



Travis County Historical Commission

Minutes of May 11, 2011

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. in the Granger Building (County Commissioners' Courtroom), Austin, Texas. Chairman Barry Hutcheson called the meeting to order at 5:06 and determined that there was a quorum present.

Members in attendance: Barry Hutcheson, Nancy Hamilton, May Schmidt, Nora Jackson, Bill Beare, Patti Hansen, Bob Ward, Sarah Harriman, Margie Alford, Adrienne Isom, and Marty Moulthrop. Absent: David White, Vonnys Rice-Gardner, Margarine Beaman, Carolyn Jones, Rosemary Morrow, Laraine Lasdon and Jane Manaster. Guest: Daryl Rivon

Barry announced the resignation of Jane Manaster, whose schedule does not permit her to continue as a member. The members accepted her resignation with regret.

Minutes: The minutes of April 13 were approved with one correction, a duplicate word.

Report from the Chair:

Barry urged the members to continue to advocate for the THC. Bob, Patti, May and Adrienne went to a gathering at the THC today in support of the National Trust's project called "This Place Matters". They joined THC staff and other preservationists in a group photo taken in front of the THC which will be submitted to the National Trust as part of this project.

The memorial service for Bruno Schmidt was May 1. Barry noted that Bill is now the senior member of TCHC. Bill estimated that he became a member in 1977.

The Paulsen-Sing House has received a City marker. It received a State marker last year under the name of The Sing Family Home.

Texas State History Day, sponsored annually by the Texas State Historical Association, was held on May 7. It features multi-media entries by middle and high school students on Texas history. May and Margie were among the judges this year. Barry urged all members to participate next year.

Committee assignments cannot be made until Barry has received preferences from all members. The Executive Committee might meet in June and assign members to committees.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy reported that the balance is unchanged. A copy of her report is attached to the record copy of these minutes. She also noted that she must report to the County

on the number of markers we processed last year, the number of volunteer hours, reports published, and any markers we sponsored.

Research Committee:

May reported that the THC is sponsoring marker workshops around the state, with the closest location being San Marcos in August. She will notify the members when the meeting is announced, in case anyone would like to attend with her.

Marty announced that the marker text for the Littig Cemetery (10TV08) has been finalized and it is at the factory.

RTHL Project: May reported that she and Bob have documented close to 50 of the RTHL markers in Travis County; this is about one-third of the total. They have found that several need repair or are missing.

Undocumented Markers: The Mitchell House narrative prepared by Preservation Texas intern Sunny Howard has been received by Barry. He will review it and forward to the Research Committee for their review.

Dedications Committee: No dedications this month.

Marker Maintenance: Barry reported that the City has inquired as to the ownership of a memorial marker located in the medial strip at 12th and Colorado Streets. It was erected by the Texas Historical and Biographical Society in 1938, and the back side of it features a bronze bas-relief done by Italian sculptor Hugo Villa. The marker is dedicated to Texas pioneers.

Public Relations Committee: Margie has spoken with Steven Broberg and they believe that Sean Malone of the County Archives office should be invited to attend our meetings. The members agreed and Barry will write and invite him.

Projects Committee:

African-American Schools: Jane Manaster has promised to submit her final revisions, even though she has resigned.

History of Travis CHC: Bill hopes to present a compilation of what he has found in September.

By-Laws Revision: Barry has made some progress.

Travis CHC Website: Patti reported that last month's minutes have been posted.

Essay Contest: all dates for the fall contest have been set.

CLG Committee: Bob reported that contracts for the Webberville Corridor Project between THC and Travis County have been signed; he will hand-deliver copies to County offices. He will also meet with the County accounting office to put together figures for the Request for Proposal.

The Ransom Williams Homestead was also discussed, and there may be funding for educational activities in relation to this early African-American farm south of Austin. Archeologist Doug

Boyd has done some work there and May has arranged for him to speak about it to the members at our September meeting.

Correspondence, Other Business:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is applying for designation as a Historic Texas Cemetery.

Barry noted that the website included an email from a citizen seeking information on the namesake of Parmer Lane. He assigned it to Bill Beare for reply.

Bob stated that a GPS system would be most useful for documenting marker locations. Motion: May moved that we authorize up to \$200 for the purchase of a GPS system. Motion seconded by Sarah and passed. Bob will send specifications to Nancy and she will coordinate the purchase with the County.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Moulthrop, Recording Secretary