



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, April 10, 2013, in the Multifunction Room C, 700 Lavaca Building, Austin, Texas. Chairman Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 5:31 and declared a quorum present.

Attendance: Present were Bill Beare, Nora Jackson, Danny Camacho, Shawn Malone, Patti Hansen, Bob Perkins, Barry Hutcheson, Bob Ward, Rosemary Morrow, Adrienne Rison-Isom and Teri Flack. Absent were Vonnys Rice-Gardner, Margarine Beaman, Marjorie Alford, May Schmidt, Jeannette Cook, Nancy Hamilton, Marty Moulthrop and David White.

Minutes: The minutes of March 13, 2013, were approved on a motion by Barry Hutcheson, seconded by Rosemary Morrow and Teri Flack (tie), and approved.

Report from the Chair: Bob Ward reported that Marty Moulthrop will chair the Public Relations committee and encouraged more member engagement on committees in general. Patti Hansen suggested quarterly committee meetings and an expanded website. Bob updated the Commission on the latest developments regarding the ongoing controversy over the namesake of Mount Bonnell. He noted that work remains to be done on the inventory of historical landmarks and markers with photos.

Treasurer's Report: No change from last month.

Research Committee: Chairman Ward reported that Vice-Chairman Schmidt had submitted her report via email, saying that untold stories marker applications can be submitted between May 1 and June 15, 2013. The Holy Cross community intends to submit an application. Pease School has decided to have their marker dedication in September.

Markers Committee: Chairman Ward said there were no additional updates on markers.

Projects Committee: Ms. Hansen described the need for a history of the Travis County Historical Commission. Mr. Beare noted that the decade from 1970 through 1980 was particularly difficult to document. Photos will be discussed, or taken, at the next Commission meeting. Mr. Hutcheson said that work on the by-laws is continuing as various versions are being reconciled. Ms. Morrow reported that the awards ceremony for the historic essay-poster contest is scheduled for April 30, 2013, at 10:30 AM, at the ACC Riverside campus in the Student Life Center. Ms. Hansen described progress on the African American Schools book, and there was discussion of picking up informational materials from Ms. Beaman.

CLG Committee: Chairman Ward updated the Commission on the Williams farmstead project and the related grant. The idea to ask the African American Cultural Center to mount an exhibit on the project was discussed.

Correspondence and Other Business: An announcement was made that Vice Chairman Schmidt had scheduled a tour of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Archeology Lab for Thursday April 18. Commission members were invited to attend and asked to RSVP in advance. Mr. Hutcheson reported on the next Travis County History Day, scheduled for October, with the topic "Law Enforcement." Teri Flack mentioned several bills under consideration by the state Legislature, including:

HB 3252 -- by Rep. Zerwas -- would close birth and death records for 125 and 50 years, respectively. Currently, they're closed for 75 and 25 years.

HB 3253 -- by Rep. Zerwas -- would require the state Bureau of Vital Statistics to match death records to birth records for everyone. Currently, they are only required to match for decedents under 55 years of age.

SB 881 -- by Sen. Ellis -- Would clarify that any information held by a state agency that is deemed confidential becomes public information after 75 years (except social security numbers, locations of archeological landmarks, and others).

SB 1536 -- by Sen. Van de Putte -- Would create the Texas Military Department. Of interest to historians is a section that would require this new department to preserve all historically significant military records or property in a military museum in Texas.

There being no additional comments by Commissioners, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Malone
Secretary