



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission (TCHC) was held on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. At the gracious invitation of Chairman Bob Ward the meeting was held in his home, 1707 Romeria Drive, Austin, TX. Members enjoyed refreshments provided by Mr. Ward and several members. The chairman called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. and declared a quorum present.

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

Minutes: The minutes for November 4, 2015, were approved as amended on a motion by Rosemary Morrow and seconded by Larry Oaks.

Report from the Chair:

1. Frank Brown book project: being digitized now.
2. Palm School: Bob Ward and May Schmidt reported that they attended a recent meeting with County facilities staff, several City Council members and representatives from Hispanic interest groups. The group is hoping to acquire an early plan of the property from AISD or the Austin History Center and intend to present a draft report to Travis County Commissioners. Time is no longer a factor, due to the defeat of the Courthouse bond election. Re-use suggestions include a County museum or an activity center.
3. Sneed Mansion: Bobby Cervantes reported that Code Enforcement has again been called.
4. Other issues: Chairman Ward noted that an oral historian is needed to interview WWII veteran Volma Overton. Mr. Overton has been ill, but it is hoped that this project can begin after the holidays.

Treasurer's Report: Nora Jackson reported no changes.

Research Committee:

Teri Flack reviewed the status of current marker applications. All have been paid for. She noted that the THC's Charles Peveto told her that the THC is aiming for an Untold Stories Marker for Booker T. Washington at Wooldridge Park, where the latter gave a talk. Also, the owner of the land on which the Broken Spoke sits has declined a marker installation.

Projects Committee:

TCHC History: need to contact Bill Beare's wife about his files.

Essay Contest: Rosemary Morrow stated it is on for the spring semester.

African American Schools: no updates at this time.

Endangered Sites: Larry Oaks reported on his meeting with Hicks and Company on the Lakeway portion of the Southwest-west survey.

Public Relations Committee: Marty Moulthrop had no updates.

CLG Committee: Bob Ward reported that work has started on the western part of southwestern Travis County. Larry Oaks has been a big help in the Lakeway area and has gotten the Lakeway Heritage Commission interested in participating. Archival research is currently being done on the African-American/Mexican-American survey. A grant request has been made to do the Northwest Travis County Survey. The Southwest Travis County report is ready. A final report will be a consolidated report on the entire county – filling in the gaps.

Correspondence and Other Business: New National Register nominations will include the Fire Drill Tower on Cesar Chavez Street, as well as Lions Municipal Golf Course. Comments are welcomed by the THC.

Bob Ward reported that he walked through Commons Ford with architectural historian Peter Maxson and Kim McKnight of Austin Parks & Recreation. They may recommend a full survey of the whole park.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Moulthrop

(for Shawn Malone)