



# Travis County Historical Commission

The regular meeting of the Travis County Historical Commission (TCHC) was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2016, at 700 Lavaca Street, Austin, Texas. Commission Chair Bob Ward called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM and declared a quorum present.

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

Introduction of Guests: Hajan Abdirahman, Angela Perkins and R. Winston visited this meeting as observers, identifying themselves as students from local institutions of higher education interested in the black diaspora and related local historical issues. Catherine Stephens and David Shore of the county's Transportation and Natural Resources department also visited this meeting; Mr. Shore demonstrated the Historical Marker GIS tool that provides interactive guidance, geo-location, and links to related details. The prototype was enthusiastically reviewed by the TCHC membership, with ongoing improvements planned.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of the May 11 meeting was approved unanimously.

## Report from the Chair

1. The Chair reported on the condition of Larry Oaks, who will no longer attend meetings or technically be a "member" when it comes to the quorum, but will serve on the non-voting Resource Committee.
2. Rosemary Morrow described the World War I Centennial Project coming up in 2018 and started a discussion about how the TCHC should become involved. She reported that at a recent meeting she attended at the Bullock Museum, various history-related entities had been represented.
3. Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) representative Mark Brown has been in discussions with the Chair about a committee on roadway projects in the county. The members would be informed of upcoming projects and would need to research any possible historical significance of the construction. This would mostly entail checking out the THC atlas and looking at whatever resources we might have. Some projects will have little or no impact, while others may be extensive. Mr. Ward said we would need 3 to 5

people interested in this TCHC-TxDoT committee, and asked that interested members follow up with him.

4. Collaboration with the Travis County Parks Department will involve a similar approach, working with county staff to document historical discoveries made as county parks at Reimers Ranch, Moore-Burleson House, Pace Bend etc. are developed and improved.
5. Reporting on the Fortress Home, a historic structure originally built in 1850, the Chair said that home building company D.H. Horton owns the building and plans to preserve it. Mr. Ward and Barry Hutcheson met recently with Architectural Historian/ Archeologist Kelly Russell to discuss plans to preserve the building and the possibility of a tour. Mr. Ward suggested that a TCHC Award of Merit, with a notice posted on the TCHC website, might be an appropriate way to encourage other developers to preserve historic sites on properties they develop.
6. On Monday, Sept. 12, the Chair went with Commissioner Margaret Gómez to tour the Palm School building again, and discuss the ongoing efforts to develop a plan to resolve tensions between historic preservation and development pressures. The RFP to contract with a consultant to study architectural and design issues and issue a report is pending in the county's Purchasing office, on its way to the Commissioners Court agenda for approval at some point.
7. Preservation Planner & Cultural Resource Specialist Kim McKnight, of the Parks and Recreation Department at the City of Austin, has been meeting with Mr. Ward regarding the Commons Park Project; a survey is planned.
8. The Chair recognized Vice-Chair May Schmidt, who reported on plans to survey the planned Grove at Shoal Creek mixed-use development project. She said that such a survey might document cemeteries and other cultural/archeological findings prior to groundbreaking on the project. Since this has been sold from the state to a private developer, there is no requirement for archeological investigation.
9. Mr. Ward suggested the creation of a Resource Committee, an advisory group of subject matter experts (like Larry Oaks, for example) who would not be voting members of the TCHC, but would be available to consult on issues as they arise.
10. And finally, the Chair reported on New Member Outreach, reminding the TCHC of the imminent conclusion of everyone's term of service, and the necessity to reapply to continue to serve; also, he said that this biannual opportunity to recruit new members should be seized.

### Action Items

The action items listed on the agenda were tabled without any motions made.

### Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Nora Jackson circulated this month's report, prompting discussion regarding the \$699.36 shown as Remaining and a motion by Teri Flack, seconded by Judge Perkins, to authorize the expenditure of TCHC funds to register three members at the Story of Texas Workshop; the motion passed unanimously.

### Research Committee:

Research Committee Chair Teri Flack briefed the TCHC membership and guests on two pending historical marker applications, for Rector Cemetery and the George H. Kinsolving Crypt. Ms. Flack noted that the TCHC members had received details via email. She also solicited assistance writing the narrative for the Wood Street Historic Settlement Undertold Marker inscription.

### Markers Committee:

Committee Chair David White reported that a new marker cover, for use in dedication ceremonies, had been procured, and that the broken wheelbarrow had been repaired. He briefed the TCHC membership on special issues regarding the Dickenson, Oak Hill, and Moore's Crossing Bridge markers. Bob Ward noted the location of the Manor marker had been the subject of meetings on site and conversations among stakeholders, with Judge Eckhardt having told May Schmidt that she would support using County resources to move the Manor marker to its correct location. Seventeen or more markers have gone missing, Mr. White said. He suggested that some other members of the TCHC should take over the publicity and planning for marker dedication ceremonies; Public Relations Committee Chair Marty Moulthrop volunteered to assume these duties.

### Projects Committee:

Patti Hansen described progress on the TCHC History project. A draft list of members has been compiled from the minutes of the Travis County Commissioners Court meetings 1966-2016, and a brief summary has been posted on the TCHC web page. Next steps include additional research to identify any members whose appointments do not appear on the list, and fleshing out the history with more details. Ms. Hansen led a round of applause in appreciation Vonnye Rice-Gardner's years of work on the annual ACC Essay Contests. Bobby Cervantes described his efforts to begin a list of endangered historical sites, with photos, addresses and descriptions, laying the groundwork for a program designed to preserve these sites. Ms. Hansen outlined ideas on how to protect these properties, including development of an online form, assignments of individual TCHC members tasked to focus on each specific site, and coordination with the Public Relations committee.

Public Relations Committee:

Marty Moulthrop spoke briefly about ongoing improvements made to the website and Facebook page during the past three months, and plans for continuing revisions, renovations and additions.

CLG Committee:

Bob Ward reported on the progress made on the SW-W Travis County Survey & the African-American/Mexican-American Settlement survey, both of which are being finished, he said. He reported that the contract for the new Northwest Travis County survey is pending. Mr. Ward also described three letters of intent about how excess funds could be applied to: (1.) a future survey of transportation history in Travis County, which would include all kinds of roads, streets, trails, ferry crossings etc. (2.) lost communities, and (3.) a history of Travis County Parks.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shawn Malone  
Secretary

## FY 2016 Historical Commission Budget

As of 9/12/2016

	Adopted Budget	Revised Budget (Consists of Adopted + Funds that were Encumbered or Set Aside in the Previous Year)	Amount Spent (Year to Date)	Remaining	Funds Available to be Used by Historical Commission (Not Related to Grant)
OPERATING: Communication, Supplies, Equipment	\$345.00	\$345.00		\$345.00	\$345.00
OPERATING: Office Supplies			\$802.11	(\$802.11)	(\$802.11)
OPERATING: Other Supplies/Equipment	\$1,857.00	\$1,857.00	\$175.53	\$1,681.47	\$1,681.47
OPERATING: Conferences/Seminar Registration	\$200.00	\$200.00		\$200.00	\$200.00
OPERATING: Travel/Lodging	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$700.00	(\$600.00)	(\$600.00)
OPERATING: Services			\$125.00	(\$125.00)	(\$125.00)
<b>SUBTOTAL: Unrestricted Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$2,502.00</b>	<b>\$2,502.00</b>	<b>\$1,802.64</b>	<b>\$699.36</b>	<b>\$699.36</b>
TX Historical Commission (CLG)		\$2,995.27		\$2,995.27	\$2,995.27
Mulkey Owens Book Funds		\$1,823.15		\$1,823.15	\$1,823.15
Flachmeier Donation		\$3,050.52		\$3,050.52	\$3,050.52
<b>SUBTOTAL: Operating Budget - Categorized or Restricted for Specific Use</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$7,868.94</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$7,868.94</b>	<b>\$7,868.94</b>
North West Travis County Historical Survey Grant - GENERAL FUND		\$24,000.00	\$0.00	\$24,000.00	
North West Travis County Historical Survey Grant - GRANT		\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	
North West Travis County Historical Survey Grant - INKIND		\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	
African-American/Mexican-American Settlement Survey Grant - GENERAL FUND		\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	
African-American/Mexican-American Settlement Survey Grant - GRANT		\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	
Southwest-west Travis County Historical Survey Grant - GENERAL FUND		\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	\$0.00	
Southwest-west Travis County Historical Survey Grant - GRANT		\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	
Southwest-west Travis County Historical Survey Grant - INKIND		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL: Grant Funds</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$80,000.00</b>	<b>\$30,000.00</b>	<b>\$50,000.00</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,502.00</b>	<b>\$90,370.94</b>	<b>\$31,802.64</b>	<b>\$58,568.30</b>	<b>\$8,568.30</b>