



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, October 12, 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 5:30 p.m.

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

Guest: John Donisi was present as sponsor of the RTHL application for Pease Elementary School, which is up for approval today. He offered to answer any questions members might have about the application.

Minutes: The minutes of September 14, 2011, were approved as e-mailed to the members, on a motion by Rosemary Morrow and seconded by Sarah Harriman.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Hamilton reported that there is no change. A copy of her report is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

Research Committee: May Schmidt presented the marker application for Pflugerville ISD. It has been pre-reviewed by Bob Brinkman at THC and revised in accordance with his suggestions. May recommended the members approve this application. As there were no objections, she will send it on to THC. An RTHL application has been received for Westgate Condominiums, which is already a National Register site. May recommended approval and there were no objections. After determining what size marker is desired she will forward this application to THC. The application for Pease Elementary School for RTHL designation only lacks two floor plans, which Mr. Donisi stated are forthcoming. May recommended approval of this application pending receipt of the floor plans. There were no objections.

It is expected that an RTHL application for 604 W. 11th St. will be submitted at the November meeting. Also, the Holy Cross Catholic Church community is working on their history, with the help of Vonnye Rice-Gardner. If it cannot be completed before the November deadline, the THC suggested it could be submitted as an "untold story" marker. Two possible applications for next year are the Haskell House (Clarksville) and Zavala Elementary School.

Project Committee: Rosemary reported that the students at ACC are preparing for this year's Essay Contest; she suggested we help with refreshments for the reception, which will be in December. While we are not allowed to use Commission funds for refreshments, members agreed that we could pay for award certificates for the winners.

Markers Committee: David White noted that several members attended the marker dedication at Littig Cemetery on October 1. The next dedication is October 22 for the Confederate Men's Home at 6th and Campbell Streets at 11:00 a.m. Members will be receiving an invitation. David also suggested that the Commission purchase a gas-powered auger for use in installing marker poles. He will give Nancy a spec sheet for this item. The total cost is estimated to be around \$400. David reported that the marker maintenance project will start again with the return of cooler weather. He will send members a prioritized list of markers requiring repair and/or cleaning.

Public Relations Committee: Margie reported that she has written to the architectural historian at Camp Mabry in regard to our desire to recognize their efforts to refurbish the historic 1910 barracks there. The historian indicated she will give Margie and Barry a tour of the site. Members expressed their desire to be included on the tour and Margie will check on this. She has talked to folks at the San Antonio Conservation Society about examples of the awards they give, as well as the style and frequency of awards. Barry stated that he will notify the THC that we are considering an awards project.

County History Day is Friday, October 21. Members are encouraged to attend the program, to be held at the new County building at 700 Lavaca. The Commission has agreed to purchase the nametags for this event.

CLG Committee: Bob reported that he and Barry are urging the County to put out a draft of the Request for Proposal soon for the Webberville grant so that a contractor can be hired. Also, regarding the Ransom Williams Homestead, a meeting was held to organize materials for a grant application. The funds would be used for educational outreach, based on oral histories, primary documents, etc. Adrienne suggested requesting grant monies from the LCRA as well.

Correspondence: Barry has received notice that a lawsuit claiming denial of due process has been filed against the THC by the West Point Historical Society, in connection with the Mt. Bonnell marker (They claim it should be named after Joseph Bonnell instead of George). He received a registered letter from WPHS member Sel Graham asking to present their argument to the Commission again. After discussion, Barry said he would reply that unless something has changed, we will not re-hear this application, which appears to be based on circumstantial evidence.

A request was received from the Travis County Sheriff's office concerning a training course outlining events that have affected jail safety. They are looking for information on the 1855 jailhouse fire. Barry recommended they check with the Austin History Center.

Announcements: October is Texas Archeology Month and events will be held at McKinney Falls on the 15th, the French Legation on the 16th, and a tour of Oakwood Cemetery on the 29th.

October is Texas Archives Month – it was suggested we tour the State Archives at a future date, as well as the General Land Office.

Texas Tejano Month is September 15 to October 15. Rudy Rodriguez was honored this year.

Bob Ward announced tht Save Austin's Cemeteries is planning a Heritage Day next April. He asked if the Commission would be a sponsor of this event. He will have more information next month.

There will be a seminar at the University of North Texas on Hood's Brigade November 11-12.

Bob stated that he has talked to Dale Flatt, a cemetery specialist, about joining the Comission and he is interested.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m. on a motion by Sarah, seconded by Rosemary.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Moulthrop

Secretary