



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. in the Granger Building (County Commissioners' Courtroom), Austin, Texas.

Chairman Barry Hutcheson called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. and determined that there was a quorum present.

Members in attendance: Barry Hutcheson, Nancy Hamilton, May Schmidt, Laraine Lasdon, Carolyn Jones, Bill Beare, Sarah Harriman, Marty Moulthrop, Margie Alford, Bob Ward and Patti Hansen.

Absent members: David White, Vonnye Rice-Gardner, Margarine Beaman, Adrienne Isom, Nora Jackson, Rosemary Morrow and Jane Manaster.

Minutes: The minutes of March 9, 2011, were approved with one small addition: that of the date at the top. They were approved as corrected.

Report from the Chair: A list of current standing committees was distributed among the members and they were asked to list their preferences for consideration. The committees are: Marker Dedications & Maintenance, Research, Projects, and Public Relations.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Hamilton stated that the balance remains the same as last month: \$2064.27. She has been notified by the County that equipment we have purchased with County money must have with a County identification tag. This includes the new sander and camera. She also reported that our new budget total will reflect the 5% decrease that all County departments are asked to work with for next fiscal year.

Research Committee: May Schmidt stated that this is the "down" time for historical marker applications. As for the RTHL Project, she reported that she and Bob have completed about 40, and Bob volunteered to record all those in rural areas of the county. They mentioned that when the French Legation is refurbished this fall, that would be a good time to clean their marker. Bob stated that he has the I-Phone application for longitude and latitude, which has been very helpful with this project. May is working on matching the RTHLs from the State and City Landmark lists.

Dedication Committee: Several members attended the dedication for the Merriltown Cemetery this past weekend. The replacement for the Confederate Men's Home on West 6th St. is now in place. The sponsors plan to schedule a dedication ceremony in the fall. The marker for the historic railroad depots downtown has not yet shipped; its sponsors hope to have a dedication this summer.

Public Relations: The new bookmarks have arrived and will be available at the next meeting.

Barry and Bob made a presentation on our CLG resource survey process at the recent State Historic Preservation Conference. Several members also attended the rally at Scholz's Garden in support of the continued existence of the Texas Historical Commission during this critical legislative session.

Projects: No reports on the African American Schools, as Jane and Margarine are absent. Patti Hansen reported that most of the activities we listed on the Travis County Historical Commission website have taken place. Please let her know of any events coming up. No report on the Essay Contest.

CLG Committee: a grant of \$4,900 has been received from the National Park Service and will be matched by Travis County. This is for the Webberville Corridor Project and is our 4th successful grant application.

Announcements:

Gethsemane Lutheran Church on Anderson Lane is being considered for National Register status, pending the State Board of Review meeting in May.

The Georgia Site is up for designation as a State Archeological Landmark.

Bob has been attending meetings on the Ransom Williams Homestead, an early African American farm in south Travis County. He stated that this site requires further research for public education purposes, some of which has been done at UT.

Margie Alford will talk to Steven Broberg about getting the word out for the dedication of the railroad depots marker. The City will participate as well.

New Business: Bob Ward moved that we buy a GPS system with some of the remaining money in our budget. This will be of great help with the RTHL project and future projects. The motion was seconded by Sarah Harriman and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Moulthrop, Recording Secretary