



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission (TCHC) was held on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, in the Keith George Ruiz building, at 5555 Airport Blvd. in Austin, Texas.

Commission Chair Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 5:50 PM and declared a quorum present.

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

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting on February 14 were approved.

Introduction of guests: Larry Oakes attended this meeting.

Election of officers: The current TCHC officers were reelected for another two-year term.

Report from the Chair

Discussion of upcoming and ongoing events:

1. The Chair updated the TCHC on the status of membership applications.
2. The Chair reported on his 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 cooperating in this effort.
3. Bill Hamilton is also involved in the Pfluger house's pending application for the National Register for Historic Places.
4. Photos of the Nutty Brown rock building ruins have been reviewed by the TCHC. Bob Ward has consulted with Tiffany Osburn, Regional Archeologist at the Texas Historical Commission, regarding the history of the site and a stagecoach line nearby.
5. The Chair briefed the TCHC on a request for a letter of support for release of cemetery records maintained by the Austin/Travis State School Cemeteries. Burial records at these cemeteries, sought by Dale Flatt, founder of Save Austin Cemeteries, are at issue. Teri Flack suggested that a request be made for the specific statues cited by the controlling legal authorities as grounds for denying the release of these burial records. Dan Hickox made a motion, with a second by Margarine Beaman, to authorize the Chair to send the letter of support, and this motion was approved.

6. The Chair briefed the TCHC on interest from the Texas Archeological Society and the Austin Parks and Recreation Department in a survey of the Commons Ford site in City Park, where a crossing and log cabin are sited. Such a survey would describe the tract, including old bridges.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Nora Jackson was absent for this meeting. Chair Bob Ward said he had reviewed various documents from Travis County staff regarding the TCHC's finances.

Research Committee

Committee Chair Teri Flack reported that the 2013 markers had been approved and now some inscriptions need to be finalized. She also briefed the TCHC on development of the Downs Field narrative for an Undertold marker from two years ago.

Markers Committee

Barry Hutcheson updated the TCHC on the Railroad Depot/Steam Train Association marker situation. This marker has been completed and stored in a warehouse for four years pending installation on 3rd Street downtown, which may be scheduled in May.

Special Projects Committee

Rosemary Morrow reported that there have been no new developments on the ACC Essay Contest since last month's meeting.

CLG Committee

Mr. Ward reported that the grants had been approved for the South-Southwest Survey and the African-American and Mexican-American Settlement Pattern Survey. Contracts for these surveys are pending.

Announcements & Comments

Mr. Ward reported that the Austin History Center was preparing to produce exhibits on rural Travis County schools and that he had conferred with AHC Director Mike Miller in advance of planning meetings to be scheduled.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Malone
Secretary