



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission (TCHC) was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, at 700 Lavaca, Multifunction Room C, in Austin, Texas.

Commission Chair Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM and declared a quorum present.

Attendance: Present were Larry Oakes, David Peyton, Patti Hansen, David White, Nora Jackson, May Schmidt, Marjorie Alford, Jeannette Cook, Dan Hickox, Adrienne Rison-Isom, Barry Hutcheson, Bob Perkins, Shawn Malone, Bob Ward, and Teri Flack. Rosemary Morrow, Margarine Beaman, Marty Moulthrop, and Vonnys Rice-Gardner were absent.

Minutes: Barry Hutcheson moved that the minutes of the March 11 meeting be approved; Dan Hickox seconded the motion, which was approved.

Introduction of guests: Bobby Cervantes attended this meeting to give a presentation on the Sneed Mansion at 1801 Nelms Drive. He described his efforts to preserve what was left of the ruins. He said that the State of Texas historical marker had been stolen when the house burned down; he said it's still designated by the City of Austin as a historic landmark. Patti Hansen moved that the TCHC Chair be authorized to write a letter to Austin City Council Member Delia Garza and other parties urging that the site be preserved appropriately. Her motion was seconded and approved.

Report from the Chair

Discussion of upcoming and ongoing events:

1. The Chair updated the TCHC on the status of membership applications. Business cards and name badges will be provided to new members.
2. The Chair reported on the continuing efforts to work through realtors, lawyers and landowners to gain access to the Camp Terry property, a site near the Bergstrom airport that was a Confederate training camp during the Civil War. The goal is to document descriptions and photographs of the area before it is developed. Bill Hamilton of the CLG committee is still cooperating in this effort.
3. The Chair reported on a long but rewarding walking tour of Shoal Creek bridges with special insights provided by TCHC member May Schmidt.
4. With respect to the Nutty Brown rock building ruins, Bob Ward continues his consultations with Tiffany Osburn, Regional Archeologist at the Texas Historical Commission, regarding the history of the site and a stagecoach line nearby.

5. The TCHC heard an update from the Chair and Teri Flack on legislation regarding the sealing birth and death records.
6. The Chair updated the TCHC on his efforts to obtain information from the Travis Central Appraisal District on historic TCAD accounts in Travis County.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Nora Jackson reported no change this month.

Research Committee

Committee Chair Teri Flack reported that the Holy Cross inscription had been redrafted and forwarded. The Hancock marker inscription language is being reviewed by Kim McKnight, Resource Specialist at the Parks and Recreation Department, City of Austin. These developments conclude TCHC action on the markers approved in January of 2014. There was discussion of why the Broken Spoke marker application was not approved by the Texas Historical Commission and the possibility of a marker for the Norwood house on Town Lake (Riverside Drive).

Markers Committee

Barry Hutcheson updated the TCHC on his most recent meeting regarding the Railroad Depot/Steam Train Association marker. The precise location of the installation has been pinpointed. This marker has been completed and stored in a warehouse for four years pending installation on 3rd Street downtown, which could be scheduled in May. There was discussion of a proposal to have criminals sentenced to community service working on marker maintenance in the future.

Special Projects Committee

The continuation of the History of the TCHC project is pending while the widow of the researcher who was working on the project, the late TCHC member Bill Beare, prepares his papers for review and processing. The African-American Schools report is being printed by the Travis County Print Shop. Larry Oakes volunteered to begin work on a list of endangered historic properties in Travis County.

CLG Committee

Mr. Ward reported that the Southeast Travis County report is being printed by the Travis County Print Shop. The Southwest Survey is in a holding pattern while the organizer is indisposed. Contracts for the South-Southwest Survey, the African-American Settlement Pattern Survey, and the

Mexican-American Settlement Pattern Survey should be ready in days and will go next to the Travis County Commissioners Court for approval.

Announcements & Comments

The next meeting of the TCHC will be held earlier in the afternoon than usual at Scholz Garden to correlate with the Austin History Center's annual fundraising event at that historic site. The June meeting of the TCHC will be held at Camp Mabry, pending coordination with the appropriate points of contact. Austin Genealogical Society expert Phoebe Allen will lecture soon at the Highland Park Baptist Church on the topic of genealogical histories of houses.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Malone
Secretary