



Travis County Historical Commission

TRAVIS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION Minutes of September 8, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Barry Hutcheson called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. As there was no quorum present, no official action could be taken.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barry Hutcheson, Patti Hansen, Margie Alford, David White, Marty Moulthrop, Bob Ward, Rosemary Morrow, Adrienne Isom and Carolyn Jones.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Beare, Vonnye Rice-Gardner, Margarine Beaman, Faith Weaver, Nora Jackson, May Schmidt, Vicky Worsham, Nancy Hamilton, Sarah Harriman, and Jane Manaster.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS: None.

CALL, RECEIVE INFORMATION, TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON:
Introduction of new members and guests: none.

Approval of minutes of June 9, 2010: These have been received by the members; however, no action taken due to lack of a quorum.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

May Schmidt resigned as Commission secretary, effective in June, 2010. Marty Moulthrop will serve in the position through December.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on July 6, 2010, several budget needs were discussed. Funds are needed for small items, such as the Chisholm Trail project, County History Day, and possible costs of right-of-way permits for historical markers. This fee has been paid by marker sponsors in most cases, but they are under no obligation to do so. Markers are maintained by the County (meaning this Commission), but costs such as licensing agreement fees and marker installations by bonded contractors can run into hundreds of dollars. In other budget news, Treasurer Nancy Hamilton has purchased a digital camera for use by the Commission for dedications, etc. Plans are to acquire a sander soon for refurbishing the markers.

Former member Bruno Schmidt will be 100 years old on January 13, 2011 and the Commission plans some sort of tribute. Margie Alford has written an article about him for submission to The

Medallion, the THC's newsletter. Schmidt's book, "Early Church History", was published by this Commission in 2001; Margie will try to get a copy from Schmidt's daughter, Ruth Dyar.

Help is needed to research the two Travis County marker topics approved by the THC in June. (Neither was submitted by this Commission.) These are known as MAFs, Marker Application Fund-financed markers on untold or undertold topics. Bob Ward will work on the narrative for the Dr. Lewis and Carolyn Mitchell House at 1193 San Bernard Avenue. Adrienne Isom will help with the research for the All-Woman Supreme Court. These are due November 30th.

The change of meeting time to 5:30 p.m. was discussed. No action was taken.

Membership renewals: Barry hopes to get all renewal forms completed and to the County Commissioners by November, in the hopes that all may be approved at once.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Nancy Hamilton--Absent.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT: Marty Moulthrop

The submission for 2011 markers began September 1 and ends November 15. No applications have been received to date; however, there are several known to be coming in later this month. Since the last meeting, the marker texts for the Scarbrough House and the Confederate Men's Home have been approved and those markers are now at the foundry.

Patti Hansen suggested that the dates for the 2011 marker application period be posted on the County website. The members felt this should be done as soon as possible.

DEDICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: David White

There will be two marker dedications on October 23rd: Rose Hill Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. and the Sing Family Home at 2:00 p.m. David will check with the sponsors to see if they would like these events posted on the County website.

Together with May Schmidt, David refinished the Gault Homestead marker in July.

David reported that Nancy Hamilton donated several pieces of equipment and tools for installing markers.

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Margie Alford

Margie reported that the proclamation for Bruno Schmidt was prepared for addition to the website; however, it has never appeared.

PROJECTS: Patti Hansen

African-American Schools: Vonnys Rice-Gardner is attempting to get together with Margarine Beaman to review the images. Jane Manaster and others have done some editing of the text.

Mexican-American Schools: Vonnys has contacted Bishop Vasquez and several local parishes to publicize this project. Patti Hansen reviewed the flyer and questionnaire to be used for researchers interviewing former students in the schools. She said she would re-send the flyers,

list of questions and volunteer list to the members. Adrienne Isom stated that AISD has records on many former schools in the district that might be worth checking. Volunteers are still needed to research the former schools.

History of the Travis County Historical Commission: Bill Beare – absent.

By-Law Revisions: None.

Travis County Website: The FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) which members worked on last year have not yet been added. Patti will check on this, as well as see about posting dedication dates and marker deadlines.

Essay Contest Report: In a report submitted by Vonnye Rice-Gardner it was noted that this fall's contest will be held at either the Riverside or Eastview campus of ACC. As of this date, 35 students have signed up to participate, with 7 students from last year.

Bob Ward stated that a former Commission member, Mrs. Jeanette Flachmeier, has left a bequest in the amount of \$3000 to the Commission to be used for teaching history to elementary and middle school students. Margarine Beaman received the check. Rosemary stated that this money can be put to good use in the area of education.

Margarine Beaman has several boxes of CHC records and is looking for the appropriate site to store them. Barry noted that the County Archives office now has some space on Airport Boulevard that might be suitable, which will be available in January, 2011.

Certified Local Government (CLG): Bob Ward reported that the Northeast Travis County Historical Survey has been completed by Hicks & Company and the final report has been approved by the Texas Historical Commission. It is hoped that the webteam can provide a link to the report on the County website. The next CLG project will be a historical survey of Webberville – the corridor between Manor and the Colorado River. The CLG Committee is planning to seek a grant to pay for this project.

OTHER BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE:

Bob Ward reported that UT has a grant to develop an interactive website (“Historical Survey Web Tool”) that will provide a comprehensive survey of historic resources in Austin. Initiated by Dr. Micheal Holleran in the UT School of Architecture, the project is being produced by PhD students in the UT School of Information, under Dr. Gary Geisler. The finished product will allow users to locate a property for study and to submit research on it to the website. The survey can be extended to County sites in future phases.

Dale Flatt has sponsored the successful application for Oakwood Cemetery to be designated as a Historic Texas Cemetery.

Rutlege Cave (41TV27), near Cedar Park, has been designated a State Archeological Landmark.

There is a historical designation pending for Maxey Cemetery, located off FM 2322 near Briarcliff.

We received a memo from Judge Biscoe regarding a proposal for a “coffee table” book on Travis County. The members stated that they are not interested, based on previous similar proposals.

We received an email inquiry from the website regarding the Esperanza School, which was on Burnet Road north of Koenig Lane. Another website inquiry was about a fallen deputy, a Mr. Banks, who died in 1873.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Manchaca-Onion Creek Historical Association will meet on September 11 at San Leanna Community Center in Manchaca. The speaker will be Richard D. Kidd, from the Hays CHC, who will present a program entitled “Captain Jack – The Story of John Coffee Hays”.

October is Texas Archeology Month. Travis County events include an archeology day at the French Legation Museum on October 30.

On October 15, the Hood’s Texas Brigade Association will hold a rededication ceremony on the Capitol grounds at 2:00 for the Hood’s Brigade monument, which is 100 years old.

Also on October 15, Travis County History Day will feature former State Historian Frank de la Teja. Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Place: Commissioners Courtroom in the Ned Granger Building.

On October 21, the El Camino Real group will have a meeting and program at Apache Pass, located on FM 908 between Thorndale and Rockdale.

The annual conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation will be held in Austin from October 27-30. The Hilton Austin Hotel will be the conference headquarters. Other venues will include the Driskill Hotel, the Paramount Theatre and the Long Center for the Performing Arts.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marty Moulthrop