



## Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, at 5:00 p.m. in the County Commissioners' Courtroom, first floor, Granger Building, Austin, Texas. Chairman Barry Hutcheson called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. A quorum was declared at 5:15 p.m.

Roll Call: Members present: Marty Moulthrop, Sarah Harriman, Bob Ward, Adrienne Isom, Barry Hutcheson, Patti Hansen, May Schmidt, Rosemary Morrow and Nora Jackson. Members absent: Bill Beare, David White, Vonnys Rice-Gardner, Margarine Beaman, Carolyn Jones, Marjorie Alford and Nancy Hamilton.

Guests: Barry introduced Doug Boyd of Prewitt and Associates, Inc., who gave a presentation about the Ransom and Sarah Williams Farmstead project. This project has both archeological and oral history components and is an important opportunity to document a neglected aspect of local history. He discussed the possibility of an exhibit at the Carver Museum, as well as the Bullock Museum. Rosemary Morrow suggested a small traveling exhibit to Austin schools.

Minutes: The minutes of the June 8, 2011, meeting were approved as previously e-mailed to all members.

Report from the Chair: The Executive Committee met during the summer and the consensus was that we need to increase our membership. Barry proposed that the County Judge and Commissioners be requested to appoint five members each, rather than four. He appointed Sarah and Rosemary to comprise a new Membership Committee and work on identifying and soliciting new members. They will report next month. A membership application has been received from Danny Camacho, who attended a TCHC meeting last year. Barry will follow up on this.

Margie Alford proposed that we give some sort of recognition or award to Camp Mabry for the restoration of buildings on the post. The Executive Committee agreed that a Certificate of Merit be given to worthy recipients from time to time.

Treasurer's Report: no changes

Research Committee: May Schmidt reported that she and Vonnys attended a THC workshop on cemetery designations and historical markers in August. Inscriptions for the Matsen House and Zeta Tau Alpha House historical markers have been approved and sent to the foundry for casting. Two Untold Story markers were approved from Travis County: The Gant Family and the Mitchell House. The latter marker is being shipped to THC and they are negotiating on its location. The Brackenridge Hospital marker is being moved from 601 E. 15<sup>th</sup> (north side of the building) to the west entrance. THC has been notified and approved the move. The marker for

the HT&C and I&GN railroads has been received by the Austin Steam Train Association and they are storing it until it can be installed (probably 2013).

May has been contacted about RTHL marker applications for 604 W. 11<sup>th</sup> St. (Ted Siff) and Pease Elementary School (already has a subject marker). The following are interested in subject markers: Vernagene Mott, Pflugerville ISD; Howard Anderson, Manor United Methodist Church; Vonye Rice-Gardner, Holy Cross Catholic Church Community. She is hopeful that the Commission can take action on these applications in October.

May mentioned that she visited a historic farmstead (1855) in Lee County and gave information and photos to Bob Brinkman at THC.

Projects Committee: Patti Hansen reported that the new County website is up and running. The East Austin CLG Survey is now posted there.

Markers Committee: In David's absence, Barry reported that there are two dedications scheduled for October: Littig Cemetery on October 1 and Confederate Veterans' Home Site on October 22. Both ceremonies will be at 11:00 a.m. Members are urged to attend.

Public Relations Committee: In Margie's absence, Barry announced that Travis County History Day will be October 21, 2011, at 11:00 a.m. Location will be the County building at 700 Lavaca and the program will be on elected county officials. Many ex-officials are expected to attend.

CLG Committee: Bob reported that he, May and Vonye are working on a grant application to facilitate an educational outreach program for the Ransom Williams Farmstead.

Correspondence and Other Business: Barry reported the following THC updates: the national headquarters building of Delta Kappa Gamma, at 416 W. 12<sup>th</sup>, has been nominated for the National Register. The Georgia Site has been declared a State Archeological Landmark. Bethlehem Lutheran Church Cemetery has been designated a historic cemetery. The Gregg Cemetery near Manor has requested a historic cemetery application.

A message from Zenobia Joseph was received at our TCHC phone number, asking for information on the essay contest.

Bob mentioned that he has sent a copy of Bruno Schmidt's book to every church covered in the book.

Announcements: May reminded members that October is Texas Archeology Month and the Archeology Fair will be held on October 16, 2011, at the French Legation, with activities and fun for all.

After much discussion, it was decided to change the meeting time back to 5:30 p.m., starting next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Moulthrop, Recording Secretary

