

TIME CAPSULE

Newsletter of the **FORT BEND ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

An affiliate of the Fort Bend History Association

600 Houston Street / Richmond, TX 77469, 281-342-6478 ext. 1301

January 2023, Volume 31, Number 1



Notice: Important Meeting Changes for 2023

Greetings and Happy New Year,

The Fort Bend Archeological Society is making changes!! For years we've met for a monthly speaker and our attendance numbers were traditionally modest, but we noticed that after the pandemic, interests changed and attendance declined further. So starting in 2023, we've shifted the model a little bit.

- First and foremost, we want our speakers to focus exclusively on regional archeology (Texas and neighboring regions) - tightening our focus to more align with our mission and the mission of the Fort Bend History Association. We also noticed more visitors came out when we talked about Texas archeology or history.
- Second, we want our speakers to focus on broader topics so that we can attract new people to archeology. In other words, we want to focus a wider topical lens on each of the regions as we anticipate larger audiences who have less of a background in professional archeology.
- Third, moving forward, **we will only host in person meetings on a quarterly basis (February 21, May 15, August, and November 14).** Fewer meetings each year will allow us to both pay speaker expenses (such as hotel rooms and fuel reimbursements) as well as allow us to spend money for marketing to attract broader audiences (and making it worth the time for a speaker to travel to Richmond, TX).
- Lastly, over a 2 - 3 year period, our goal is to get speakers from every region within Texas and at least a couple of speakers from neighboring regions (such as Mexico, Louisiana, Oklahoma, etc.). Our goal is to bring people from those regions here so we can bring these stories to a new audience in our region.

Do you know of anyone you would like to present at a meeting?

- If you know speakers who might be willing to travel to Richmond to present to our society, please let us know. Reasonable expenses can and will be covered. Meetings are always at 7:00 pm.

Remember, our next in person meeting will be February 21 at the Fort Bend Museum at 7:00 pm.
We already are lining up someone you will enjoy hearing.

Please reach out if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you,

Paul Spana
President

Field Notes

Excavation Site - FBAS volunteers continue to investigate a historic homesite near Richmond. Want a closer look? We dig every Saturday morning and welcome all new volunteers - come join us, or just come out to watch!



Above left, Bruce Grethen is keeping the walls of the pit smooth and vertical. Just as important as it is to keep the pit floor smooth and level, the walls must be smooth also. Doing so allows archeologists to see strata or changes in different soil types and color. John Rich, on the right, is also working to ensure the edge of the pit floor is a straight line.

Below left, you see where we left off with Pit L61. At 32 " deep we begin to see a color change in part of the pit floor. Here it is outlined with yellow lines to show the edges of the different colored area. The difference is subtle, but it will become much more obvious in the next few inches. Have a teenager in high school needing volunteer hours? Come out as Sarah Spana did and have fun earning hours for school.





Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2023

The Fort Bend Archeological Society met at the Fort Bend Museum, Richmond, TX.
In attendance were 15 members.

President Paul Spana, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes from November 15, 2022 - No objections, minutes stand as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of December 9, 2022 is \$5,425.05 - No objections, Treasurer's Report is accepted.

Old Business:

- Excavation work continues at the Lamar site. FBAS members continue to investigate possible root cellar at the Lamar home site.

New Business:

- There will not be monthly in person meetings in 2023. This is due to a decline in attendance and difficulty in finding speakers for each month. There will be one in person meeting with a speaker each quarter. The FBAS officers will continue to meet virtually each month to discuss business.
- Officer nominations for 2023 are:

President	Paul Spana
Vice President	Rich Murphy
Secretary	Kevon Hunter
Treasurer	Claire Rogers
Board member 1	Bruce Grethen
Board member 2	David Rose
Board member 3	Jay Roussel
Membership Coordinator	Open position

- No new nominations from those in attendance came forward when asked. FBAS members voted in the officers for next year.

Announcements:

- Claire Rogers, executive director of the Fort Bend History Association, has retired. She was recognized for her great support of the archeological society. Claire will continue volunteering as the society's treasurer.

Meeting adjourned around 7:21 p.m. and then the Christmas dinner started.

Minutes submitted by Kevon Hunter

Treasurer's Report

Balance as of October 11, 2022	\$5,266.01
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1986	10/17/2022	Derry Webb	speaker honorarium	- 75.00
1987	10/17/2022	Paul Spana	supplies	- 26.96
1988	11/15/2022	VOID	speaker fee declined	

Deposit	12/8/2022	FBHA/Chevron	match for Jay Roussel	+240.00
			FBAS report sale +	

Deposit	12/9/2022	Sale and donation	donation	+21.00
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Balance as of January 11, 2023	\$5,425.05
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Submitted by
Claire Rogers, Treasurer