



## Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2014, in Multifunction Room C, 700 Lavaca Building, Austin, Texas. Commission Chair Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM and declared a quorum present.

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

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup> was made by Rosemary Morrow, seconded by Marty Moulthrop, and approved.

Report from the Chair: Efforts to gain access to properties of historic interest on Old San Antonio Road will be suspended. It has become apparent to Commission Chair Bob Ward that the landowners are unenthusiastic about allowing photography on these sites prior to their development.

The Chair recognized May Schmidt to provide an update on developments at the Longview Cemetery. Ms. Schmidt said that 10-12 volunteers had cleared parts of cemetery, including one area where the Strickland family is buried. She said that University of Texas graduate students had uncovered a cistern, and that an archeologist was on hand to document findings of historic significance. Surveys and site work at this five-acre cemetery and park will continue on Saturdays.

The Chair recognized Shawn Malone to summarize highlights from the Travis County Archives Retreat. Mr. Malone reported that the three-day event had been cut short by inclement weather, and that an additional session would be rescheduled to involve representatives from the Texas State Genealogical Society, the Texas State Archives and Library Commission, and the Austin History Center. Those sessions that did take place focused on the facilities and funding that the Archives would require to operate into 2025.

Bob Ward reported that the Texas Historical Commission would offer a grant-writing seminar; he will provide the date and ask for a volunteer to attend. May Schmidt made a motion that the Travis County Historical Commission authorize payment of the \$200 attendance fee. Patti Hansen seconded the motion and it was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Nora Jackson reported that the Wells Fargo account needed to be reactivated. Patti Hansen suggested that funding for a historic tour might be a suitable use of

Commission resources. Other suggestions for spending include a County Flag, a historical marker, or matching funds for a City of Austin grant. Commission Chair Bob Ward announced that a subcommittee of the Commission would meet to review the portion of the report that describes the taxpayer-funded budget approved by the Commissioners Court.

Research Committee: Teri Flack distributed a spreadsheet listing 19 Historical Marker Applications with additional status details on each one. She noted that a date for the Haskell House marker rededication ceremony is still pending. May Schmidt announced that a dedication ceremony for a marker on Pecan Street across from Pflugerville High School had been scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup>. A ceremony for the Texas Confederate Women's Home Marker is scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 AM. Teri Flack also reported that with respect to Untold Stories markers, Bob Brinkman says they're ready, but no locations have been identified for them. They are not sponsored the same way that other markers are. May Schmidt suggested process improvements for future Untold Stories markers. Teri Flack reported that the Texas Historical Commission is remaking the Mansbendel House marker, because it was supposed to be mounted on a pole, but instead was forged with a design that does not accommodate the pole mount.

Markers Committee: David White is updating the list of markers developed from local sources and site visits, and comparing that list to one provided by the State of Texas.

Special Projects Committee: Bill Beare will make a presentation on the history of the Travis County Historical Commission at some future meeting. Patti Hansen reminded Commission members to subscribe to The Medallion magazine, and pointed out that a recent article in that publication described the founding of the Travis County Historical Survey Committee, a precursor of the Travis County Historical Commission. It was noted that the ACC Essay Contest had wrapped up for the current school year and would pick up again in the fall. One suggestion: Maybe Essay Contest winners could participate in the annual Travis County History Day event? There was discussion of Roland Hayes, an Eastview campus history professor who had taken students on tours, and of the possibility that Travis County Historical Commission members might participate in such tours for students in the future. Danny Camacho said that the Save Austin Cemeteries group was looking for ways to involve more young people in its work.

Public Relations Committee: It was suggested that a list of marker dedication ceremonies during 2013 be added to the Travis County Historical Commission website. Marty Moulthrop reminded everyone to "friend" the Travis County Historical Commission Facebook page. She also reminded the membership to continue consideration of Awards of Merit for the Hancock Center Historical Marker, Austin American-Statesman columnist Michael Barnes, and the new African-American Cultural Center. May Schmidt said that the City of Austin Parks Department might deserve an Award of Merit for its work on historical preservation.

CLG Committee: Bob Ward noted that Terri Myers of Preservation Austin would be meeting with the CLG committee.

Comments and Announcements: Margarine Beaman raised the topic of the pending African-American Schools book project. Bob Ward handed out computer disks with the draft book material on them and said "I think it's time to pull the trigger." There was discussion of whether

the book should be printed by the Travis County Print Shop, by the Morgan Printing Company, or some other entity. Bob Ward saluted May Schmidt for her work on the Evergreen Cemetery maintenance despite the recent nasty weather. Marty Moulthrop praised Barry Hutcheson's recent speech at the Bob Bullock Museum on the Battleship Texas; Barry noted that March 12<sup>th</sup> would be the anniversary of the Battleship Texas being commissioned. Patti Hansen handed out bookmarks provided by the author of a blog highlighting Black History Month.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shawn Malone  
Secretary