



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission was held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. in the 700 Lavaca Building, Multifunction Room C, 1st floor, in Austin, Texas.

Commission Chair Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM and declared a quorum present.

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

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on October 8 was made by Rosemary Morrow, seconded by May Schmidt, and approved.

Introduction of guests: Larry Oakes, the former director of the Texas Historical Commission, attended.

Report from the Chair

Discussion of upcoming and ongoing events:

1. The Chair updated the Commission on the condition of Commission member Bill Beare.
2. The annual Texas Archeology Day event saw strong turnout, according to Ms. Schmidt. Mr. Ward reported that he had previewed the Ransom/Sarah Williams web site information at an event and he was very favorably impressed.
3. The Chair reported that a meeting was scheduled for Thursday regarding the mechanism for conforming Historical Commission practices to advice from the County Attorney's office.
4. Mr. Ward also reported that the Swedish Log Cabin rededication ceremony had turned out a big crowd, including descendants of Swante Palm and the Swenson family.

ACTION ITEM: The Travis County Historical Commission's position on the Mt. Bonnell plaque question was described by the Chair, then offered as a motion May Schmidt, seconded by Patti Hansen. A friendly amendment was offered by Teri Flack, seconded by Marty Moulthrop, and the amended motion was approved. After a thorough review of the information provided this commission and the historical resources available, we find that the preponderance of evidence points to Mt. Bonnell being named for George Bonnell. The available evidence includes the transcribed journal of George Bonnell by William Bollaert, his presence on the site and in Austin, his position as a topographical researcher, the 178 years of George Bonnell's name being associated with the mountain and the numerous references and universal acceptance of that. And further, there is no historical documentation that it

was named for Joseph Bonnell or any other person. The vote was unanimous in favor of adopting this position.

Treasurer's Report

Nora Jackson reported that she had turned over a year's worth of the Wells Fargo account statements to the appropriate Travis County staff.

Research Committee

The Commission approved 2014 applications for the George A. Peterson House, the Cranfill Apartments, the Broken Spoke, and the Kincheon Community. Teri Flack noted that an application for the San Jose Cemetery might be a suitable topic for the future, and she updated the Commission on the status of last year's applications.

Special Projects Committee

The ACC Essay Contest will get under way in the spring of 2015.

Public Relations Committee

The Travis County Historical Commission will present an Award of Merit to the writer and historian Michael Barnes at the Nov. 18 meeting of the Travis County Commissioners Court.

CLG Committee

Mr. Ward reported that the solicitation for respondents to conduct the South/Southwest Travis County survey should be issued soon, and that the report for the Southeast survey was almost complete.

Announcements & Comments:

Mr. Ward announced that the Save Austin Cemeteries Murder and Mayhem tour on Oct. 25th had been successful.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Malone
Secretary