submitted by members of the Masonic Lodge on Queen Street. He said that he understood the application had been submitted online for the building in which they meet. Mr. Thacker said he was aware of an application from a Masonic Lodge but that it was not complete. Mr. Herterich recommended that in the future anyone having information about an application refer the applicant to Mr. Thacker and Vickie Betts who are members of the Subject Marker Committee. Since the deadline has passed for submission, applications can be made but they will not be processed until next year.

Mr. McMakin questioned if there is a plan for markers for the buildings that were demolished to construct the new courthouse. Mr. Wade said that he was of the understanding that the markers taken down to allow for the construction would be put back in place upon completion of the project. Mr. Herterich reported that the county is working on plans for the plaza area around the new courthouse that would include placement of the Markers. Mr. McMakin stated that the county is working on a plan for the courthouse area and that we should work with them on that plan. Mr. Wade questioned if it would be appropriate for the SCHC to go on record and recommend that markers be placed for the buildings that

were demolished on the East side of the square. Mr. McCall asked if we knew where the markers that have been removed are located and if that is a concern. **Motion made by Mr. McMakin, Seconded by Ms. Franks, to contact Judge Franklin to present and discuss the interpretation of the Court House Block (Block 4). Motion carried.**

Mr. Thacker posed the question of the need to keep a list of the potential markers for future reference. Also, Mr. Thacker mentioned Henry Griffin, a deputy U.S. Marshall that was killed in Smith County in 1872 as a potential marker. It was believed he was killed in Galveston but it has been determined that he was killed in Tyler and buried in Oak Wood Cemetery. The question is, where should that marker go?

Finance Committee: No report.

Cemetery Committee: Mr. Wade said he had nothing to report other than a need to get with the committee on some GPR work in Oakwood Cemetery to survey section 8 in the cemetery—almost all of the markers were destroyed. This is in conjunction with the Oakwood Restoration Committee of which Mr. Wade is a member.

Outreach and Coordination Committee: Mr. McCall reported that all is quiet on that front.

Camp Ford Committee: Mr. McCall reported that things are moving and the clean-up is in progress. Mr. Thacker mentioned that the Smith County Historical Society is planning for a workshop led by Randy Gilbert on how to construct historic split rail fencing. The event will be held in October and there is a possibility that Preservation Texas will be involved. Perhaps the event can be recorded in the form of a documentary as the split rail fence is restored. Interest was expressed in having local media involvement to increase the visibility of the SCHC.

Old Business:

County Website and Smith County Historic Sites Atlas: Ethan Robinson and Phil Berkart from the Smith County IT Department presented an update on the website and development of the Smith County Historic Sites Atlas and demonstrated some of the features already in place. Mr. Robinson explained that the Atlas is a work in progress and encouraged Commission members to provide input as to what data is of interest. Mr. Herterich suggested that we should do a press release when the system “goes live”

Camp Ford: Mr. Sabota was not present but still working on a meeting.

Donations to SCHC: Mr. Herterich reported that there has been no answer concerning how donations will be handled.

East Texas Council of Governments and other outreach: No report.

New Business: Mr. Herterich suggested that we start meeting bimonthly for the remainder of the year on the second Tuesday of the month. The remaining meetings will be on the following dates: August 12th, October 14th, and December 16th. **Mr. Bailiff made a motion to meet bimonthly (every two months),**

Second by Mr. Herterich. Mr. Wade asked to clarify that additional meeting can be called by the chairman as needed in accordance with the bylaws. **The motion carried.**

Work Session: Mr. Wade presented for further discussion later his concern for the need for more museum display space. He suggested the old YMCA building as a possibility. Mr. Wade also announced that Northeast Texas Connect's next meeting will be held on 20 September from 12:00 noon to 4:00pm at Jarvis Christian University.

Adjourned: 3:06pm



Conor Herterich, Chairman

Charles Turner, Secretary