



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission (TCHC) was held on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015. Commission Chair Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 5:38 PM and declared a quorum present.

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

Minutes: A motion to approve the corrected minutes of the October meeting carried unanimously.

Report from the Chair

1. The Chair reported that progress continues on the digitization of Frank Brown's Annals by the Portal to Texas History, with the paper copies having been shipped to the University of North Texas in Denton.
2. The Chair reported on his recent testimony before the Travis County Commissioners Court regarding the possible sale of the Palm School building. He suggested that some kind of "town hall" style meeting be scheduled to gather community input. He also noted the need to clarify the TCHC's charge from the Court.
3. Ongoing issues regarding preservation of the Sneed Mansion at 1801 Nelms Drive were discussed. Bobby Cervantez briefed the Commission on the property owner's filing of a demolition permit. Code Enforcement flagged it, blocking permit issuance.

Research Committee

Committee Chair Teri Flack laid out three applications for historical markers. The first application was for Michael Butler/Butler Brick Company sponsored by Phoebe Allen. Judge Perkins moved, with Rosemary Morrow seconding, approval of the application, and that motion was approved unanimously. The second application was for the Norwood Estate — Judge Perkins moved approval, Patti Hansen seconded, and that motion was approved. Finally, a re-submitted application for the Broken Spoke, with a newly edited narrative and policy waiver request, was considered. Teri Flack moved approval of this application contingent on required permissions, Pattie Hansen seconded, and the motion was approved. After these three motions were approved, Ms. Flack noted that a draft description for the Parque Zaragosa Undertold Marker was being developed.

Markers Committee

Committee Chair David White updated the Kincheonville marker situation. Zion Rest Missionary Baptist Church marker installation is in the planning and scheduling stages; a dedication ceremony for this marker might be scheduled during Black History Month.

Special Projects Committee

Committee Chair Patti Hansen noted the need to revive the History of the TCHC project. The Travis County Archivist had compiled a list of members over the years, and a couple of TCHC members plan to visit the Austin History Center and the Travis County Archives to develop a plan for completion of this project. Rosemary Morrow said that the ACC Essay Contest might return in the spring. She also said that she's making edits to the African-American Schools book based on feedback from the community on the earlier draft.

CLG Committee

Mr. Ward updated the TCHC membership on progress of the Southwest survey, which he said is close to complete. He also said that the Commissioners Court had approved a two-phase grant application for the Northwest Surveys and a combined inventory.

Correspondence and Other Business

A letter from the Texas Historical Commission regarding National Register of Historic Places eligibility of the property at 1702 E. Martin Luther King Blvd. was circulated. Judge Perkins noted that the fundraising program for the Menchaca Road name change had met its \$25,000 goal. The Chair led a brief discussion of Ransom farmstead exhibit grant funding, in the range of five to ten thousand dollars; Humanities Texas was mentioned as a possible source.

Announcements

The General Land Office annual symposium will be Saturday, Nov. 14. TCHC meetings will begin at five o'clock, beginning with the December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Malone
Secretary