



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at 700 Lavaca Street, Multifunction Room C, Austin, Texas. Commission Chair Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and declared a quorum present.

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

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on April 9 was made by Rosemary Morrow, seconded, and approved.

Report from the Chair: Bob Perkins described his continuing efforts to cultivate contacts who could be helpful scheduling a site visit to properties of historic interest on Old San Antonio Road. The goal would be to create video and still photography records of these sites prior to their development. Bob Ward plans to distribute a packet of information on the Mt. Bonnell marker for Commission members to read over the summer. The fiscal year 2015 budget proposal was submitted to the Planning and Budget Office.

Barry Hutchison reported on the recent Downs Field event. Vonnye Rice-Gardner said that a Downs descendent attended the event also.

An item will appear on the June agenda of the Historical Commission to vote on a recommendation to name a new County building.

Bob Ward noted that the proposed Capital Metro Saltillo corridor development footprint overlaps the lost freedman's community of Masontown. Might an Undertold Stories marker be an appropriate part of the new development project? Vonnye Rice-Gardner noted that the old Mason grocery was at the corner of Comal and 6th Street, inside the development area, and that the railroad tracks used to separate the white and black sections of that area's housing.

Treasurer's Report: Nora Jackson reported that the Wells Fargo account saw no change from last month's report, with the balance remaining at \$4,872. There was discussion of advice from the Travis County Attorney's Office regarding the depositing of all Historical Commission funds in the County treasury. Margarine Beaman and Bob Perkins plan to contact the County Attorney's office to discuss the advice and the requirements of the Wells Fargo funds, including conditions attached to bequests and the decades-long practice of managing these funds in an

account that separates them from the annual budget appropriation approved by the Commissioners Court.

Research Committee: Teri Flack noted that the deadline for Undertold Stories markers is June 15th, and that a one-page description of the need for a marker would suffice to meet the deadline. The Texas Historical Commission would pay for such a marker. Ms. Flack will represent the Commission at the Haskell House dedication ceremony scheduled for June 14. The All Saints Episcopal Church ceremony is scheduled for May 25th at 209 W. 27th street.

Teri Flack recapitulated the history of the narrative for the Downs Field marker, going back a year or so. Vonnye Rice-Gardner suggested that the Huston-Tillotson and AISD archives would be good sources of information.

Teri Flack noted that in September and November new applications for markers would be received.

Special Projects Committee: Commission member Bill Beare will make a presentation at some future meeting on the history of the Travis County Historical Commission. He noted that the Travis County Archivist has made more progress on researching this history during the last three months than had been made in the previous ten years. Rosemary Morrow and Margarine Beaman compared notes on the African American Schools draft book bibliography, noting that interview subjects are listed, but attributions are often missing. She suggests that a draft work in progress be posted on the Travis County Historical Commission website, soliciting public review and comment. Vonnye Rice-Gardner said “nothing is really new” on the essay contest. Vonnye Rice-Gardner and May Schmidt discussed ideas for accounting of funding/costs of materials and supplies. Margarine Beaman described a photo of key figures who helped shaped the history of Hispanic/Latino schools in Travis County, and said that some of these would be interviewed.

CLG Committee: Bob Ward said that Southwest Travis County Survey Grant contract would be considered on May 27th by the Commissioners Court.

Bob Perkins made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Barry Hutcheson. This motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Malone
Secretary