



Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission (TCHC) was held on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016. Commission Chair Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 5:31 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, Bob Ward, Larry Oaks, May Schmidt, Marty Moulthrop, and Nora Jackson. Absent: Vonnye Rice-Gardner, Adrienne Rison-Isom, David Peyton, and Margarine Beaman.

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

Report from the Chair

1. The Chair reported on recent developments involving the Travis County Commissioners Court regarding the future of the Palm School building. He said that a "Historic Structures Report" would be commissioned at a cost of \$50,000-100,000.
2. The request from the State of Texas for information and recommendations regarding the Chisolm Trail plaques was the subject of a briefing from the Chair. Bob Perkins, May Schmidt and other members provided additional context and background.
3. Ongoing issues regarding preservation of the Sneed Mansion at 1801 Nelms Drive were discussed. The Chair recognized member Bobby Cervantez for his presentations on the topic to interested groups. Mr. Cervantez also updated the Commission on the property owner's filing of another demolition permit. Code Enforcement flagged this one as they had before.
4. In partnership with the Shoal Creek Conservancy, another historic bridge walk is scheduled for March 12th.
5. County Historical Commission orientation workshops are being scheduled in Austin, with the cost to participate unknown as of tonight's meeting.
6. Texas History Day is still requesting judges for their April 30th contest. TCHC members Marjorie Alford and May Schmidt noted their past participation in this event.
7. The Chair proposed that committee assignments and TCHC meeting schedules be modified by consensus over time, based on emails he plans to send to members.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Nora Jackson noted that the most recent budget information from the Planning and Budget Office shows \$8,122.66 available. Patti Hansen asked about additional detail behind the amount shown as spent. Bob Ward noted that another survey grant, this one for \$50,000, will fund additional surveys.

Research Committee

Committee Chair Teri Flack reported on a process snafu that is delaying approval of the James & Leona Walsh House marker. Ms. Flack noted that an appeal of this decision is being developed to try again.

Markers Committee

Committee Chair David White announced that the Kincheonville marker Dedication Ceremony will be held on February 28 at 12:45 PM after services at Zion Rest Missionary Baptist Church. Bob Ward will speak at the ceremony.

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 will be consulted as Ms. Hansen and other members develop a plan for completion of this project. Rosemary Morrow said that the ACC Essay Contest might return in the spring. Larry Oaks updated the TCHC membership on his research regarding best practices that apply to listing of endangered sites, and on Lakeway area surveys. Bobby Cervantes noted that the Matthew Brown homestead, at 10140 Old San Antonio Road, is a candidate for listing on such a report.

CLG Committee

Mr. Ward updated the TCHC membership on progress of various surveys and reminded the membership of the need for volunteers to assist with them.

Public Relations Committee

Committee Chair Marty Moulthrop announced calendar items and meeting locations being added to the TCHC website.

Other Business

Future meetings of the TCHC may be held at the Travis County Archives, Camp Mabry, Pioneer Farms or other locations far away from downtown traffic delays.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Malone
Secretary