



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, April 9, 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 David White, Jeannette Cook, Marty Moulthrop, Patti Hansen, Adrienne Rison-Isom, May Schmidt, Danny Camacho, Bill Beare, Shawn Malone, Bob Perkins, Bob Ward, Rosemary Morrow, and Teri Flack. Barry Hutcheson, Marjorie Alford, Margarine Beaman, Nora Jackson, Vonnys Rice-Gardner and Nancy Hamilton were absent.

Introduction of Guest: Dan Hickox, military historian.

Minutes: A motion to approve the corrected minutes of the meeting on March 12 was made by Rosemary Morrow, seconded by Bob Perkins, and approved.

Report from the Chair: Bob Perkins said that he had new contact information that might be useful when scheduling a site visit to properties of historic interest on Old San Antonio Road. Hatsy Heep has the authority to grant access to certain sites, and he will continue to pursue permission. The goal would be to create video and still photography records of these sites prior to their development.

Bob Perkins and Bob Ward reported that they had met with representatives of the West Point Society again regarding the Mt. Bonnell marker, and mentioned a letter from Precinct 2 County Commissioner Bruce Todd. Another application will be received from this group, with new information, still seeking new language on a marker at this site. Bob Ward said that this summer he plans to ask three Historical Commission members to provide additional research and analysis of the issue. One hope would be to find three recognized historians of professional stature who have not yet opined on the competing stories for Mt. Bonnell historical markers. Judge Perkins and May Schmidt reviewed the various competing historical theories that have been discussed. It was noted that the City of Austin may work on a National Historic Registry designation for Mt. Bonnell.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Beare reported that the Wells Fargo account saw no change from last month's report. It was noted that a \$900 check (Travis County taxpayer funds) had been issued to fund half of a historical marker at the Hancock Recreation Center. There was a motion by Bob Perkins, seconded by Marty Moulthrop, to submit a request to the Commissioners Court for an increase in next year's budget of about \$500, enough to increase the marker budget sufficiently to pay for an entire marker. This motion was approved.

Research Committee: Teri Flack noted that all four pending markers approved by the Texas Historical Commission had been paid for, with drafts of inscriptions pending. There was discussion of a request by Charles Bergh, of the Travis County Parks Department, for assistance designing markers and kiosks for certain Travis County parks. Rosemary Morrow reported that the ceremony for the Texas Confederate Women's Home Marker had been held on March 22nd. There was discussion of a request for assistance regarding an RTHL marker (installation and ceremony) for the All Saints Episcopal Church. With the Haskell House dedication ceremony scheduled for June, the Travis County Historical Commission should be represented.

Markers Committee: David White has updated the markers spreadsheet – there are 448, with 18 shown as missing. Bob Ward reminded members that if, while driving around, a marker happens to be in view, we should pull over and take a picture of it.

Special Projects Committee: Commission member Bill Beare will make a presentation at some future meeting on the history of the Travis County Historical Commission. Rosemary Morrow is editing the African American Schools draft book, and notes that some background documentation is missing. 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.

Public Relations Committee: Marty Moulthrop reminded the membership to “Like” the Commission’s facebook page and mentioned various issues pertaining to the website.

CLG Committee: Bob Ward said that news of the Southwest Travis County Survey Grant is still pending.

Comments and Announcements: Bob Ward said that Lauren Gaylord, a University of Texas at Austin student, was working with the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau to research the history of the Austin Convention Center in the late 1970s or early 80s. Professor Roland Hays has agreed to conduct historic tours, possibly involving the Dell Synagogue. Bob Ward will distribute information regarding the Downs Field celebration ceremony, and Marty Moulthrop will post it on the website. Author R.G. Ratcliffe is scheduled to speak at a ceremony at the Oakwood Cemetery at ten o'clock Saturday morning April 12.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Malone
Secretary