



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, December 11, 2013, in Multifunction Room C, 700 Lavaca Building, Austin, Texas. Chairman Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 5:30 and declared a quorum present.

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

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on November 13, 2013 was made by Rosemary Morrow, seconded by Patti Hansen, and approved.

Report from the Chair: Progress continues on gaining access to two ranches on Old San Antonio Road where properties of historic interest will soon be developed into residential and commercial subdivisions. An oak forest on the Heep ranch will be razed by construction, and the goal is to use video and still photography to record conditions before the development begins.

Chairman Ward reported that there had been discussions with State Senator Kirk Watson regarding the ongoing controversy regarding the Mt. Bonnell plaque.

Rosemary Morrow said that the Riverside campus Historical Essay Contest event went well, with resource aides helping students with special needs. Patty Hansen said that the Eastview campus Historical Essay Contest had also taken place, and suggested that since the students do not write essays and there is no contest that maybe these events should be called something else.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion regarding the portion of the report dealing with Travis County taxpayer funds, as opposed to the Wells Fargo account, prompted plans to update the treasurer's report for the January 2014 meeting.

Research Committee: Commission member Teri Flack reported that four marker applications are pending, with the application fees paid timely and owner permissions secured. Word from Sarah McCleskey at the Texas Historical Commission was that production of markers by the foundry had been slowed by a staffing shortage. It was noted that the Haskell House dedication has been postponed until February. Patti Hansen suggested that a list of historical markers be circulated at the January 2014 meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission. She also suggested that a project dormant since 2010 be reactivated: A book about the Mexican-American Schools. There was discussion of a dedication ceremony on Feb. 16, 2014 for the St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church in Pflugerville, and of State of Texas Preservation Board concerns regarding a

stolen marker, and its replacement, on the State Capitol grounds. Barry Hutcheson said that the Commission by-laws had been drafted and would be emailed to the Commission members for review and comment.

Markers Committee: David White said that it would be time for spring cleaning to begin when the weather permits.

Special Projects Committee: Patti Hansen said that the Special Projects Committee continued its work on documenting the history of the Travis County Historical Commission. Bill Beare will make a five-minute presentation for the Commission at the January 2014 meeting.

Public Relations Committee: Marty Moulthrop said that Awards of Merit should be considered for newspaper columnist Michael Barnes, Hancock Center, and the African American Cultural Center.

CLG Committee: Chairman Ward noted that the southeast Travis County grant contract has been sent out for approval; this is a pass-through originating with the National Parks Service and the Texas Historical Commission.

Comments and Announcements: Teri Flack said that she would send out an article about the Tejano Trails Project.

Correspondence: Terracon and the Texas Historical Commission sent routine notices and invitations to comment on cell phone towers and similar issues with the potential to impact historic properties.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Malone
Secretary