



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at 5555 Airport Blvd., Austin, Texas. Commission Chair Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM and declared a quorum present.

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

Minutes: A motion to approve the corrected minutes of the meeting on Feb. 12 was made by Patti Hansen, seconded and approved.

Report from the Chair: Bob Ward will coordinate a site visit to properties of historic interest on Old San Antonio Road to create video and still photography records of these sites prior to their development. These will be limited to those vantage points that are publicly accessible, so no permission from property owners will be necessary. Bob Ward and Bob Perkins plan to meet again tomorrow, March 13, with representatives of the West Point Society to provide ongoing consultations regarding the Mt. Bonnell plaque and changes thereto.

Bob Ward and May Schmidt provided an update on developments at the Longview Cemetery. Foundations of the old school have been uncovered. One final day of field work is scheduled at this five-acre cemetery and park on Saturday, March 29. There was discussion of the Commons Ford Park in reference to a listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bob Ward reported that Pfluger House Foundation President Steven Fuller is working with a developer on the possible donation of the historic Pfluger House, if a purpose and a plan can be developed. The developer wants the property to be a well-maintained site, not a run-down eyesore, if it's going to be part of his housing development. Austin Architect Ben Heimsath has been involved a designing a preservation program for the property.

May Schmidt moved that the Travis County Historical Commission support the application to the National Register of Historic Places for designation of Rosewood Courts, similar to the support expressed by Preservation Austin, with a request for a planning document to be developed. Margarine Beaman seconded the motion, which was approved. It was noted that the Santa Rita project had already been listed and that Chalmers Courts should be too.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Nora Jackson reported that the Wells Fargo account had been reactivated. There was no change from last month's report.

Research Committee: Teri Flack noted that three of the four pending markers had been paid for, the exception being the Hancock marker (see also below). May Schmidt reminded her fellow members that the ceremony for the Texas Confederate Women's Home Marker is scheduled for March 22nd at 11:00 AM. Teri Flack also updated last month's report with respect to ongoing conversations with Bob Brinkman regarding markers.

Special Projects Committee: Commission member Bill Beare and Travis County Archivist Christy Moilanen continue their research into the history of the Travis County Historical Commission; Mr. Beare will make a presentation at some future meeting. Patti Hansen moved (with a second by Barry Hutcheson) that the Travis County Historical Commission offer a match of up to \$900 for the Hancock Recreation Center marker. The Hancock Neighborhood Association would be solicited to provide the rest of the money necessary to fund creation and installation of a marker. This motion was approved.

The Essay Contest Notebook production is under way.

Public Relations Committee: Marty Moulthrop reported that one more item had been added to the Travis County Historical Commission Calendar of Events; she was asked to add the ceremony for the Texas Confederate Women's Home Marker, scheduled for March 22, and the final day of field work scheduled at the Longview Cemetery on Saturday, March 29.

CLG Committee: Bob Ward reported that the Southeast Travis County Survey was under way, but that he had not heard back any news on the Southwest Travis County Survey.

Comments and Announcements: Drafts of the pending African-American Schools book project, copied onto computer disks and distributed at the last Commission meeting, have not yet been reviewed. The Mitchell House marker is in "limbo" and stored in a warehouse. Barry Hutcheson has heard that the West Point Society is making inquiries of Historical Commissions in other counties about the process for editing, updating or correcting existing markers.

Patti Hansen made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Marty Moulthrop and approved at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Malone
Secretary