



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, June 12, 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.

Citizens' Communications: Guest Dan Hickox told the Commission about a worn historical plaque in front of the Paramount Theatre that needs refurbishing. The photo he circulated showed that the plaque had been placed by the Kiwanis Club.

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

Bertram Allen, Dan Hickox, Jane Rivera and Gilbert Rivera were introduced as guests at this month's meeting.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on May 8, 2013, were approved on a motion by Ms. Morrow, seconded by Ms. Alford.

Report from the Chair: Chairman Ward announced that this Saturday, June 15, there would be a "Ney Day" celebration at the Elisabet Ney Museum from noon until 5:00 PM featuring music and food.

It was noted that TXI is seeking advice on how to preserve the historic Hunter House in Webberville, and that a dinner was being planned for the Moore's Bridge/Inherit Austin event in the fall. One feature of the Moore's Bridge plan is to request relocating the historical marker to a more prominent spot, and Ms. Schmidt noted that there is a form to fill out to begin that process.

Chairman Ward also reported that plans for a cleanup and documentation of the Longview Cemetery were being developed, and that a University of Texas student would be invited to address the Commission on documentation of freedmen's colonies in Travis County.

Treasurer's Report: No change from last month. The cost for name badges for Commission members is \$9.50 each. Ms. Hansen moved that the Commission approve the purchase of nine badges; Ms. Schmidt seconded the motion and it was approved.

Research Committee: Ms. Flack, Ms. Schmidt and Ms. Rice-Gardner briefed the Commission on the Untold Marker application being developed for Downs Field. Ms. Schmidt summarized the

information that had been circulated to Commission members prior to the meeting, and Ms. Rice-Gardner shared additional context and reminiscences related to the application, which is due on Saturday, June 15th. Guests Jane and Gilbert Rivera provided additional details regarding the application. Ms. Schmidt moved that the Commission go on record in support of the application, noting that no second of her motion was required; the motion passed without objection. Guest Bertram Allen described his efforts to compile black Austin history. Ms. Schmidt and Ms. Rice-Gardner then distributed an updated narrative on the Holy Cross Church Untold Marker, and noted the robust involvement of the church in the community beyond traditional church functions. Ms. Schmidt moved that the Commission go on record in support of the Holy Cross application, noting that no second of her motion was required; her motion passed without objection.

Markers Committee: Mr. White said that there were no additional updates on markers. There was discussion of marker maintenance being performed by jail inmates or offenders sentenced to community service.

Projects Committee: Mr. Hutcheson urged Commission members to review the draft by-laws and send him comments. He touched on some of the key points and there was discussion of proposed provisions to remove Commission members who failed to come to meetings. Ms. Rice-Gardner said that there would be another essay contest in the fall, with the campus location to be determined. Chairman Ward said that with respect to the African-American Schools project, efforts would continue to collect the information necessary to make progress. Ms. Hansen suggested that the Commission website should add some information about the essay contest.

CLG Committee: Chairman Ward updated the status of grants project, sharing a copy of one of the paintings for the Williams homestead project and reporting that development of the curriculum was proceeding. Mr. Hutchison suggested that the Southeast Travis County Survey grant proposal be submitted a second time, since the first cycle had not yet been awarded.

Correspondence and Other Business: Chairman Ward described letters from the Texas Historical Commission finding no adverse effect on the historic 1906 Maple Avenue property due to proposed interior rehabilitation; and concurring with a determination that collocation of antennas on the Starr building (6th and Colorado) would have no adverse effect on historic properties. He noted that a letter had also been received inviting comments on a proposed telecommunications tower at 24509 Long Hollow Trail in Leander.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Malone
Secretary