



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2014, in Multifunction Room C, 700 Lavaca Building, Austin, Texas. Chairman Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM and declared a quorum present.

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

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on December 11, 2013 was made by Rosemary Morrow, seconded by Teri Flack, and approved.

Report from the Chair: Negotiations are ongoing to gain access to properties of historic interest on Old San Antonio Road which will soon be developed. An oak forest on the Heep ranch was described as the more important parcel to document, and should be easier to access than some other properties. Video and still photography will record conditions before the development begins.

Judge Bob Perkins described a meeting he'd had with Stan Bacon and other West Point Society members regarding the Mt. Bonnell plaque. He said that the West Point Society representatives were disappointed by their meeting with the Texas Historical Commission. It was pointed out that there is no procedure in law for changing or correcting existing historical markers, and the Mt. Bonnell plaque controversy may signal the need for new legislation to address this circumstance. Nonetheless, Bill Beare does remember that markers have been corrected during his tenure on the Travis County Historical Commission.

Chairman Ward reported that he had met with Sara Hensley of the Austin Parks Department regarding Longview Cemetery, and Barry Hutcheson noted that he'd had conversations with representatives of the Travis County Genealogical Society on the same topic. Surveys and site work at this five-acre cemetery and park will be conducted on Saturdays during the next two months.

Treasurer's Report: Given the absence of the Treasurer for this meeting, discussion of the Treasurer's Report was postponed until the February meeting.

Research Committee: Teri Flack said that she would send out an article about the Tejano Trails Project and a spreadsheet with historical marker information.

Special Projects Committee: Bill Beare will make a presentation on the history of the Travis County Historical Commission at the February 2014 meeting. Adoption of the Travis County Historical Commission by-laws was approved, with Barry Hutcheson noting that his next step was to have these approved by the Commissioners Court. Vonnye Rice-Gardner thanked Rosemary Morrow for her work on the Essay Contest events, and suggested that future events might feature lectures for students by Travis County Historical Commission members. Ms. Rice-Gardner also said that he had spoken with Roland Hayes, an Eastview campus history professor who had taken students on tours; she said that perhaps Travis County Historical Commission members might participate in such a tour for students in the future.

Public Relations Committee: It was suggested that a list of marker dedication ceremonies during 2013 be added to the Travis County Historical Commission website.

CLG Committee: Chairman Ward noted that the 118-page southeast Travis County grant contract had been received, and that some word on the southwest survey is expected next month.

Comments and Announcements: Various members reminisced about the Victory Grill marker dedication ceremony; a marker was made, but was it installed? Barry Hutcheson announced that the Texas Journal of Archeology and History is soliciting articles.

Correspondence: Invitations to comment on cell phone towers and similar issues with the potential to impact historic properties have been received, as they are most months.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Malone
Secretary